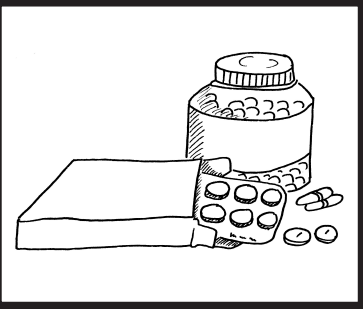


HIV & TB support services – your views and experiences

This is an Easier to Understand version



HIV and TB are serious illnesses which can make people very sick and even die, if they don't go to the doctor and get treatment.

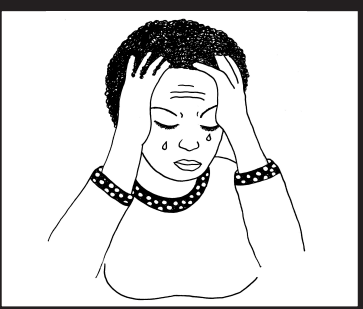


HIV and TB are two different illnesses, but are similar in some ways. Treatment is very important to help people with TB or HIV to get better, or feel well and stay healthy. People with TB need to have medicine every day for a long time to get better. People with HIV need to have medicine every day for the rest of their life to stay well.

TB and HIV are both more common in some parts of the world such as Africa and Eastern Europe.



Some people such as the homeless or those newly arrived in this country from places with more HIV or TB are more at risk of catching TB or HIV.



There is a lot of fear and shame about HIV and TB, so people may be afraid to get tested to see if they have it, or to get treatment if they do.

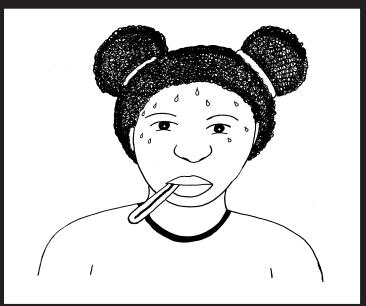
Some people with HIV or TB need extra support as well as medical treatment. At the moment there are special support services for people with HIV to help them. But there are not extra support services for people with TB.



We want to find out:

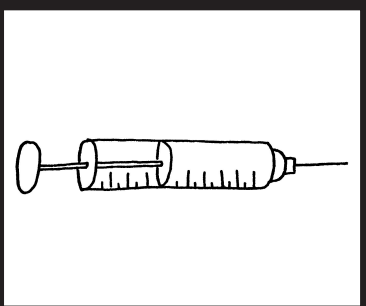
- what people think about existing HIV support services
- how HIV support services might be better in the future
- what support services are needed by people with TB

More about HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus



HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. HIV is a medical condition, caused by a virus. It can make people very ill by stopping their body fighting infections and disease.

Most people catch HIV by having sex, although using condoms reduces the risk.



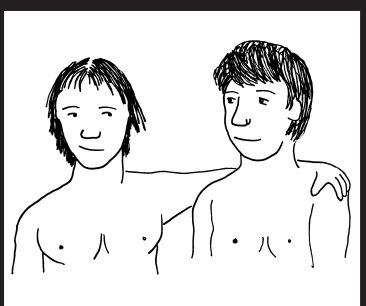
HIV can be passed on in other ways too:

- Sharing needles



- During pregnancy, or through breast-feeding if the mother has HIV.

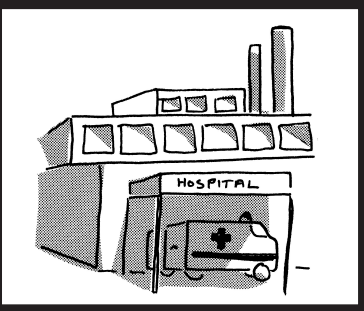
Some people are more at risk of HIV:



- Men who have sex with men

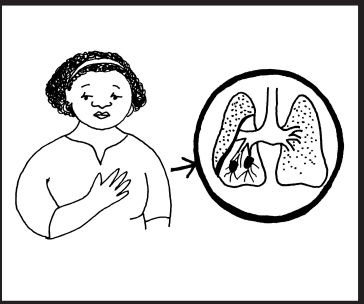


- People from Black African communities
- People from countries where HIV is more common



HIV can't be cured, but people can be treated with medicines, which means most people with HIV can live a long and healthy life. Medical treatment is free and confidential from special hospital clinics.

More about TB - Tuberculosis



Tuberculosis, often called TB, is caused by bacteria. Before antibiotics were introduced, TB was a major health problem in this country. Now, it is much less common.

In the last 20 years there have been more people with TB, especially in ethnic minority communities who are originally from places where TB is more common.

TB often affects people's lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body too.



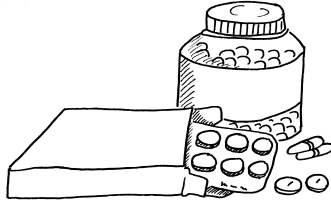
TB is usually passed on by close contact with someone who has it, often families living in the same house.



