



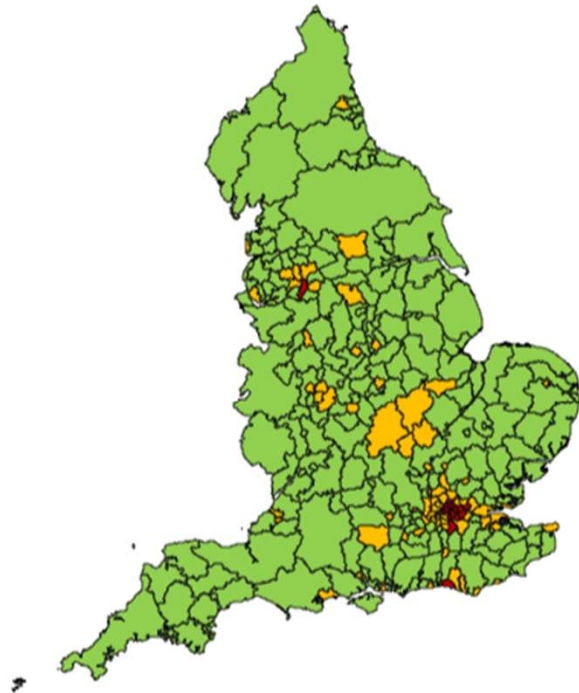
UK Health
Security
Agency

HIV testing – How are we doing and where to go next ?

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Estimated 104,000 people living with HIV in England in 2023

Map of Lower tier local authorities (post 4/23) in England for HIV diagnosed prevalence rate per 1,000 aged 15 to 59 (Crude rate - per 1,000 2023)



Low prevalence areas: green <2 per 1000 population

High prevalence areas: amber 2-5 per 1000 population

Very high prevalence areas: red > 5 per 1000 population

The HIV Action Plan was published in 2022 and aimed to reduce HIV transmission by 80% by 2025

Policy paper

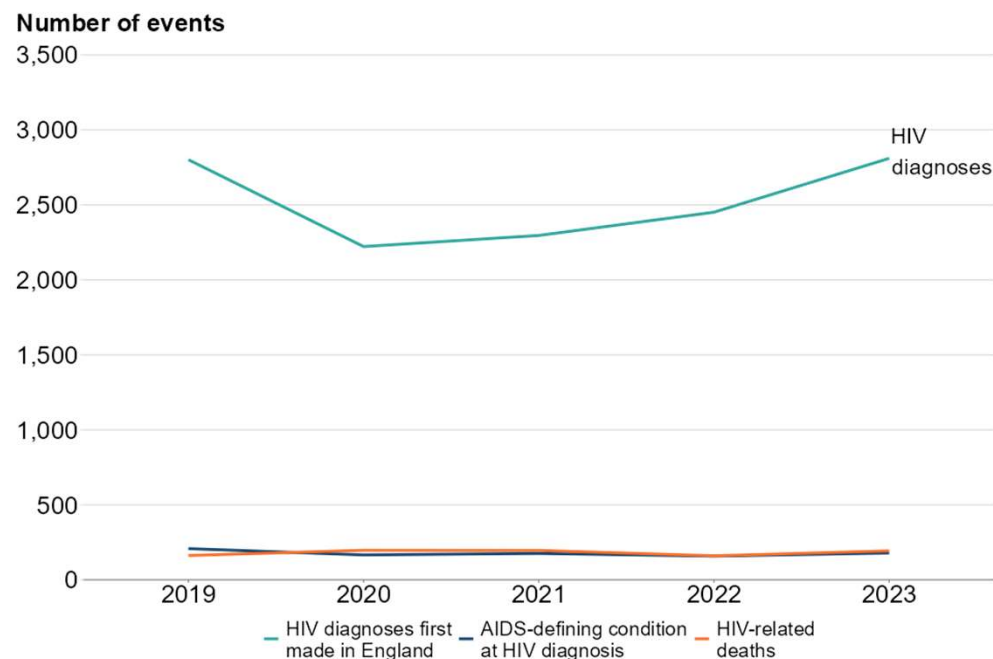
Towards Zero - An action plan towards ending HIV transmission, AIDS and HIV-related deaths in England - 2022 to 2025

