

Appendix 2
Report for Healthy Communities Scrutiny
Sexual Health

Southwark Public Health

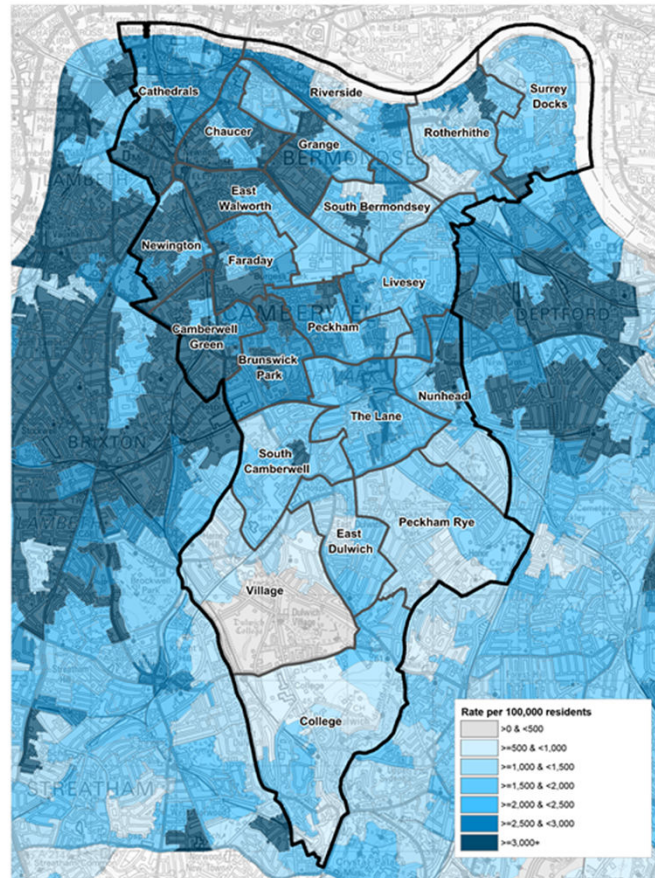
7 November 2017

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Needs remain high, but rates of infection, teenage pregnancy and abortion are declining

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Incidence of new sexually transmitted infections across Southwark in 2015

Data source: Public Health England - GUMCAD & CTAD systems
Southwark Public Health Department | People & Health Intelligence | chris.williamson@southwark.gov.uk
June 2017
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There are an estimated 232,000 sexually active people living in Southwark

- Nationally and in Southwark, young people, men who have sex with men (MSM), and black communities are known to suffer the poorest sexual and reproductive health, and are priority groups for sexual health improvement.

Levels of STIs in Southwark are high when compared to the rest of London and England

- In 2016 there were 2,628 new STI diagnoses in Southwark residents, with the borough ranked 2nd highest in England
- The newly diagnosed STI rate in Southwark decreased by 8.5% between 2015 and 2016; the lowest rate since 2013.

Reproductive health needs are significant

- On average, women spend about 30 years of their life needing to avert an unplanned pregnancy
- The under-18 conception rate has fallen by 72% since 1998, to 24.7 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17 years, abortion and repeat abortion rates continue to decline
- Long-acting methods of contraception (LARC) are more effective at preventing pregnancy than other methods (e.g. pill, condoms), but need to be more accessible

References

1. Public Health Outcomes Framework 2016

There are over 2,500 people in Southwark who have been diagnosed with HIV

HIV

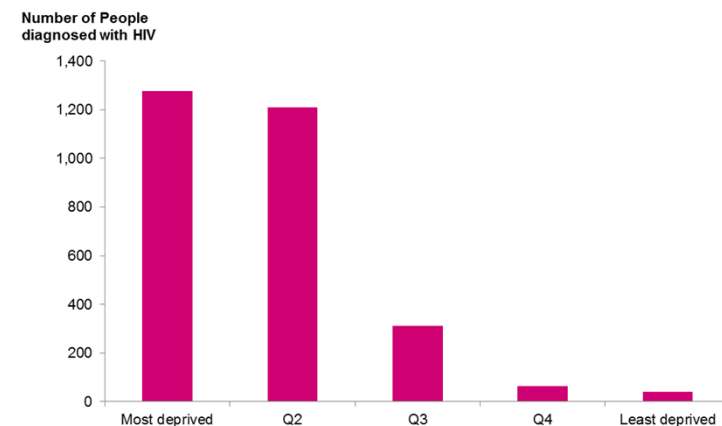
Levels of HIV in Southwark are particularly high, with the borough having the second highest new HIV diagnostic rate in England, after Lambeth

- Males accounted for around 75% of diagnosed HIV cases in the borough in 2015. Figures for that year show the ethnic make up of our HIV population varies significantly by sex, with 65% of male cases of white ethnic background, compared to less than 10% of female cases
- Those diagnosed with HIV in Southwark are much more likely to live in deprived areas, with 43% living in communities classed as the 20% most deprived nationally

In 2016 there were 114 new cases of HIV diagnosed in Southwark – but the rate of new diagnoses declined by nearly 54% between 2011 and 2016, and the rate of late diagnosis declined by 21% over the same period

- For the period 2014-16, 36.5% of HIV diagnoses were made at a late stage of infection, but this was significantly higher among those from a Black African background
- Late diagnosis is a key predictor of HIV-related illness and early death, and therefore remains a priority area for Southwark and nationally

Prevalence of HIV in Southwark in 2015 by Deprivation



References

1. Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed (SOPHID), 2015. Public Health England.

