BHIVA :

Autumn Conference Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

etc.venues 155 Bishopsgate, London







# PANEL 3 - Scotland Scotland's HIV Stigma Campaign – 'Stigma is more harmful than HIV'

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# **Scotland's HIV Stigma Campaign**

# 'Stigma is more harmful than HIV'





## **HIV in Scotland**

# Ending HIV Transmission in Scotland by 2030

1. To prevent people from acquiring HIV, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, deprivation or disability status.

2. To find people living with HIV (some of whom are undiagnosed) and support entry/re-entry into HIV care and treatment.

3. To help reduce stigma that makes some people less likely to access HIV prevention, testing and treatment services.









Funded by the Scottish Government

Multi stakeholder campaign

- Terrence Higgins Trust
- Public Health Scotland
- NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
- Waverley Care
- University of Strathclyde
- Our Positive Voice
- Scottish Drugs Forum

Stand appointed as creative agency



NHS





## **User Involvement and Audience Testing**



YouGov poll key insights

- 25% would feel worried about catching HIV if someone they knew had the virus
- Only 35% people would be happy to kiss someone with HIV
- 55% of people would not feel comfortable having sex with someone living with HIV who was on effective treatment.
- Nearly half (46%) of people in Scotland would 'feel ashamed to tell other people' if they were diagnosed with HIV.



### **User Involvement and Audience Testing**



Stigma focus groups PLHIV PLHIV BA PLHIV PWID Rural PLHIV

Used to inform: Concept Messaging Characters

Testing of concept with PLHIV audiences and Gen Pop audiences



### Key outcomes PLHIV

#### **Rural PLHIV**

Lesser access to sexual health and HIV support services

Stigma is higher due to perceived conservatism and less knowledge about HIV in rural areas

Feelings of isolation

#### All PLHIV

Experience of stigma within medical settings, family/friends & colleagues

#### **BA PLHIV**

Higher prevalence of stigma within local community

Evidence of knowledge gap on transmission and LHIV

Tendency to hide HIV status, even from family members



#### **PWID PLHIV**

Stigma exacerbated due to societal status

Mistrust of facts around transmission and clinical staff

Higher rates of lost to care

Extreme self stigma prevalence



### **Quote examples**



#### Medical setting

*"I went for a Gynaecologist appointment and a big fuss was made of me being HIV positive, they discussed in front of me that they should be wearing double gloves. They also asked 'where did you get HIV from?"* 

"I'm an NHS nurse and another nurse whispered to me about a patient 'be careful with her, she has HIV' I didn't have the strength to tell her I do too. None of the nurses wanted to look after that patient."

BA community

"I tried to hide that I had HIV from my family. When they found out, they made me use different cups and glasses and plates. They made me use a different bathroom from everyone else in the house."

PWID

"Where I come from, people don't even use the word HIV. The call it 'the virus'. Like 'That guy's got the virus'. There's certain streets in Glasgow, you'd have people smashing your windows because they know you've got it."







- Key theme Stigma has a bigger impact on the lives of PLHIV than having HIV does = Stigma is more harmful than HIV.
- Show examples of stigma within settings with family, friends, neighbours and medical settings.
- Seize opportunity to re-educate: U=U/CPIO, one pill a day, 2030.
- Equal representation of genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations and age bands.



## **Media channels**



TV – STV partnership deal

OOH

- Social Media
- Print
- Press
- Dedicated website at HIVstigma.scot
- Launched on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