Updated 21 December 2021

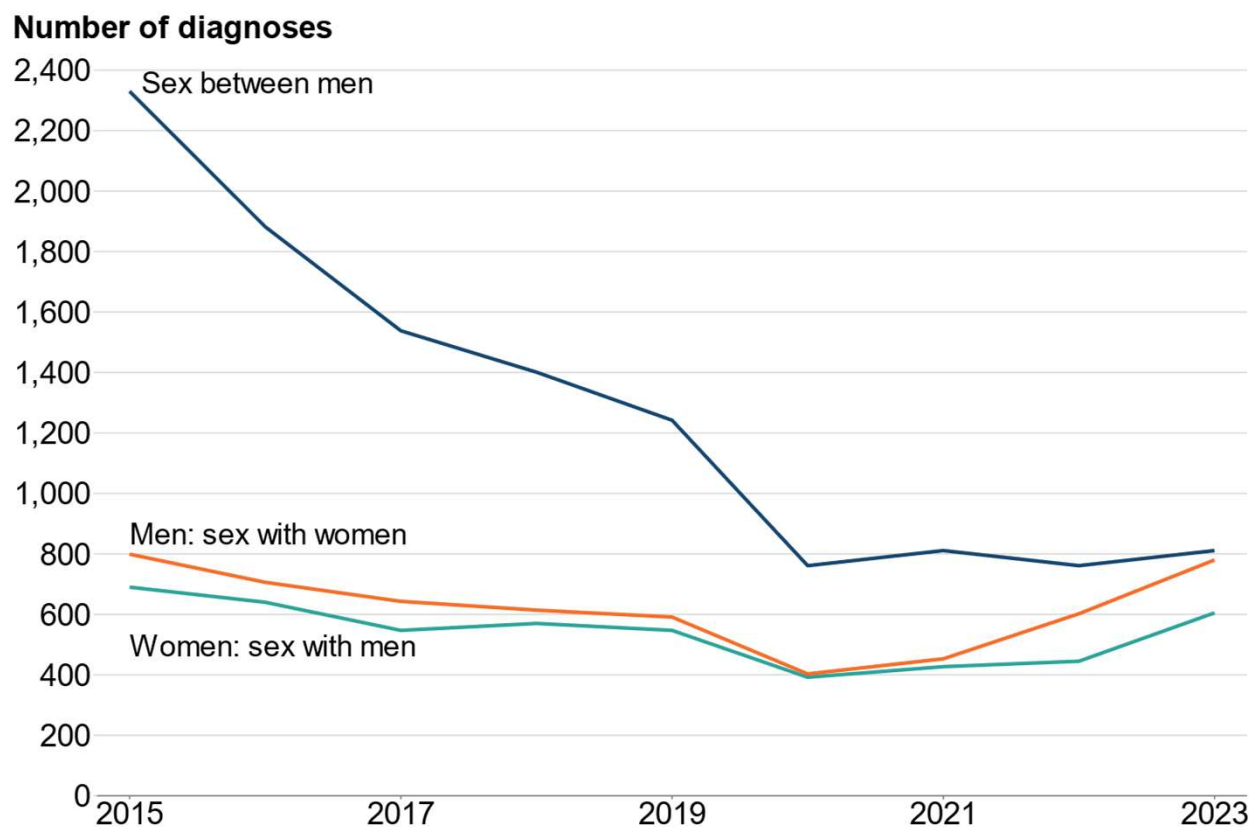
The government is committed to achieving zero new HIV infections, AIDS and HIV-related deaths in England by 2030

This vital, highly stretching and world-leading ambition will require a doubling down on existing efforts and the adoption of new strategies to reach everyone we need to. We will need to maintain the excellent progress made with key groups – gay and bisexual men, younger adults, those in London – and significantly improve diagnoses for other groups. More progress is needed on heterosexuals, and black Africans remain the ethnic group with the highest rate of HIV, making them a priority for HIV prevention and testing. To achieve this, it is essential that we maintain our focus on combination prevention and testing levels, including opt-out testing in high and very high prevalence areas, must rapidly increase.

