



***Bass Line***  
***2008***

***African Health and Sex Survey***

**Sigma Research (University of Portsmouth) has been carrying out community-based research for more than fifteen years. We are the UK's leading social research group specialising in the policy aspects of sexual health and HIV. Sigma Research is based in Vauxhall, South London.**

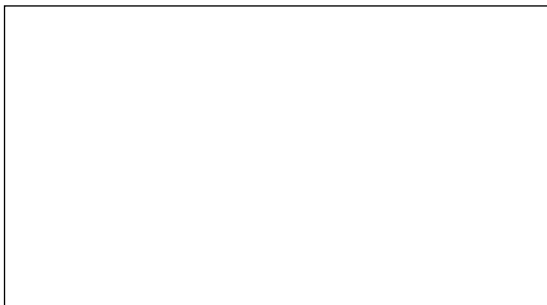
**Bass Line 2008 is supported by many African organisations in England. It was commissioned by the African HIV Policy Network (AHPN) as part of its Department of Health funded National African HIV Prevention Programme (NAHIP).**

**[www.sigmaresearch.org.uk](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk)**

**[www.ahpn.org](http://www.ahpn.org)**

**[www.nahip.org.uk](http://www.nahip.org.uk)**

**This booklet has been distributed by:**



- This is the second Bass Line survey. You can see the results of the first survey at [www.sigmaresearch.org.uk](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk) or by calling Sigma Research on 020-7820 8022.
- The survey is completely **ANONYMOUS**. Please DO NOT write your name or address on it. No one will be able to link your answers to you.
- Taking part in this survey is **VOLUNTARY**. Declining to take part will not influence any services you receive.
- The survey is about **HEALTH AND SEX**. The purpose of the survey is to IMPROVE HIV EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN PEOPLE IN ENGLAND.
- **PLEASE** try to give an answer for every question. Some questions are personal - if you do not wish to answer a question, please leave it blank and continue with the next question.
- You can read our confidentiality policy at: [www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/privacy](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/privacy)
- Please fill in this survey only once this autumn / winter.

**This survey is also available online at: [www.bass-line.org.uk](http://www.bass-line.org.uk)**



## FIRSTLY, SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOURSELF...

### 1. What country are you in right now?

- England
- Any other country (including Scotland, Wales or Ireland)

➔ *This survey is for people who are in England.  
Please do not fill it in if you are in any other country.*

### 2. What is your ethnic group? (tick one)

- Black African
- Black African British
- African Asian
- African Arab
- White African
- African Caribbean
- Mixed race African ➔ **Please say which:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Other ➔ **Please say which:** \_\_\_\_\_

➔ *This survey is for people who consider themselves African.  
Please do not fill it in if you do not consider yourself African.*

### 3. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years

➔ *This survey is for people aged 16 and over.  
Please do not fill it in if you are under the age of 16.*

4. **Have you filled in this survey already this autumn / winter?**

No

Yes → *Thank you for completing the survey already.  
Please do not complete it again.*

5. **Are you filling in this survey by yourself or is someone helping you?**

I'm filling it in alone → ***Please go to question 7***

Someone is helping me

6. **What language is being used to help fill in this survey?**

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Are you ...**

Male

Female

8. **Who do you live with? (tick as many as apply)**

I live alone

Partner / husband / wife / civil partner

Parent(s) / step-parents(s)

Children I am responsible for

Other family → ***Please say who:*** \_\_\_\_\_

Friends

House-mates (people you share with)

Other → ***Please say who:*** \_\_\_\_\_



**9. Which religion do you belong to? (tick as many as apply)**

- Christian → **Which denomination?:** \_\_\_\_\_
- African traditional religion → **Say which:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Other → **Please say which:** \_\_\_\_\_
- None

**10. What country were you born in? (write below)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**11. What town or city are you currently living in?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**12. What local authority do you live in?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**If you are not sure of your local authority, please write down the first part of your home postcode AND the next number.**

(You share this part of your postcode with about 6,000 people)

