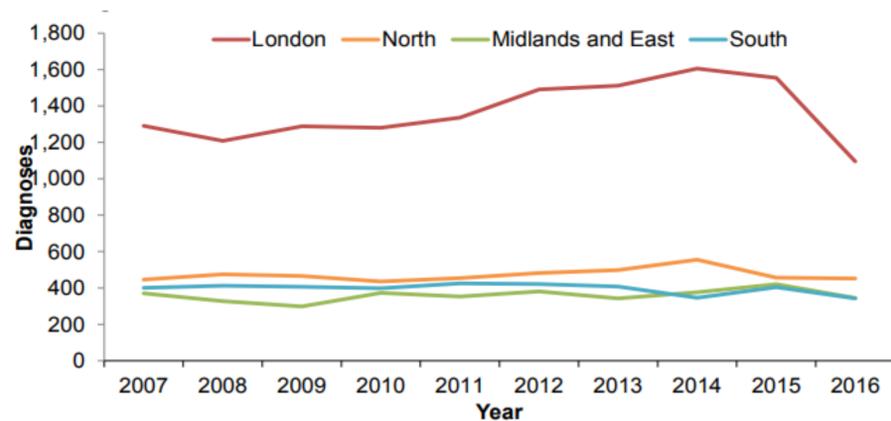


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

By 2016, the 5,164 HIV diagnoses in gay and bisexual men represented an 18% decline compared to the 6,286 diagnosis in 2015¹. However, HIV remains a concern in England. Public Health England (PHE) reports that combining prevention strategies such as condom use, HIV testing, prompt treatment, and providing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), with progressive strengthening, HIV transmission could be eliminated. PrEP could eliminate HIV permanently. Access to PrEP in England has been an ongoing debate for the last several years and improved access is dependent upon sustained efforts from National Health Service England (NHS). NHS England has argued that it cannot legally commission PrEP because the responsibility to arrange services that prevent the spread of HIV lies with local authorities. The High Court ruled that NHS England does have the legal power to commission PrEP². Now they designed and governed the PrEP, Impact Trial. Scotland is currently offering full PrEP provision through their NHS. Wales started the PrEPared project in 2017.

