



European
AIDS Treatment
Group



Challenges Faced by African Migrant Men Who Sleep with Men in Europe

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Migrant MSM in Europe and HIV

- HIV diagnoses in migrant MSM continue to increase (*ECDC Surveillance Report 2017*)
- 7 of 10 migrant MSM acquire HIV post migration into Europe.
- A cross-sectional survey at HIV clinics from 9 countries in the EU/EEA, revealed that some 63% of HIV-positive migrants became infected after they had migrated to their new country. i.e MSM (72%) compared to heterosexual men (58%) and women (51%). (*AIDS Society Journal 2017*)
- In the UK it is estimated that black MSM are at least 15 times more likely to be living with HIV than any other demographic group (Kirby and Love: 2015). The actual figures could be higher due to limited self-reporting on sexual orientation and data misclassification by health services

Issues /Barriers

Cultural, social, policy and legal factors contribute to HIV vulnerability among migrant MSM

- Language problems, cultural attitudes, religious beliefs, taboos
- Marginalisation, social exclusion, racism
- Negative social attitudes towards migrants
- Homophobia
- Limited knowledge of HIV within migrant communities
- Legal obstacles.
- Poverty
- Fear of discrimination
- Services that are not sensitive to the needs of migrant MSM



HIV Prevention

- Do current prevention strategies work for migrant MSM?
- What approaches taken across Europe to increase the knowledge, skills and capacity of this demographic group?
- What avenues do African MSM use to enhance their knowledge and capacity to engage in preventative practises?.
- Does racism apparent within the gay scene across Europe and homophobic attitudes of the African community in Europe make African migrant MSM susceptible to HIV
- What's the prevalence of transactional sex among African MSM,
- Impact of chemsex, dating apps on HIV transmission.
- Involvement of migrant MSM in designing prevention strategies

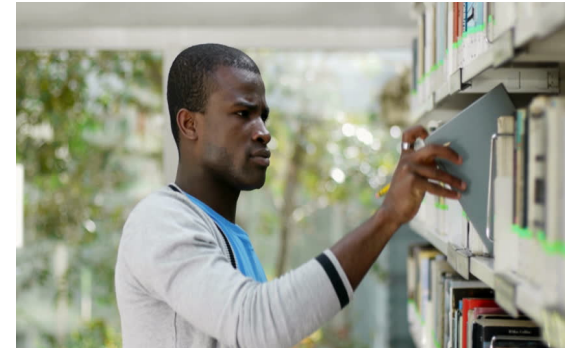


HIV Screening

- Research indicates that African MSM often are not engaging in early or routine HIV screening and are usually diagnosed late
- Little understanding of the factors that impede access to testing among migrant MSM
- Healthcare practitioners retain preconceptions on sexual orientation of their black African patients, often assuming the only engaging in sexual activity with women
- Legal barriers limit access to testing
- Little knowledge on HIV testing access, services and technologies e.g home sampling, home testing etc.

Treatment & Care

- Need to understand some data on African MSM with HIV living in Europe who are accessing HIV treatment services
- Policy and legal constraints across various European countries that impede access for HIV+ African MSM to access healthcare services
- Are there psycho-social services that specifically support African MSM with HIV living in Europe?
- What are the socio-cultural barriers that impact upon retention in care and ART adherence in the HIV+ African MSM community.



Recommendation

- To develop Recommendations and policies to be implemented at a European-wide level than can improve a deeper appreciation of the sexual attitudes and behaviours of African MSM living in Europe.
- Their capacities to engage in preventative practises
- Their knowledge and willingness to access routine STI and HIV screening services
- Motivation to Participate in HIV treatment and care



Thank You!

Questions

