

# HIV & Men

Cross Party Group on Health Inequalities

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# HIV in Scotland

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, estimated 5881 people living with HIV. 91% are diagnosed.
- 73% are male, majority aged 35 – 59.
- Heterosexually acquired HIV was recorded in 67 cases in 2018, 55% were men.
- 65% of men in these cases were diagnosed in a hospital setting. Only 8% were diagnosed in a sexual health clinic.
- 28% of those newly diagnosed are diagnosed at a late stage of infection.

# HIV & Inequalities

- HIV continues to be a major public health issue, in Scotland and globally
- HIV is a virus that thrives on inequality.
- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men are 24 times more likely to be living with HIV than the general population.
- Sex workers and people who inject drugs also at greater risk of HIV; punitive laws, societal stigma, access to services.

# Stigma surrounding HIV

- Stigma is the single biggest barrier to accessing services for prevention, testing and treatment.
- The UK Stigma Index reported high levels of experienced stigma and discrimination by people living with HIV.
- Stigma, fear of rejection, shame, guilt & low self-esteem led to 18% of respondents having reported suicidal ideation. This was higher, at 28%, for those diagnosed in the last 12 months.
- Myths & misinformation continue to perpetuate stigma.

# What is the good news?

- PrEP – first country in the UK to offer PrEP full & free
- U=U – Undetectable = Untransmittable
- HIV Testing options

# What are the challenges

- Everyone who needs it accessing PrEP
- Ongoing criminalisation of people living with HIV
- Access to services, including mental health services
- Education

# What are our ambitions

- A Scotland where no one experiences stigma or discrimination
- A Scotland where everyone can access regular testing **where** and **when** they need it.
- A Scotland where everyone living with HIV can thrive, not just survive.

# What is needed?

- Outcomes to improve quality of life for everyone living with HIV.
- Never thinking that ending stigma is simply aspirational
- Ambition & political commitment.
- Meaningful involvement of people living with and at risk of HIV.
- Recognising inequalities of women.



Looking ahead

**#GenerationZero**

**[www.hiv.scot](http://www.hiv.scot)**