New HIV Dx in gay and bisexual men, by region, 2007-2016

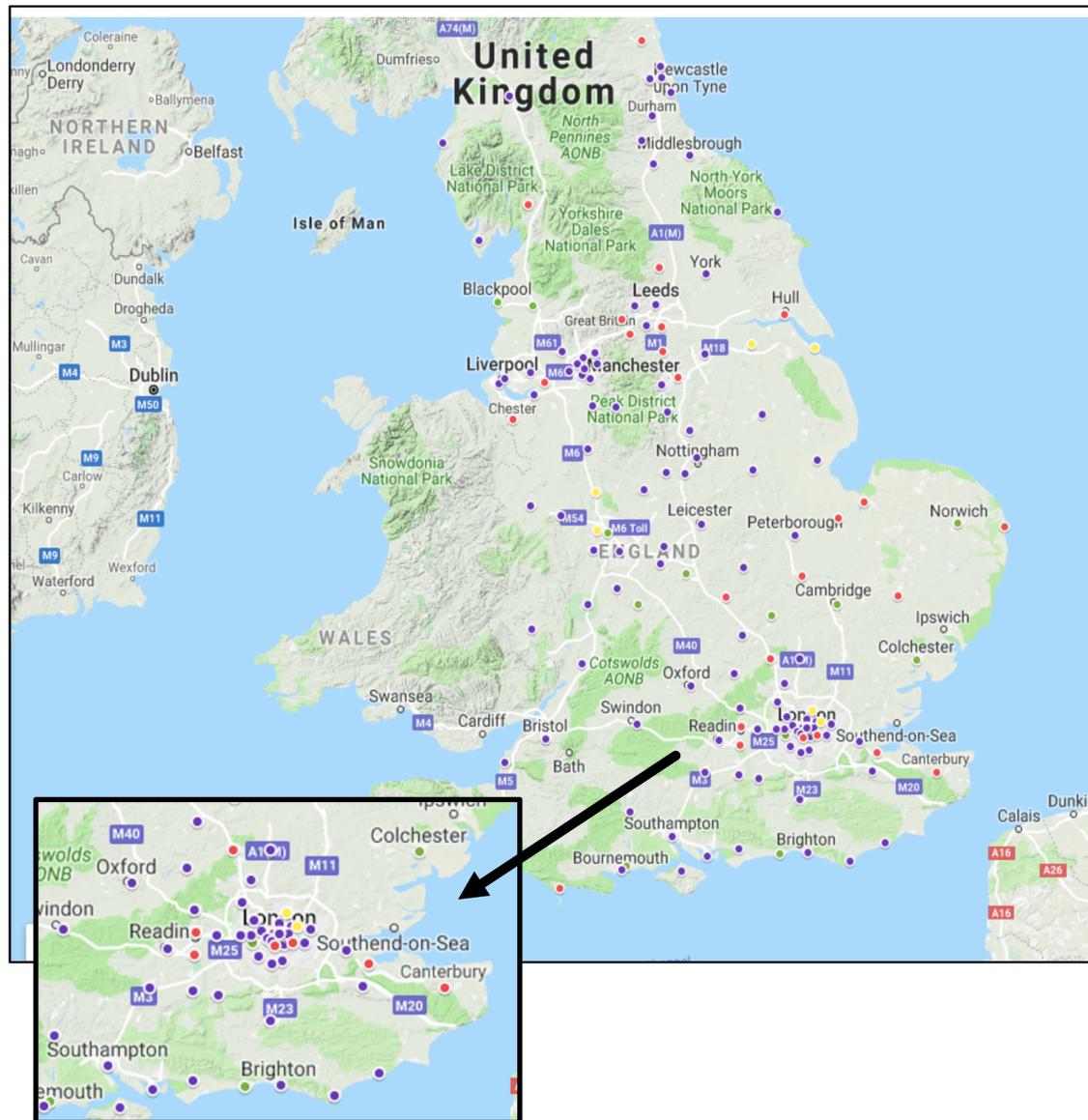


The decrease in HIV in gay and bisexual men represents the most exciting development in the UK. The HIV response will be further strengthened with the implementation of the PrEP Impact Trial. It is critical that each region has available and accessible preventative care.

PURPOSE

PrEP is a powerful prevention tool. It has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by 92%³. The goal is to address outstanding questions and issues on PrEP need in England.

PrEP IMPACT TRIAL CLINICS MAP



METHODOLOGY

Traveled to London, England in March 2018 and visited the Terrance Higgins Trust (THT), a British charity that campaigns on and provides services relating to HIV and sexual health. Interviewed the founder of iWantPrEPNow, a parliamentary officer that works with PHE, and a health improvement specialist. Also, interviewed a professor at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the founder of PrEPster, a movement that aims to educate and agitate for PrEP access in England and beyond.

PrEP IMPACT TRIAL CRITERIA

PrEP Impact Trial is now a HIV Prevention Program within PHE and NHS England. In October 2017, a 3-year trial began to enroll a maximum of 10,000 patients who are interested in accessing PrEP. Now, an official request was made to increase the number of spaces to the end of the trial in 2020 to 26,000. NHS England has been supportive. Inclusion criteria comprises: must be 16+ years old, transgender men and women, MSM, who are HIV-report sex without condoms in the past 3 months, HIV- partners of an HIV+ person. Over 150 level 3 GUM clinics (sexual health clinics) are involved and recruiting men who have sex with men (MSM), women, and other groups⁴. The latest announcements from the government stated that PrEP will be rolled out on the NHS in England in Spring 2020.

CONCLUSION

One of the most visited sexual health clinics in London, 56 Dean Street clinic, filled its original allocation of 1,700 places in weeks⁵. As did the Colchester Sexual Health Clinic. Clinics are rapidly maxing out their allocation of PrEP and it is posing issues for many since they are not distributed geographically in the region. Some may have to take hours-long journeys to one of the few remaining clinics that has PrEP available. The NHS could put many people's lives at risk under its provisions. The trial was intended to understand the need for PrEP and ensure that those who want to access it are able to do so. There is a clear demand for PrEP and evidence for why it must be a long-term sustainable resource in the country.

DISCLOSURE

The authors on this poster has research support from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy (MCPHS) and the Center for International Studies at MCPHS. The terms of this arrangement have been reviewed and approved by the University in accordance with its policy on objectivity in research.

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