For example:      NW10 4

                         S9     7

                         LU4    0

**13. How long, in total, have you lived in the UK?**

*Please answer even if you have lived in the UK all your life.*

\_\_\_\_\_ years      \_\_\_\_\_ months

**14. What is the highest level of education that you have achieved?**

(tick one)

- None
- Primary / Elementary School
- Secondary / High School
- University / College
- Other → **Please say what:** \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Which of these best describes your current situation?**

(tick as many as apply)

- Full-time education
- Part-time education
- On a training scheme / Back-to-work activity
- Full-time employment
- Part-time employment
- Casual / cash-in-hand employment
- Carer / homemaker
- Not in employment and registered for benefits
- Not in employment and **not** registered for benefits
- Unable to work (long-term illness / disability / medically retired)
- Not allowed to work (immigration reasons)
- Retired
- Other → **Please say what:** \_\_\_\_\_



## SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV and AIDS...

16. All of the following statements are TRUE - did you know this before today? (tick one box for each statement)

- ***AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV.***

I knew this before today                       I didn't know this  
 I wasn't sure if this was true or not       I don't understand this

- ***You cannot tell from someone's appearance whether they have HIV or not.***

I knew this before today                       I didn't know this  
 I wasn't sure if this was true or not       I don't understand this

- ***People can have HIV without knowing it.***

I knew this before today                       I didn't know this  
 I wasn't sure if this was true or not       I don't understand this

- ***There is a medical test that can show whether or not you have HIV.***

I knew this before today                       I didn't know this  
 I wasn't sure if this was true or not       I don't understand this

- ***Africans are NOT deported from the UK just for having HIV.***

I knew this before today                       I didn't know this  
 I wasn't sure if this was true or not       I don't understand this

**17. What do you think your current HIV status is (whether or not you've ever tested)?** (tick one)

- Definitely negative (I don't have HIV)
- Probably negative
- Not sure / I don't know
- Probably positive
- Definitely positive (I do have HIV)

**18. Have you ever personally received an HIV test result from a health professional?**

- Yes, I've received a POSITIVE HIV test result (I do have HIV)
- Yes, I've received a NEGATIVE HIV test result (I did NOT have HIV at the time of the test)
- No, I've never tested for HIV

**19. FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE TESTED HIV POSITIVE**

**When were you first diagnosed with HIV?**

\_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year

**20. FOR PEOPLE WHOSE LAST TEST WAS HIV NEGATIVE**

**When was your most recent negative HIV test result?** (tick one)

- In the last month
- In the last 12 months
- 1 to 5 years ago
- More than 5 years ago
- Not sure



**21. FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER TESTED FOR HIV**

**Why have you never tested for HIV?** (tick as many as apply)

- It's not important to me to know my HIV status
- People I know do not approve of HIV testing
- I don't know where to go to get tested
- I don't trust the places I know where I could test
- I am too afraid I might have HIV
- I do not want to use any 'official' services
- I am afraid of being treated differently if I take a test
- I am afraid of being treated differently if I have HIV
- It would cause problems in my relationship
- I am concerned about the impact it might have on my children
- I may not get treatment if I need it
- I've no reason to think I have HIV
- I've never had intercourse
- Other reason → **Please say what:** \_\_\_\_\_

**22. Do you want to take an HIV test (or another test if you have tested before)?** (tick one)

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

**23. If you wanted an HIV test, would you know where to get one?**

- No
- Yes

## ABOUT SOME OTHER SEXUAL MATTERS...

**24. When was the last time you were tested for ANY sexually transmitted infection, other than HIV? Please do not include cervical smear tests.** (tick one)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the last month     | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the last 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> Never                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 5 years ago      | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know            |

**25. When, if ever, were you last diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection, other than HIV?** (tick one)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the last month     | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the last 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> Never                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 5 years ago      | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know            |

**26. THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IS FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN**  
**Have you been circumcised?** (tick one)