Progress towards 2025 HIV Action Plan Ambition

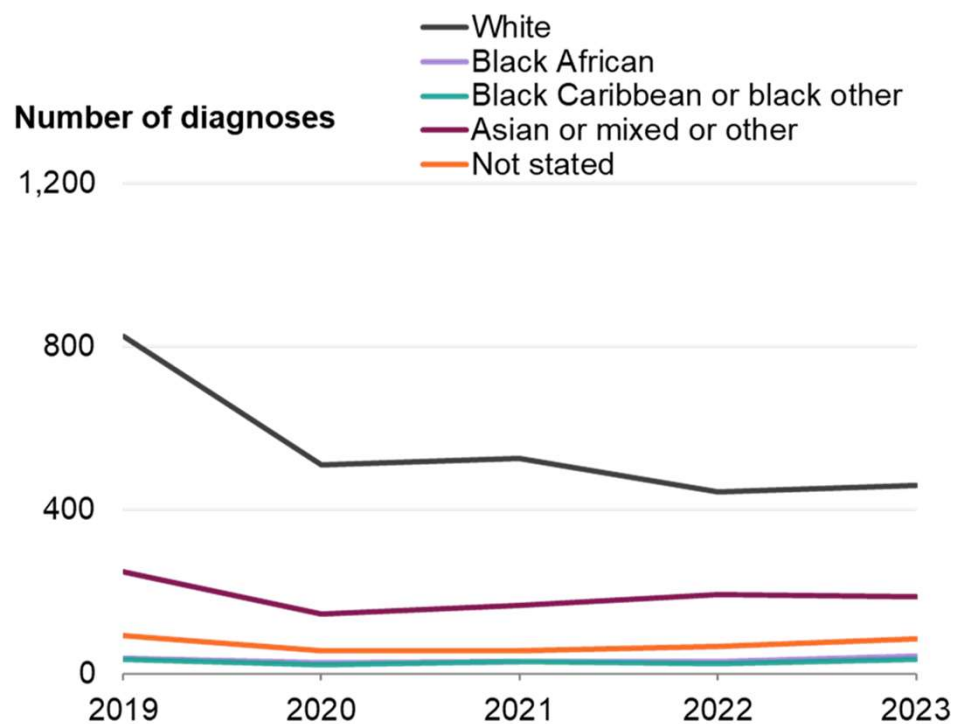


However, new HIV diagnoses in GBMSM is plateauing while increasing in heterosexual population.....



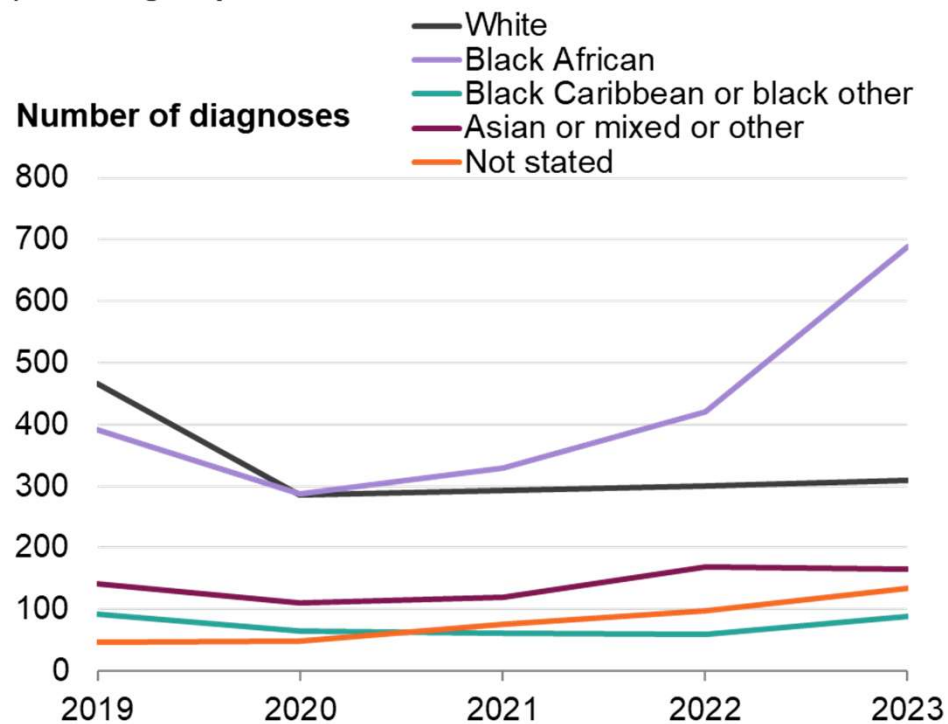
New HIV diagnoses among GBMSM first diagnosed in England [note 1] by ethnic group and region of birth: England, 2019 to 2023

a) Ethnic group



New HIV diagnoses among people exposed through sex between men and women first diagnosed in England [note 1] by ethnic group and region of birth: England, 2019 to 2023

