

Provision to diagnose, treat and prevent HIV in secure facilities of incarceration across the United Kingdom

Dr K. Humphries¹ Dr N. Bell² Dr S. Chan³

1. NHS Lothian, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
 2. Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom
 3. Central and Northwest London NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

Introduction

- The UK has made excellent progress towards getting to zero transmissions of HIV by 2030, through both prevention and treatment strategies.
- However, there is limited data on if same goals being achieved in the incarcerated populations.
- Healthcare available should be at least equivocal to that in the community, however data suggests that is not the case.
- This population potentially have increased risk factors for HIV acquisition and barriers to accessing services in the community.
- There is limited national data on what services are available.
- We aim to determine what services are available to prisoners across the UK and identify where improvements can be made.

Method

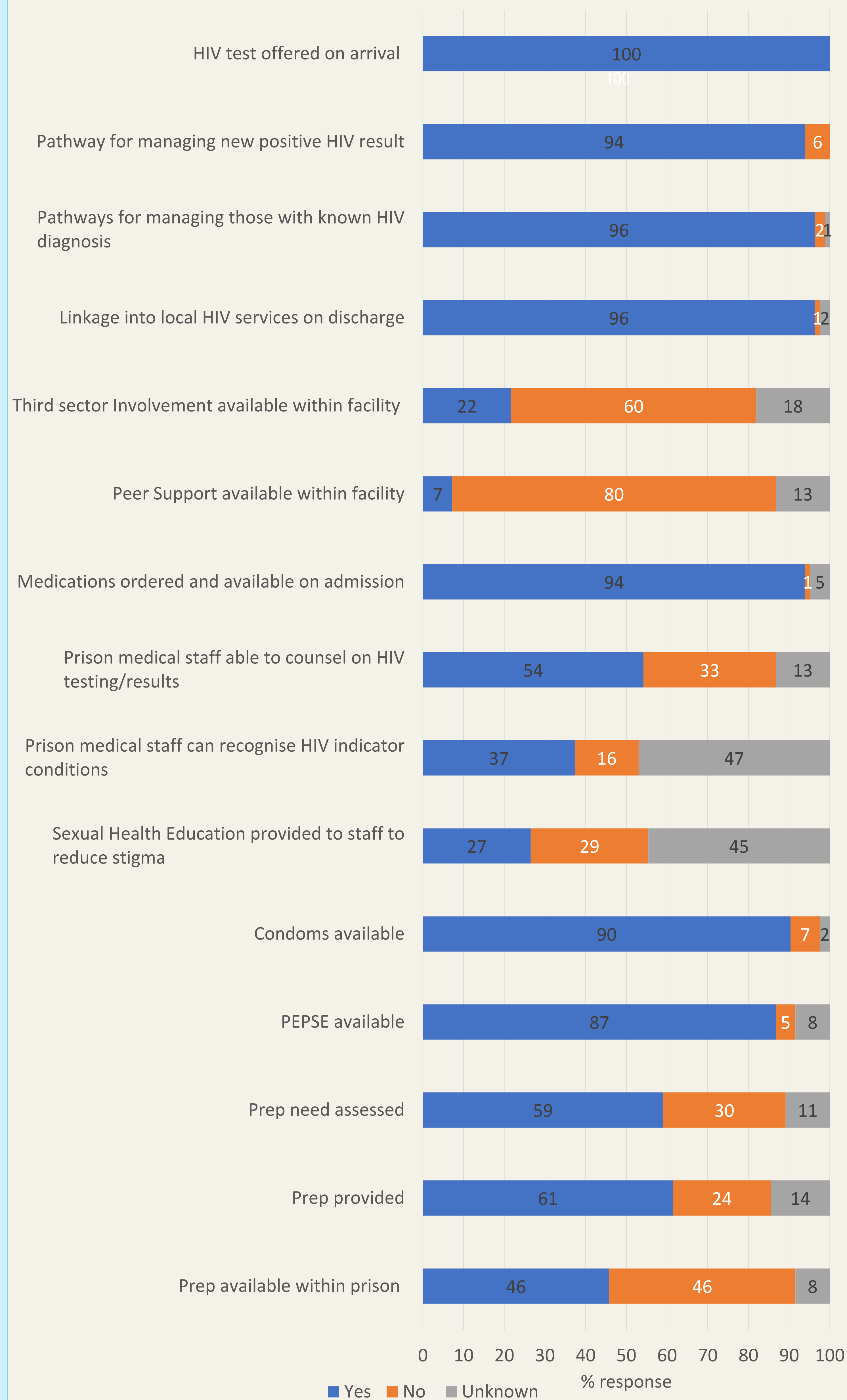
- A cross sectional survey was conducted of the 150 secure facilities of incarceration in the United Kingdom from December 2021 to March 2022
- A questionnaire was emailed to the healthcare team which contained various questions on HIV prevention and management.
- Answers were self reported by the team and emailed back.

Responses

- Contact established with 144/150 secure facilities
- .83/150 completed and returned questionnaire
- All Scottish 15/15 and N.Ireland 3/3 prisons responded.
- 64/120 responses from England/Wales
- 3/4 Secure Hospitals responded
- 0/8 Immigration Removal Centres (IRC's)

Results

- The answers reported by the facilities on aspects of healthcare related to HIV care and prevention are detailed below.



- Excellent HIV opt out testing rates reported
- Majority of facilities have established links with centres providing HIV care
- Gaps in PEPSE provision
- Gaps in PrEP provision, less than half can offer within the prison
- Low levels of peer and third sector support available
- Prison healthcare staff training around HIV / Sexual Health appears to be lacking

Discussion

- Acceptable response rate given substantial questionnaire.
- Useful snapshot provided on available services.
- Potential bias in what prisons issued responses to the questionnaire, and in answers given, as self reported .
- No response from any immigration removal center's – highlights potential concern.
- Difficulties highlighted directly from prison healthcare staff on lack of staffing and resource.
- Lack of awareness as to what is available by principal healthcare care personnel illustrated by frequency of 'unknown' in answers.

Areas for future development

- Combine with the remaining sexual health data from survey to identify all areas that can be optimized.
- Need assessment of current rates of HIV within prisons and testing rates.
- Assessment on inmate's perspective on what services available and barriers to access.
- Engagement with third sector organizations to increase support.
- Engage with the local sexual health services to reach out to IRC's.
- New BASHH standards are awaited, reaudit following distribution

Acknowledgements

- Thanks to all the prison healthcare staff who took the time to complete our questionnaire.
- Thanks to Joseph Heskin and Jon Dunn for their expertise in assisting drafting the questionnaire.