

# Introducing Bass Line II

Dr Ford Hickson

Sigma Research

University of Portsmouth

On behalf of

The Bass Line Collaboration

# Survey commissioning and support



# Description of the people who took part

- 2.1 Gender and sexuality
- 2.2 Age
- 2.3 Ethnicity
- 2.4 Length of time living in the UK
- 2.5 Area of residence
- 2.6 Household composition
- 2.7 Working and studying
- 2.8 Educational attainment
- 2.9 Religion
- 2.10 Regular sexual partners
- 2.11 Circumcision

# HIV testing and diagnosis needs

3.1 HIV testing history

3.2 HIV status belief

3.3 Unmet HIV diagnosis needs

3.4 Testing for and diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections

# Sexual risk and precaution behaviours

- 4.1 Number of sexual partners in the last year
- 4.2 Regular sexual partners and extra-relational sex
- 4.3 Likelihood of sero-discordant unprotected intercourse
- 4.4 Condom use
- 4.5 Experience of condom failure

# Indicators of HIV prevention need

- 5.1 Knowledge and understanding
- 5.2 Access to condoms
- 5.3 Confidence in sexual communication and condom use
- 5.4 Motivation to avoid HIV (re)infection
- 5.5 Belief in control over HIV transmission

# Interventions past and future

6.1 Preferred methods for learning more about HIV

6.2 Preferred information sources

# METHODS

BOOKLET

# Survey collaborators

• Action For Men • Addington Afro-Ethnic Health Promotion Group (AAEGRO) • Africa Advocacy Foundation • African Caribbean Resource Centre • The African Child • African Communities Team at Camden PCT • African Community Involvement Association • African Community Development Association • African Community Partnership • African Culture Promotions (ACP) • African Development Network • African Families Support Service (AFSS) • African Health Care and Counselling Service • African Health for Empowerment and Development (AHEAD) • African HIV Policy Network (AHPN) • African Institute for Social Development • African Refugee Community Health and Research Organisation (ARCHRO) • African Support & Project Centre (ASPC) • African Youth Organisation • Barnet African Health Organisation • Begin & Our Project • Black Gay Men's Advisory Group • Black Health Agency • Body Positive Luton • Body Positive North West • Bromley PCT • The Brunswick Centre • The Cara Trust • Catholic HIV / AIDS Ministry – Westminster Archdiocese (CATHAM) • Central Liverpool PCT • Centre for All Families Positive Health (CAFPH) • Centre for HIV and Sexual Health Sheffield • Che Jama at NHS Norfolk • Community Health Action Trust (CHAT) • Community of Congolese Refugees in Great Britain (CORECOG) • Congolese Community Council • Congolese Youth Association • Crescent Support Group • Derbyshire Friend • DHIVERSE • Embrace Community Support Centre (Embrace UK) • French African Welfare Association (FAWA) • Freshwinds • George House Trust (GHT) • GR Consulting • Great Nile Trust • Group Evangelists • Hampshire PCT HIV Prevention Services • Health Action Charity Organisation (HACO) • Hope Gate (formerly HIV/AIDS Association of Zambia, HAAZ) • Humanitarian Support Services • International Gospel and Health Group • Jesus Kingdom City • The Junction • Kenya Women's Association • Lambeth PCT • Leeds Skyline Service • Leicestershire AIDS Support Services (LASS) • The Lodge • London Ecumenical AIDS Trust (LEAT) • MDC Training & Consultancy • Milton Keynes PCT • Morden CAB HIV / AIDS Project • MS Development Corporation • MyHealthnet • National Institute for African Studies (NIAS) • Naz Project London (NPL) • Organisation of Positive African Men (OPAM) • Pamodzi • Pan Afrique Centre • Piccadilly Project / Lifeline Project • Positive East • Positive Parenting & Children • Positive Place • Positively Women • The Rain Trust • Rise Community Action • Sahara Communities Abroad (SACOMA) • Sahir House • Shaka Services • Shea Project • Solar • Southern Africa Aids Foundation • Staffordshire Buddies • St. Mary's Hospital, Sexual Health Service, Isle of Wight PCT • Sutton & Merton PCT • Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) • Together In Prosperity (TIP) • Uganda AIDS Action Fund (UAAF) • UK-CAB • West African Networking Initiative (WANI) • Wrap It First Ltd • Youth Projects International • Zimbabwean Women's Network UK

