



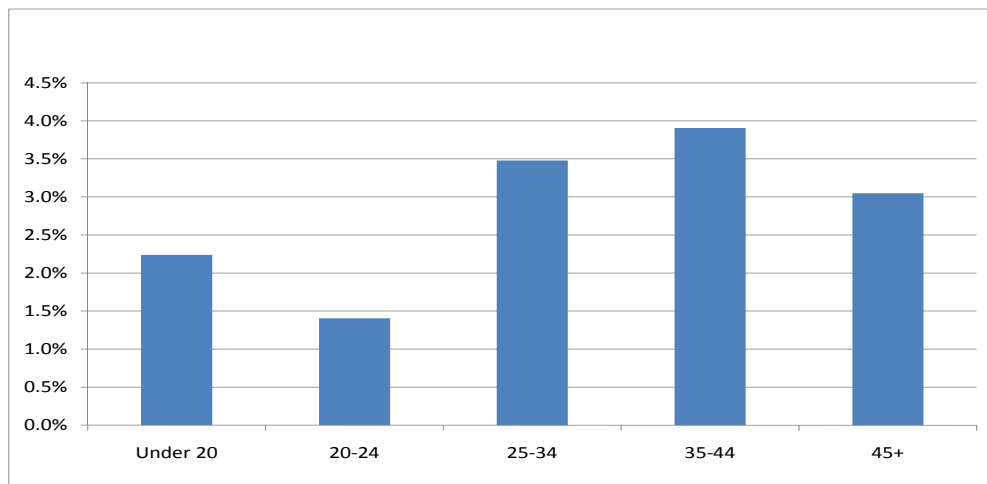
## Diagnosed and Undiagnosed HIV amongst attendees of sexual health clinics Men who have sex with men (MSM) Unlinked Anonymous Survey of GUM Clinic Attendees (GUM Anon)

The GUM Anon survey is the only large scale survey in the UK to provide information on the prevalence of HIV, including undiagnosed HIV amongst GUM attendees. It uses the unlinked anonymous technique on left-over specimens taken for routine syphilis tests. Full details of the methodology, ethics, and results can be found at:

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1202115496235](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1202115496235)

### HIV prevalence

**Figure 1. Prevalence of previously undiagnosed HIV\* amongst MSM attending sentinel GUM clinics England, Wales and Northern Ireland, by age-group, 2008**



\*Men who were diagnosed before attending the GUM were excluded

- Residual syphilis blood samples from MSM attending sentinel GUM clinics across the UK during 2008 indicated that 3.1% (274/8,743) of MSM had a previously undiagnosed infection. Of these, 65% (179/274) were newly diagnosed at that visit, however 35% (95/274) left the clinic undiagnosed.
- Overall, the prevalence of previously undiagnosed HIV has remained relatively constant between 1999 and 2008 at around 4% in London and 2% outside London.
- The highest levels of undiagnosed infection were among men aged 35-44 (3.9%, 75/1920).
- In 2008, 5.3% (102/1,909) of MSM presenting with an acute STI also had a previously undiagnosed HIV infection compared to 2.5% (172/6,834) of men who did not present with one.

