Ready All The Time
Lessons from an Outbreak of HIV in People who Inject Drugs

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Overview

1. Overview of HIV epidemiology
2. Characteristics of the Outbreak in NHSGGC
3. Control Measures
4. Summary and Discussion
Estimated number of adults and children newly infected with HIV | 2014

- **North America and Western and Central Europe**: 85,000 (48,000 – 130,000)
- **Caribbean**: 13,000 (9,600 – 17,000)
- **Latin America**: 87,000 (70,000 – 100,000)
- **Middle East & North Africa**: 22,000 (13,000 – 33,000)
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: 1.4 million (1.2 million – 1.5 million)
- **Eastern Europe & Central Asia**: 140,000 (110,000 – 160,000)
- **Asia and the Pacific**: 340,000 (240,000 – 480,000)

**Total**: 2.0 million (1.9 million – 2.2 million)

*Source: WHO UNAIDS*
UK: Annual New HIV and AIDS diagnoses and deaths, 1981-2013

Source: Health Protection England
WE HAVE BENT THE
TRIANGULAR
OF THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

NOW WE HAVE
FIVE YEARS
TO BREAK
THE EPIDEMIC

OR WE RISK THE EPIDEMIC
SPRINGING
BACK EVEN STRONGER

THE TREATMENT TARGET

90% diagnosed
90% on treatment
90% virally suppressed
Scotland: HIV Infection

NUMBER OF HIV REPORTS PER YEAR

- 300 in the mid 1980s
- 160 in 1988 to 2001
- 360 since 2002

HIV IS NOT A 1980s PHENOMENA

60% of all cases ever diagnosed have been reported since 2002

Source: Health Protection Scotland
NHSGGC New HIV Reports by Risk Group

- Heterosexual
- PWID
- MSM
- Other*

New HIV diagnoses

2015: new transmissions of HIV primarily due to sharing of injecting equipment mostly one HIV strain
NESI findings also show increased HIV prevalence
HIV +ve

No viral suppression

Injecting equipment

Injecting drug use

Injecting unsafely

Unprotected sexual contact
Characteristics of population

• 64% male
• Average age 38 yrs (21 – 52)
• Known to addictions
• Extensive use of IEP services
• High proportion homeless or in unstable accommodation.
• High level of involvement with criminal justice system
Factors associated with outbreak

- Lack of awareness of HIV risk
- Injecting risk
- Social circumstances
- HIV Treatment and Care
  - Lost to follow-up (TaSP)
- Low Testing Levels
- Addictions pathways
Addiction Services

Awareness of HIV risk
Understand transmission / how to protect
Right IEP, right distribution
Condoms

Treatment as Prevention (TasP)

Testing those at risk
- Regular / opportunistic
- 'Partner'

Treatment services

Addiction Services
- Accessibility
- Coverage
- Focus
- Tools
Treatment

- Appropriate services
  Often different from current
  Flexible
  Different kind of multidisciplinary working
  Treatment of addiction

- Persuading that treatment is important
KISSING DOESN’T SPREAD HIV.

IGNORANCE SPREADS HIV...

I felt like a bomb. If my nose started to bleed my whole school stopped.

Micaela, Audiovisual Artist

JOIN THE MOVEMENT AT WORLDAIDSDAY.ORG #RETHINKHIV
Communicate with at risk population or services who are in contact
Reaching the range of services

Maintaining the ‘conversation’

Having a 2 way discussion

Anything more direct....

Peer involvement
Summary

• Highlights prevention needs in PWID
• Risk now, risk later
• Input required by/with a range of agencies
• One of a number of (health, social) issues in this population
• Ready next time.....?
  – New relationships
  – Continue to learn, question & share
Questions

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