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

**27. Are you sexually attracted to men/boys or women/girls?** (tick one)

- Only attracted to men/boys  
 Mostly attracted to men/boys but sometimes to women/girls  
 Equally attracted to both men/boys and women/girls  
 Mostly attracted to women/girls but sometimes to men/boys  
 Only attracted to women/girls  
 No one / I am not sexually attracted to anybody  
 Not sure



## NOW SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS...

**28. Have you had sex in the last 12 months?**

- No → *Please go to question 36*  
 Yes

**29. In the past 12 months, how many MEN/BOYS have you had sexual intercourse with? (tick one)**

- |                               |                            |                                     |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 12    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1    | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 to 29   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 or more |

**30. In the past 12 months, how many WOMEN/GIRLS have you had sexual intercourse with? (tick one)**

- |                               |                            |                                     |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 12    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1    | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 to 29   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 or more |

**31. Do you currently have a STEADY sexual partner (someone you have sex with on a regular basis)? (tick as many as apply)**

- No → *Please go to question 33*  
 Yes, ONE MALE steady partner  
 Yes, MORE THAN ONE MALE steady partner  
 Yes, ONE FEMALE steady partner  
 Yes, MORE THAN ONE FEMALE steady partner

**32. How many OTHER people have you had sex with while you have been with this STEADY partner? (tick one)**

- |                               |                            |                                     |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 12    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1    | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 to 29   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 or more |

## ABOUT USING CONDOMS

**33. How often have you used condoms for intercourse IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?** (tick one)

- Always
- More than half the time
- About half the time
- Less than half the time
- Never → **Please go to question 36**
- Not had intercourse in last 12 months → **Go to question 36**

**34. Have you or a sexual partner had a condom break or come off during intercourse IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?**

- No
- Yes

**35. All of the following make condoms more likely to break or come off. Which have you or a partner done IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?** (tick as many as apply)

- Using a condom that is past its expiry date
- Unrolling the condom before putting it on the penis
- Tearing the condom with jewelry or fingernails
- Not using additional water-based lubricant
- Using saliva as a lubricant
- Using a condom that's too short for the penis
- Using a condom that's too big or baggy
- Having intercourse for over half an hour without changing the condom
- None of the above



**36. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

(tick one box for each statement)

- ***If I carried a condom I would worry about what people thought of me.***

- strongly agree
- agree
- don't know / does not apply
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- ***I can use condoms with a sexual partner if I want to.***

- strongly agree
- agree
- don't know / does not apply
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- ***I would find it easy to talk about safer sex and HIV with new sexual partners.***

- strongly agree
- agree
- don't know / does not apply
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- ***I sometimes have a problem getting hold of condoms.***

- strongly agree
- agree
- don't know / does not apply
- disagree
- strongly disagree

## SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV AND AIDS TREATMENT AND TRANSMISSION...

37. All of the following statements are TRUE – did you know this before today? (tick one box for each statement)

- ***There is no cure for HIV infection once someone has it.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this
- ***At least 1-in-20 of all Africans living in England have HIV infection.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this
- ***There are HIV medicines that can help people with HIV to stay healthy.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this
- ***HIV medicines work better if people with HIV take them before they become ill.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this



- ***HIV is never passed on through shaking hands or touching people.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this
- ***A person with HIV can pass it to a partner during sexual intercourse.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this
- ***Condoms are free from sexual health clinics, family planning clinics and some community organisations.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this
- ***Some people with HIV have been imprisoned in the UK for passing their infection to a sexual partner.***
  - I knew this before today
  - I didn't know this before today
  - I wasn't sure if this was true or not
  - I don't understand this

**38. How likely do you think it is, that in the last 12 months, you've had sexual intercourse WITHOUT A CONDOM with someone who had a DIFFERENT HIV status to yourself? (tick one)**

- I definitely have
- I probably have
- I don't know
- I probably have not
- I definitely have not

### **ABOUT POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP)...**

PEP is a one month course of anti-HIV drugs. It attempts to stop HIV infection taking place after a person is exposed to the virus. It should be started as soon as possible after exposure and definitely within three days. In some UK hospitals PEP is available for those exposed to HIV through sex. In those hospitals whether you get PEP will depend on the likelihood that you have been exposed to HIV and your ability to cope with the side effects.