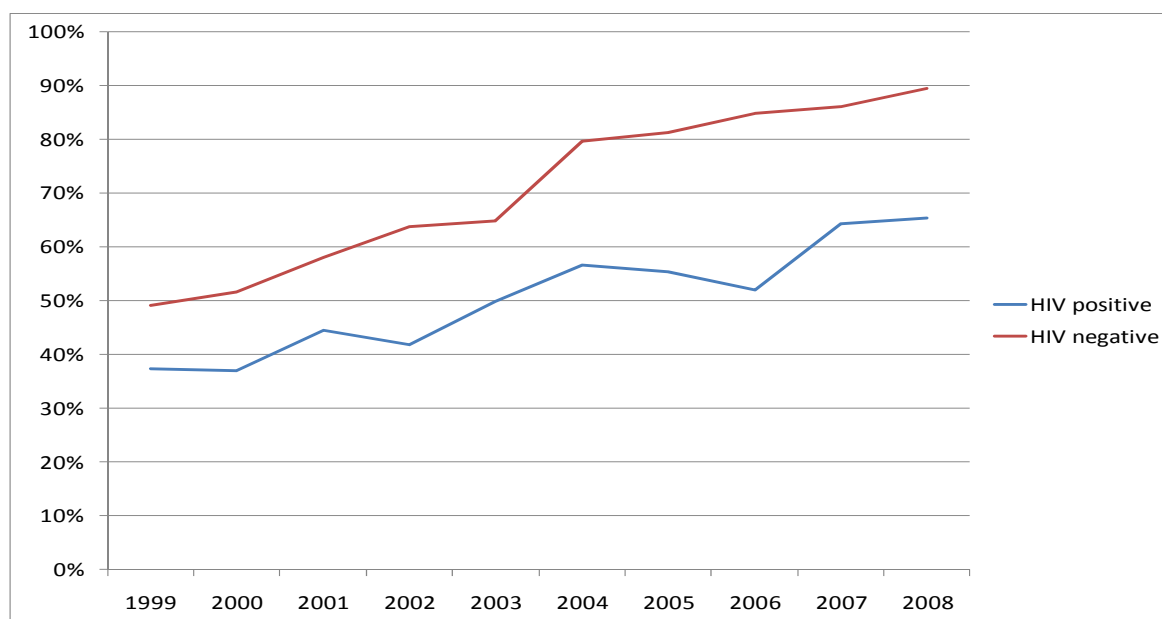
### 'Recent' HIV infection amongst MSM attending GUM clinics

- A serological testing algorithm for recent HIV seroconversion (STARHS) was carried out on 200 sera from HIV positive MSM with a previously undiagnosed HIV infection. The mean time since seroconversion for sera testing positive for STARHS is six months.

- Of these 200, 47 (24%) were found to have a 'recent' infection and 153 (77%) had a 'long-standing' infection.
- 74% (35/125) of those with a 'recent' infection received an HIV test, compared to 59% (90/125) of those with a 'long-standing' infection.
- 32% (7/22) of infections amongst MSM under 25, 26% (24/93) of men aged 25-34 and 18% (15/82) of men aged 35+ had a 'recent' infection.
- 21% (24/113) of MSM in the UK and 26% (23/87) of MSM born outside the UK had a 'recent' infection.

## HIV testing and HIV positive MSM remaining undiagnosed

**Figure 2: Proportion of men who have sex with men who receive an HIV test, by unlinked anonymous HIV status, MSM attending sentinel GUM clinics across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 1999-2008\***



\*Data source: unlinked anonymous surveillance in 15 GUM clinics. Individuals with a previously diagnosed HIV infection are excluded.

- Unlinked anonymous surveillance in sentinel GUM clinics shows higher uptake among younger (under 25) MSM (94%, [1,760/ 1,871]) compared to older MSM (87%, [5,963/ 6,817]).
- HIV test uptake was 89% amongst both UK born MSM and those born abroad. Similarly it was 89% both amongst MSM attending with an acute STI and those without.
- Anonymous HIV testing revealed that over the last decade HIV test uptake has consistently been lower amongst those who are HIV positive compared to those who are HIV negative (Figure 2).
- In 2007, HIV test uptake was 65% (179/274) amongst those who were, through anonymous testing, found to be HIV positive compared to 90% (7,584/ 8,469) among those who were found to be HIV negative.

## Notes

- Some of the HIV positive individuals not receiving an HIV test may have known their HIV status but chose not to disclose it to their clinician.
- This data only relates to individuals having blood taken for syphilis tests. Undiagnosed HIV and HIV test uptake amongst those not have a syphilis test can not be measured through this survey.