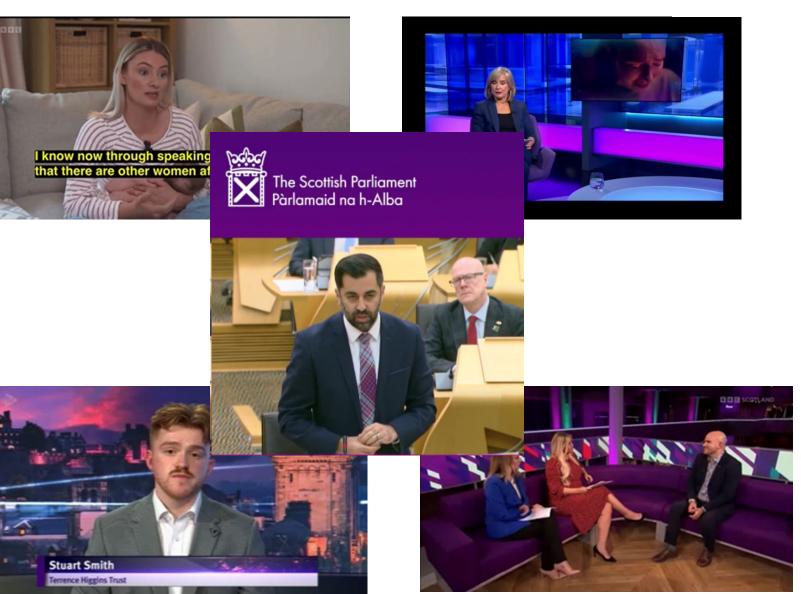


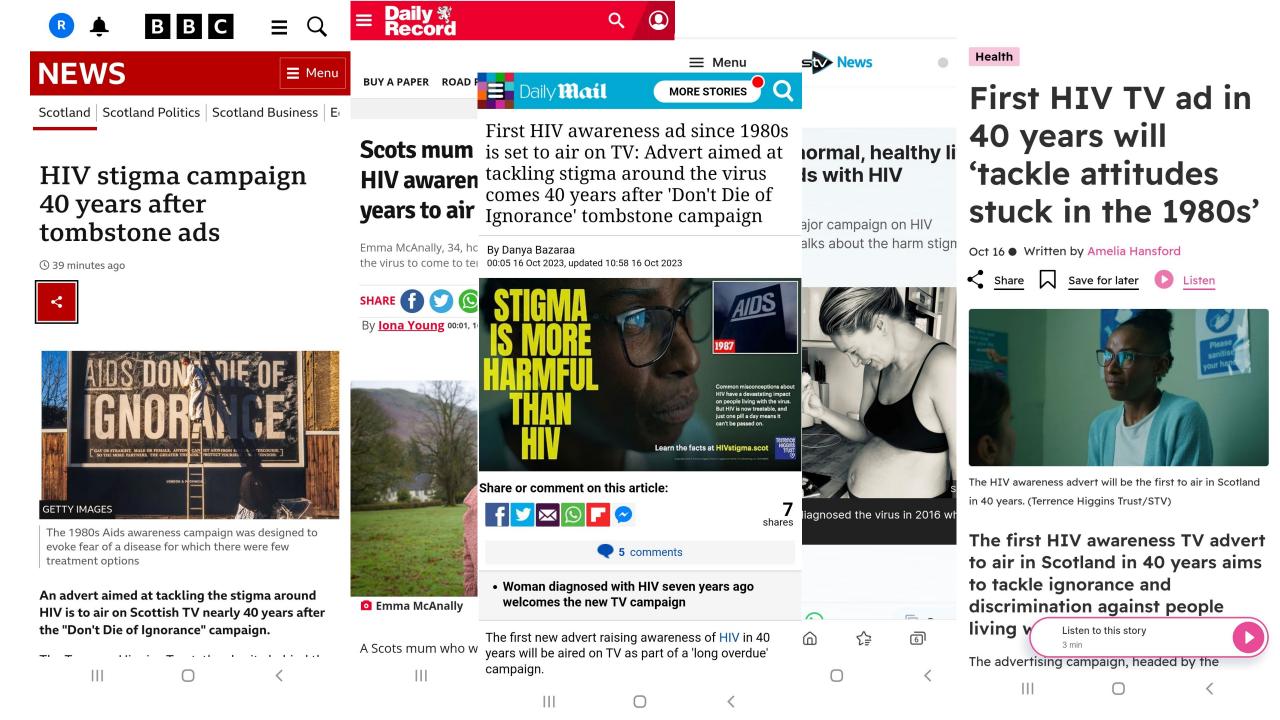
### **Press coverage**



#### **Broadcast**

- BBC Radio 4 Today Programme
- BBC Scotland News
- STV News and STV Tonight
- BBC Radio Scotland x3 slots
- Sky News
- BBC The Nine
- Talk TV/ Talk Radio
- LBC
- BBC Radio 5 Live
- FMQ Scottish Parliament







### **TV advert showing**

