High prevalence of new HIV diagnosis in Lambeth: An analysis of the current profile

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INTRODUCTION

- In 2017, the Lambeth borough reported the highest number of new HIV diagnoses. Among adults aged 15-59, the proportion was 42.2 new diagnoses per 100,000 people.
- Even registering the largest number of new cases, Lambeth does not represent the largest number of tests done in total in 2017. Which means that this can not be justified because of the amount of testing done.
- In fact, this is an old public health problem that Lambeth has been facing, and by 2014, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham (LSL) have teamed up to form a strategy plan to improve the profile of local sexual health outcomes.

AIM

- Compare the plan developed for 2014-2017 with the results of the Public Health profiles for sexual health of 2017 and analyse possible key issues of the continuous increase of new HIV diagnoses.

RESULTS

- The LSL strategy for 2014-2017 was prioritized in the risk group evaluated by the area: MSM (same-sex men), Black African community and young people. Lambeth is the 9th area considered deprived of London, and therefore, other groups also were considered targets (like homeless, sex works, etc).
- The strategies used in previous years have been revised, and specifically for HIV testing, there has been a greater engagement to reduce the barriers to the promotion of testing among the Black African community; it can also be observed that HIV testing sites have been amplified, and are closer to community settings, not only in traditional NHS sexual health services.
- Although Lambeth's borough records the highest rate of new HIV cases in 2017, as shown in the table, the number of cases was the lowest recorded since 2011, at a value of 120.4 dropped to 42.2, the best results in 6 years.

DISCUSSION

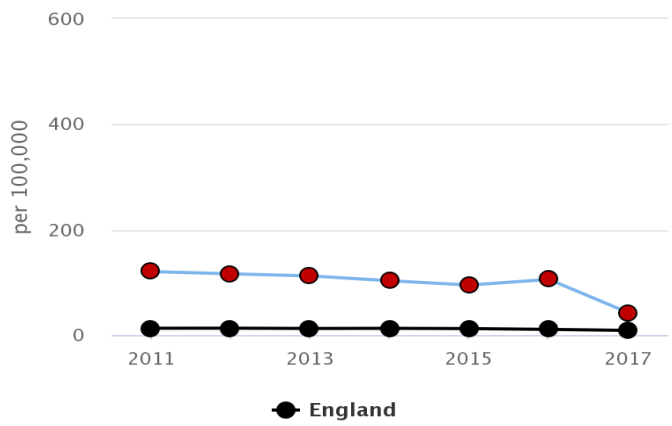
- Health needs need to be based on local reality. Therefore, the literature indicates that benefits of engaging community members as frontline health workers are well documented and include extending the workforce, bringing services closer to people and, benefiting from the intimate knowledge these workers have of their communities. WHO lists 313 essential tasks for the continuum of HIV prevention, care and treatment and notes that over a third can be performed by frontline health workers. Such workers (including CHWs, mentor mothers and adherence counsellors) have been effectively used for many countries and programmes.

METHODS

- Analyse the plan Sexual Health Strategy LSL, focusing mainly on the target profile, on the understood challenges, on the priorities addressed, and on the objectives required.
- Data collection of newly diagnosed key HIV population in London in general and Lambeth as specific.
- Conceptualize and contextualize with the referential research.

RESULTS

Figure New HIV diagnosis rate/100,000 aged 15+ Lambeth 2017



Source: Fingertips Public Health England

Table Recent Trend

Period		Count	Value	Lower CI	Upper CI
2011		304	120.4	107.2	134.7
2012		298	116.1	103.3	130.1
2013		291	112.1	99.6	125.8
2014		271	103.0	91.1	116.0
2015		253	94.7	83.4	107.2
2016		284	105.5	93.6	118.5
2017		114	42.2	34.8	50.7

Source: Fingertips Public Health England

- When analysing the results of 2017, even Lambeth is still a locality with high incidence of new HIV cases, it is evident that this number has been decreasing and represents the best rate since 2011. Several actions were done to improve this index, but certainly the involvement (which be a key action throughout the 2014-2017 plan) is the key to the beginning of a steady and significant improvement.

REFERENCES

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