# BASS Line 2007

African  
Health and  
Sex Survey

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

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

 Survey 76% complete

< Previous

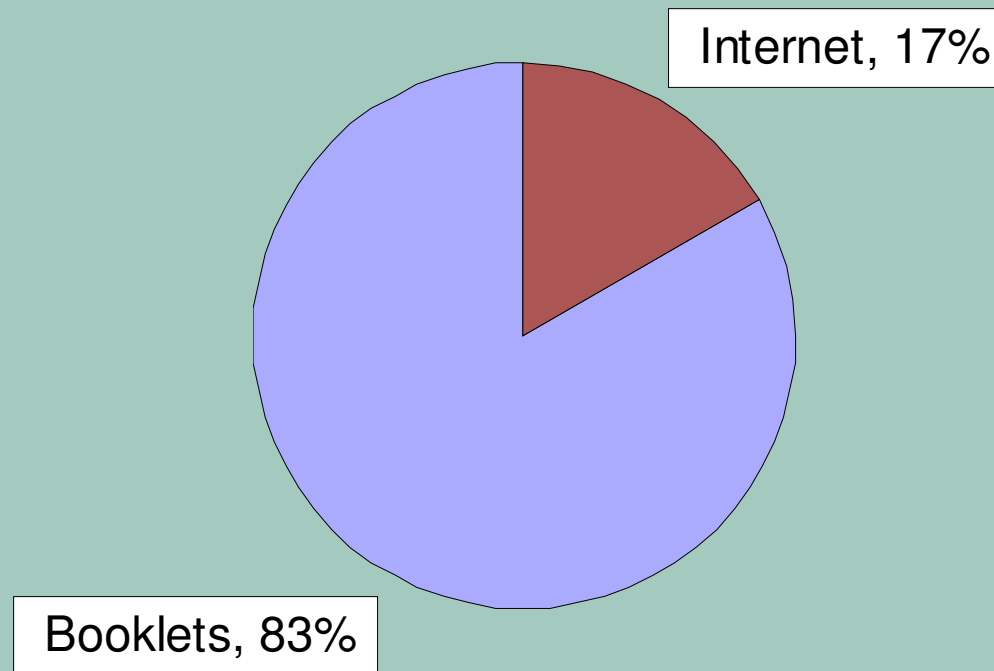
Next >

# Internet collaborators

AfrikaDating <[www.afrikadating.com](http://www.afrikadating.com)>  
AfroSounds <[www.afrosoundsfm.com](http://www.afrosoundsfm.com)>  
All Africa <[allafrica.com](http://allafrica.com)>  
Arberry Pink <[www.arberrypink.co.uk](http://www.arberrypink.co.uk)>  
Black Britain <[www.blackbritain.co.uk](http://www.blackbritain.co.uk)>  
Mister Seed <[www.kenyans.co.uk](http://www.kenyans.co.uk)>  
Sugar Media <[www.sugarmedia.co.uk](http://www.sugarmedia.co.uk)>  
UK Version <[www.ukversion.co.uk](http://www.ukversion.co.uk)>  
UK Zambians <[www.ukzambians.co.uk](http://www.ukzambians.co.uk)>  
The Voice <[www.voice-online.co.uk](http://www.voice-online.co.uk)>  
The Zimbabwean <[www.thezimbabwean.co.uk](http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk)>

# Finally, thanks to all the African people who took part...

2580 Africans in England



# BASS Line research objective

To describe the level and distribution of HIV risk behaviours and HIV prevention needs among Africans in England.

We think we know which HIV transmission behaviours we are trying to change (eg. unprotected intercourse, condom misuse, ejaculation, HIV testing, taking PEP).

We think we know what HIV prevention needs we are trying to ensure Africans have to avoid HIV transmission (the knowledge, the will and the power).