Local programmes are aligned with national frameworks and guidelines for sexual health improvement

THE EVIDENCE BASE

Southwark Council has a mandatory responsibility to commission comprehensive, open-access sexual health and contraception services for its residents, as well as HIV prevention, and to promote good sexual and reproductive health.

- The [Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England](#) (Department of Health, 2013) set out key areas for improving sexual health, based on the evidence:
 - Tackle stigma, discrimination and prejudice associated with sexual health, especially in at-risk communities (black communities, MSM, young people)
 - Reduce the rate of STI infections by facilitating easy access to tests, encouraging testing in those at risk (including partners of those with a diagnosed STI), and treating infections early
 - Reduce unwanted pregnancies by ensuring that people have access to the full range of contraception, can obtain their chosen method quickly and easily and can take control to plan the number of and spacing between any children
 - Tackle HIV through universal and targeted prevention approaches, and increase access to testing to enable early diagnosis and treatment
 - Promote integration, quality, value for money and innovation in the development of sexual health interventions and services

We commission services and programmes in line with all of these principles, and with other relevant guidelines including [NICE](#) and [BASHH](#).

Southwark Council provides a range of evidence-based, cost-effective sexual health services for residents

OPEN ACCESS AND TARGETED PROVISION ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

Southwark Council works in close partnership with Lambeth and Lewisham to commission sexual and reproductive health services, due to our similar population needs, and with partners across London for an integrated city-wide approach. Southwark Council has a range of services and programmes in place to improve sexual health outcomes for residents, including:

- Specialist, modern genitourinary medicine (GUM) and reproductive sexual health services delivered by King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trusts;
- Innovative online sexual health self-testing service, SH:24, which has increased the accessibility of tests and helped to reduce demand on busy local clinics;
- Community-based HIV and sexual health promotion, outreach and testing to Black African and Caribbean communities and MSM, via the Rise Partnership;
- Specialist young people's services, with a new contract for an innovative, integrated sexual health, substance misuse, and mental wellbeing service commencing on 1 December 2017;
- Expanding and improving the quality of sexual and reproductive health services in general practice and pharmacies across the borough;
- Expanding HIV testing in a range of settings, through:
 - awareness campaigns with the public (via the pan-London HIV Prevention Programme, 'Do It London', of which Southwark is the second largest contributor) and with professionals (e.g. GPs);
 - exploring a new partnership with the Elton John AIDS Foundation to expand HIV testing and to reduce HIV-related stigma.

Southwark has made enormous progress with sexual health improvement, but challenges remain

CHALLENGES

We have had a number of key successes in Southwark, including falls in new diagnoses of HIV, STIs, teenage pregnancy, and abortion. However, demand for sexual and reproductive health services is increasing, in the face of significant budget reductions from central government.

- Through commissioning and providing our services, we must continue to strive to ensure that no community is being left behind and that regardless of age, ethnicity or financial means, everyone in Southwark has whatever they need to stay healthy and achieve sexual and reproductive wellbeing.
- It is therefore critical that we find lower cost and more efficient ways of providing residents with high quality sexual health services that will meet needs in the coming years, and we are working to deliver this locally and as part of the pan-London sexual health transformation programme.

The national pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) trial (commenced October 2017) is expected to have an enormously positive impact on HIV transmission, but may have local resource implications

- PrEP is an effective method of HIV prevention for people who do not have HIV but are at substantial risk of contracting it. It consists of taking (usually daily) antiviral medication which reduces the risk of HIV establishing permanent infection if exposed.
- Southwark Council is excited about the opportunity PrEP offers in reducing new HIV infections not just in MSM, but in heterosexual transmission too. We are fully engaged in the London HIV Prevention Board and have been supporting our local trusts in implementing the national PrEP trial.
- As trial participants are enrolled at and monitored through GUM clinics, it is expected that there will be a small increase in clinic usage and STI testing, which may have a cost implication over the 3-year trial period. This will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Southwark Council is leading on the development of a new sexual and reproductive health strategy for LSL

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-21

Our shared vision for sexual and reproductive health improvement in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham will be summarised in our ‘four pillars’

- **Safe and healthy relationships**
- **Good reproductive health across the life course**
- **High quality STI testing and treatment**
- **Living well with HIV**

Our strategy, to be completed in early 2018, will extend from upstream prevention (e.g. supporting high quality PSHE in schools), to tackling stigma in at-risk communities (e.g. working with faith groups and community-led programmes to increase HIV testing), to improving knowledge of and access to the range of contraceptive choices (e.g. through work with primary care), to providing high quality, cost-effective clinical services (in clinics and online), and beyond.

Partners across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham have agreed to work collectively under the following shared principles:

- Working in partnership at a local, London, and national level
- High quality commissioning for effective and financially sustainable services
- Listening to service users’ views and experiences, and using these to improve what we do
- Focus on reducing inequalities in sexual and reproductive health
- Build capacity and capability around sexual and reproductive health
- Capitalising on technological innovations

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