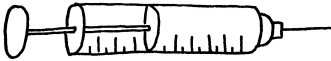
Coughs and sneezes can spread TB. Many healthy people are able to fight off TB infection. Some people are more vulnerable and can't do this, including:



- Homeless people
- Drug users
- People from countries where TB is more common



TB can usually be cured with antibiotics. Most people will need to take the medicine for at least six months or even more than a year. Sometimes people need more than one type of medicine.

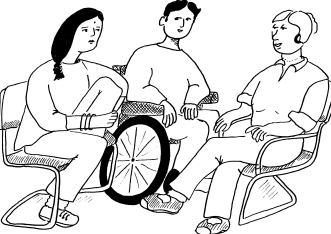


A special injection (vaccination) can stop people most at risk from catching the illness.

Support Services

Birmingham City Council funds some voluntary organisations to give people with HIV support to help them. These organisations include:

- Freshwinds
- AB Plus
- Terrence Higgins Trust
- Sofali



We want to find out what people think about these services and how they might be improved in the future.

Birmingham City Council also has a team of HIV Social Workers, which is funded by the University Hospitals Birmingham HIV Treatment Service.



We want to find out your views on HIV support services and how we can make them better in the future. We also want to find out what support services are needed by people with TB. We are not asking about medical care. You do not need to use or have used services to answer the questions.



Some of the questions may seem very personal, but all your answers will be completely confidential. Also you do not have to give your name, or answer any questions you don't want to.

We would like to ask some questions to understand your present experience of HIV and TB support services.

HIV

1. Are you HIV positive?

Yes No Don't know Prefer not to say

2. Do you support someone who is HIV positive?

Yes No Don't know Prefer not to say

3. Did you know there are support services for people with HIV?

(Please note that we are not asking about medical or treatment services)

Yes No

4. How would you rate the HIV support services provided by the following organisations? (Please tick 'not used' if you haven't used the service)

	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Not Used
Freshwinds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AB Plus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terrence Higgins Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sofali	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please give name of organisation in space below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of other support service used:

If you used HIV support services was it:

2 years ago or less? 2-5 years ago? More than 5 years ago?

5. How do you think HIV support services could be improved?

If you haven't experienced services, what 3 things do you think could make a difference to help people keep well? (e.g. support to maintain treatment, general health advice, support with money/benefits)

TB

6. Do you have, or have you had TB?

Yes No Don't know Prefer not to say

7. Do you support someone who has TB or has had TB?

Yes No Don't know Prefer not to say

8. What support do you think people with TB need?

What 3 things do you think could make a difference to help people get well? (e.g. support to maintain treatment, general health advice, support with money/benefits)

Additional comments

9. Anything else you would like to tell us that would help us with planning HIV or TB support services for the future?

We would like you to tell us something about you. You don't have to tell us but if you do it will help us to plan this service.

Data Protection Act 1998

The personal information on this form will be kept safe and is protected by law. You can see more information about data protection on our website at www.birmingham.gov.uk/privacy

What best describes your interest in this survey?

(tick the box that best describes your interest)

- A member of the public
- Someone who has used support services for HIV
- A family member or carer of someone who has used support services for HIV
- A family member or carer of someone who has HIV, but not used support services
- Someone who has a professional interest in HIV support services e.g. Social Worker, Health Professional etc.
- Someone with TB or who has had TB in the past
- A family member or carer of someone with TB
- Someone who has a professional interest in TB services e.g. Social Worker, Health Professional etc.
- Other (please give details)

How old are you? My age group is:

(Please tick one box only)

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 19 or under | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55 - 59 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20 - 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 60 - 64 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25 - 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65 - 69 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30 - 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 70 - 74 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35 - 39 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 75 - 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 40 - 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 80 - 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 45 - 49 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 85 and over | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 50 - 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

What gender are you:

- Male
- Female
- Trans Person
- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

(Please tick one box only)

White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

Any other white background (please specify) _____

Mixed / multiple ethnic groups

Asian / Asian British

Black African / Caribbean / Black British

Indian Sikh

Jewish

Other ethnic group (please specify) _____

Prefer not to say

What is your sexual orientation?

(Please tick one box only)

Heterosexual or Straight

Gay or Lesbian

Bisexual

Other (please specify) _____

What is your religion or belief? (Please tick one box only)

No religion

Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

Any other religion (please specify) _____

Prefer not to say

What is your postcode?

Please **only** give us the first part of your postcode, for example B10

Postcode (first part only): _____

Your email address

Please **only** give us your email address if you are happy for us to contact you in the future when we consult about commissioning HIV and TB support services

Email address: _____



Please return this questionnaire in the FREEPOST envelope provided by 20th February 2015



Or email it to
Birminghamsexualhealth@birmingham.gov.uk

Or you can complete the questionnaire online at the Birmingham Be Heard website **www.birminghambeheard.org.uk**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.