# Questions in BASS Line

1. Description (gender, age, etc.)
2. HIV testing and status perception
3. Sexual HIV/STI risk behaviours
4. HIV precaution needs
5. Health promotion interventions

# CLARIFIED

- “When was the last time you were tested for ANY sexually transmitted disease, other than HIV?”

Had the phrase “Please do not include cervical smear tests.” added.

- Added “Have you had sex in the last 12 months?” before asking about numbers of male and female sexual partners in order to reduce ambiguity in missing data.

# CLARIFIED

- You cannot be sure that someone has NOT got HIV by looking at them.
- You cannot tell from someone's appearance whether they have HIV or not.
- Africans are NOT deported from the UK solely because they have HIV.
- Africans are NOT deported from the UK just for having HIV.

# SIMPLIFIED / COLLAPSED

- I think I am at risk of catching HIV. [NOT POS]  
AND • I think I am at risk of passing my HIV to someone else. [POS]  
BECAME • I think I am at risk of getting or passing on HIV.
- I do not want to get HIV (if I haven't already got it). [NOT POS]  
AND • I do not want to get infected with another type of HIV (on top of the HIV I've already got). [POS]  
BECAME • I do not want to get or pass on HIV.
- I am in control of whether or not I get HIV. [NOT POS]  
AND • I am in control of whether or not I pass my HIV to someone else. [POS]  
BECAME • I have the power to reduce my risk of getting or passing on HIV.

# SIMPLIFIED / COLLAPSED

- Have you ever personally received an HIV test result from a health professional? [yes / no]

AND • Have you ever received a positive HIV test result?

- BECAME • Have you ever personally received an HIV test result from a health professional? [yes pos / yes neg / no]

- Do you want to take an HIV test? [NEVER TESTED]

AND • Would you like to take another HIV test? [LAST TEST NEGATIVE]

- BECAME • Do you want to take an HIV test (or another test if you have tested before)? [NOT TESTED POSITIVE]

# REPLACEMENT

- “Putting lubricant inside the condom before putting it on”  
REPLACED WITH “Using a condom that’s too big or baggy”
- What one thing would most improve the quality of your life?  
REPLACED WITH • What is your greatest strength or asset in reducing your risk of getting or passing on HIV?

# REPLACEMENT

Using substances to tighten / dry the vagina might increase the chance of HIV being passed from one person to another. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS have you and a partner used any of the following to tighten the vagina before or during intercourse? [4 options] **REPLACED WITH**

# REPLACEMENT

## 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.

- Have you heard of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)?
- Have you ever taken PEP?
- If you thought you had been exposed to HIV would you consider trying to get PEP?

# REPLACEMENT

- Thinking about THE LAST 3 MONTHS, have you used the internet in any of the following places? [10 locations]

## REPLACED WITH

- How would you PERSONALLY like to learn more... [15 method options]
- Who would you most prefer to give you information or advice about HIV? [open-ended]

# DROPPED

- What is your first language?
- How strong is your religious faith?
- Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do (either all the time or sometimes)?
- Do you know somebody personally who has HIV (other than yourself if you have HIV)?  
[in Africa / in UK / elsewhere]
  
- How long have you been having sex with your STEADY partner?
- Where does this partner live?
- Do you have a STEADY sexual partner who has a DIFFERENT HIV status to yourself – that is, one of you has HIV and the other doesn't? [male / female]
  
- Which of the following have you or a partner used (even if just once), during sexual intercourse IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS? [condom / femidom]
  
- Who usually decides WHETHER OR NOT you use a condom when you have sexual intercourse?

## **PART 2: Variation by...**

HIV testing history

Gender and sexuality

Age

Education

Country of birth

Length of residence in the UK

Religion

**Who most often lacks  
knowledge, will and power?**

# Men and women

## *Testing*

- Men were less likely than women to have tested for HIV, to have diagnosed HIV and to know where to test for HIV.

## *Sex*

- Men had more sexual intercourse partners, more extra-relational sex, and were more likely to have unprotected intercourse and HIV sero-discordant unprotected intercourse.