**39. Have you heard of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)?**

- No
- Yes

**40. Have you ever taken PEP?**

- No
- Yes

### **FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE HIV**

**41. If you thought you had been exposed to HIV would you consider trying to get PEP?**

- No
- Yes
- Maybe



**42. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:** (tick one box for each statement)

- ***I do not want to get or pass on HIV.***

- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- ***I think I am at risk of getting or passing on HIV.***

- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- ***I have the power to reduce my risk of getting or passing on HIV.***

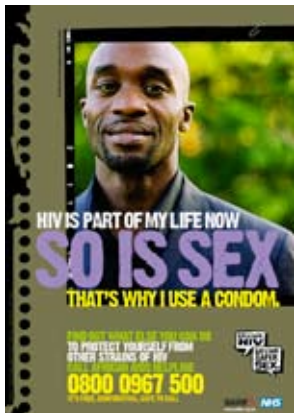
- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

**43. PLEASE WRITE AN ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION**

**What is your greatest strength or asset in reducing your risk of getting or passing on HIV?**

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44. Below are two of a series of eight adverts from a campaign called *Let's Talk HIV*. They appeared in magazines and as posters in some community venues.



**Do you remember seeing any *Let's Talk HIV* adverts or posters?**

- No, I have not seen any of these adverts or posters
- I recognise them but have never looked at them or read them
- I've seen some of these and have read them



45. Below are an advert and a booklet from a campaign called *Do It Right*. They appeared in magazines, as posters in some community venues and as small booklets.



**Do you remember seeing any *Do It Right* adverts, posters or booklets?**

- No, I have not seen any of these adverts or posters
- I recognise them but have never looked at them or read them
- I've seen some of these and have read them

**46. Would you like to know more about sexual health and HIV?**

- No
- Yes

**47. Which of the following would you like to know more about...?**

(tick as many as apply)

- HIV testing
- Treatments for HIV infection
- Who is able to get free treatment for HIV
- Testing and treatment for other sexually transmitted infections
- Safer sex and how to prevent HIV
- Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- How to be more confident in sexual situations
- Where to find a boyfriend / girlfriend
- Managing relationships
- What different kinds of condoms are available
- How to stop condoms breaking or coming off
- The law and HIV transmission
- How to reduce HIV stigma
- Preventing discrimination against people with HIV (and those thought to have HIV)
- Living well with HIV
- Other → **Please say what:** \_\_\_\_\_



**48. How would you PERSONALLY like to learn more...**

(tick as many as apply)

- Reading in private
- Talking to someone
  
- Reading adverts in newspapers or magazines
- Reading articles in newspapers or magazines
- Reading booklets, leaflets and postcards
- Reading newsletters
- Reading web sites
  
- Talking to a health worker at a voluntary organisation or charity
- Talking to a health worker at a sexual health or HIV clinic
- Talking to a health worker at a GP surgery/local doctor
- Talking to a health worker in community settings
- Talking to a health worker on the telephone through a helpline
- Talking to a health worker in an internet chat room
  
- Taking part in an information group or workshop
  
- Other → **Please say how:** \_\_\_\_\_

**49. Who would you most prefer to give you information or advice about HIV?**

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*Many thanks for taking part.  
Your answers are completely anonymous.  
Please remember to seal and post this booklet.*

The results of this survey will be available in Summer 2009 at [www.sigmaresearch.org.uk](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk) and through the organisation where you got the survey.

**Do you have any comments or suggestions about this survey?**

**For advice and information on HIV and sexual health (including testing, treatment, clinics and services) in English, French, Portuguese, Luganda, Shona and Swahili.**

**African AIDS Helpline**

Free phone 0800 0967 500

Monday - Friday 10am-6pm