## *Needs*

- Men were less motivated to avoid sexual HIV exposure and had more problems accessing condoms.

# Younger and older

## *Testing*

- Ever having tested for HIV is least common in the under 20s and most common among people in their 30s.
- Having diagnosed HIV is least common in the under 20s.

## *Sex*

- Unprotected intercourse is least common among those under 20.
- Having two or more intercourse partners, having unprotected intercourse without knowing seroconcordancy and condom failure are all most common among those in their 20s.
- Extra-relational sex is lowest among the under 20s and over 50s and peaks among those in their 30s.

## *Needs*

- Knowledge about HIV is lowest among the under 20s who are correspondingly most unsure about their motivation to avoid it and most likely to feel powerless to do so.

# Many thanks to all involved in the Bass Line Collaboration

*A tree is known by its fruits.*

# Accessing Bass Line Local Data



Sigma Research is a group specialising in the behavioural and policy research and sexual health. It also undertakes research work on aspects of lesbian, gay and bisexual well-being.

- Projects
- Questionnaires
- Presentations
- Final reports
- Local reports
- Journal articles




**Waltham Forest LGBT matters**  
Find here reports from a study of community safety and cohesion among LGBT residents of the London Borough of Waltham Forest.  
[Executive Summary + Final Report](#)



**GMSS feedback to participants**  
A new GMSS feedback report, published in Boyz and outnorthwest, which covers findings about HIV testing and use of clinical sexual health services.  
[Learn more about GMSS](#)

**Criminalisation article**  
We have just published a paper in *Reproductive Health Matters* on gay men's views on criminal prosecutions for HIV transmission. Data was collected as part of Relative Safety II. The paper shows that considerable confusion about the law is very common. Although criminalisation has prompted some men to take steps to reduce their chances of being involved in HIV transmission, others changed their behaviour in ways likely to have adverse effects, or reported no change.  
[More about the project](#)  
[Download the article](#) (PDF).



**Bass Line 2008-09 report**  
Our final report for *Bass Line 2008-09*, a survey about sexual health and HIV which 2580 African people in England took part in.  
[Bass Line local area data reports](#)



**Knowledge, Will & Power Handbook**  
The *Handbook* describes HIV prevention interventions targeting Africans in England, and considers planning issues and outcomes related to each type.  
[More about the project](#)



**Framework for living with HIV**  
A collaborative framework to ensure people with HIV in England have the maximum level of health, well-being, quality of life and social integration.  
[More about the project](#)



**What do you need? 2007-08**  
Our UK-wide needs assessment of 1,777 people with diagnosed HIV and living in the UK. The project was undertaken with 110 collaborating agencies.  
[Local area data reports](#)

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### African people

- Projects
- Questionnaires
- Presentations
- Final reports
- Local reports**
- Journal articles

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## African people in the UK | Local reports

This section gives free access to downloadable local data reports to help with the planning and provision of local services. Data is organised by country and region of residence and, for residents of England, there are separate reports for each Strategic Health Authority, with data reported by Primary Care Trust of residence.

- |   | Details |
|---|---------|
| Country and regional data reports from the Bass Line 2008-09 survey |         |
| Country and regional data reports from the Bass Line 2007 survey    |         |



**African people**

Projects

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## Data reports from Bass Line 2008-09 survey

The following reports present specific data for each Strategic Health Authority (SHA) in England except the North East of England where there were not enough recruits in the 2008-09 survey. Within each regional report, Primary Care Trust of residence is used for those PCTs where more than 20 people were recruited. These reports are supplementary to the main survey report which is available [here](#).

|  | PDF                 |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Bass Line: All England 2008-09</b> summary report<br>(by 10 Strategic Health Authorities) | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: East of England 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                                 | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: East Midlands 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                                   | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: London 2008-09</b> SHA summary report  | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: North West 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                                      | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: South Central 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                                   | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: South East Coast 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                                | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: South West 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                                      | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: West Midlands 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                                   | <a href="#">PDF</a> |
| <b>Bass Line: Yorkshire &amp; The Humber 2008-09</b> SHA summary report                      | <a href="#">PDF</a> |