a) Ethnic group

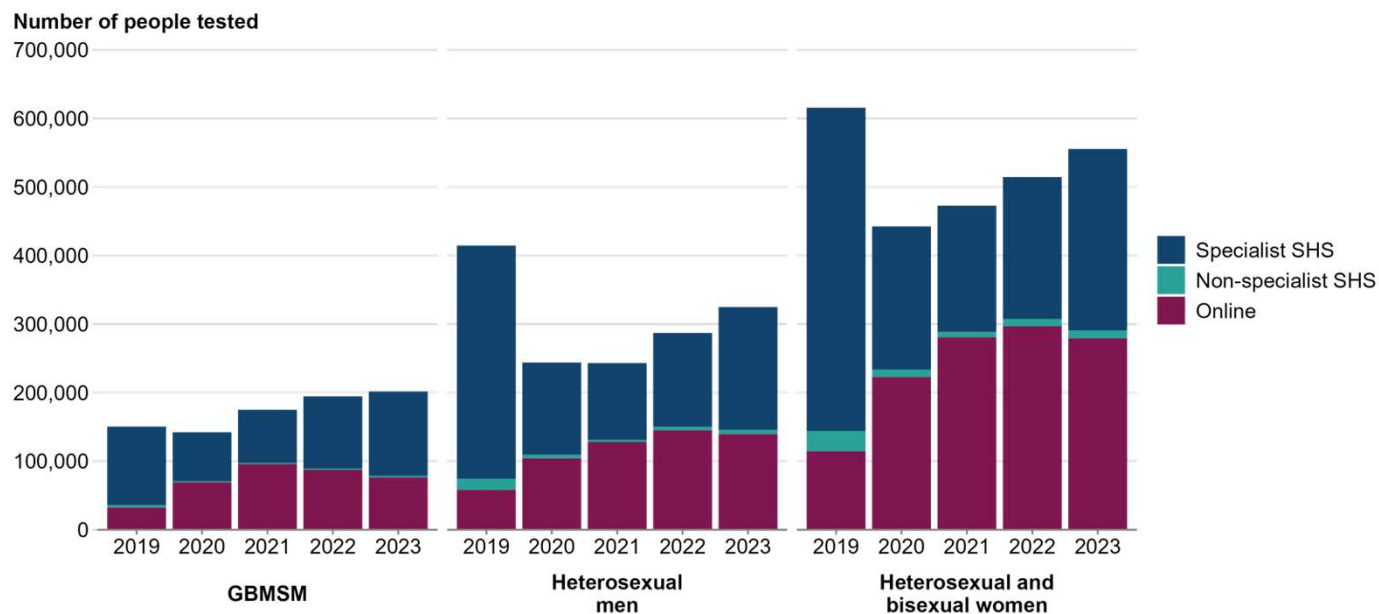


Note 1: Excludes people previously diagnosed abroad - less than 0.5% of new HIV diagnoses were first diagnosed in the UK outside England.



HIV Testing in Sexual Health Services

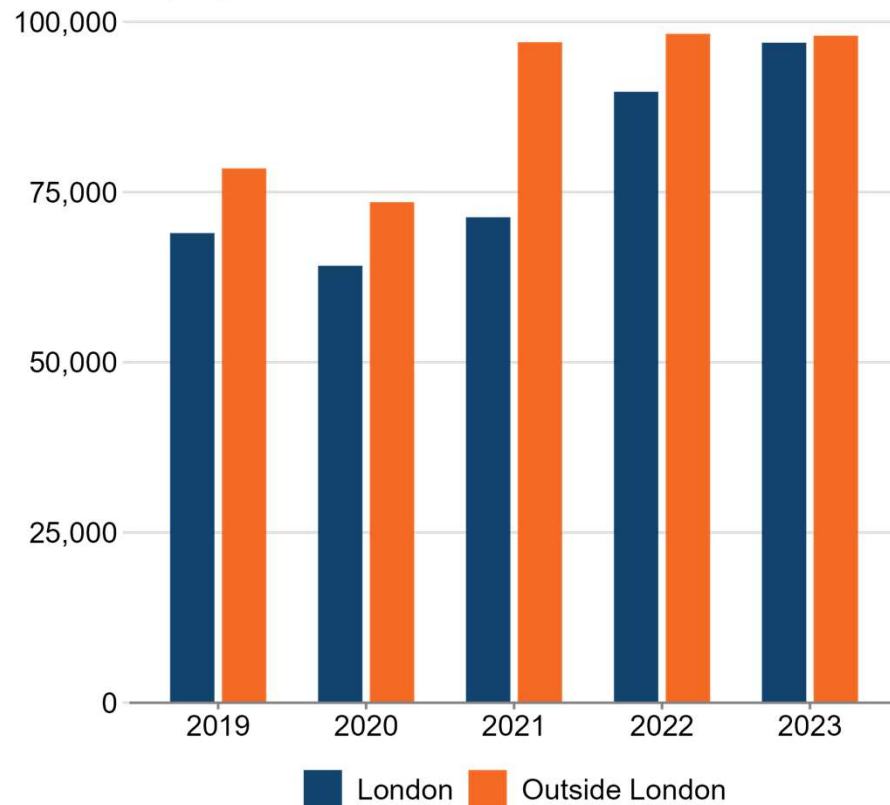
Number of people tested for HIV, by service type and by sexual orientation and gender identity: England, 2019 to 2023



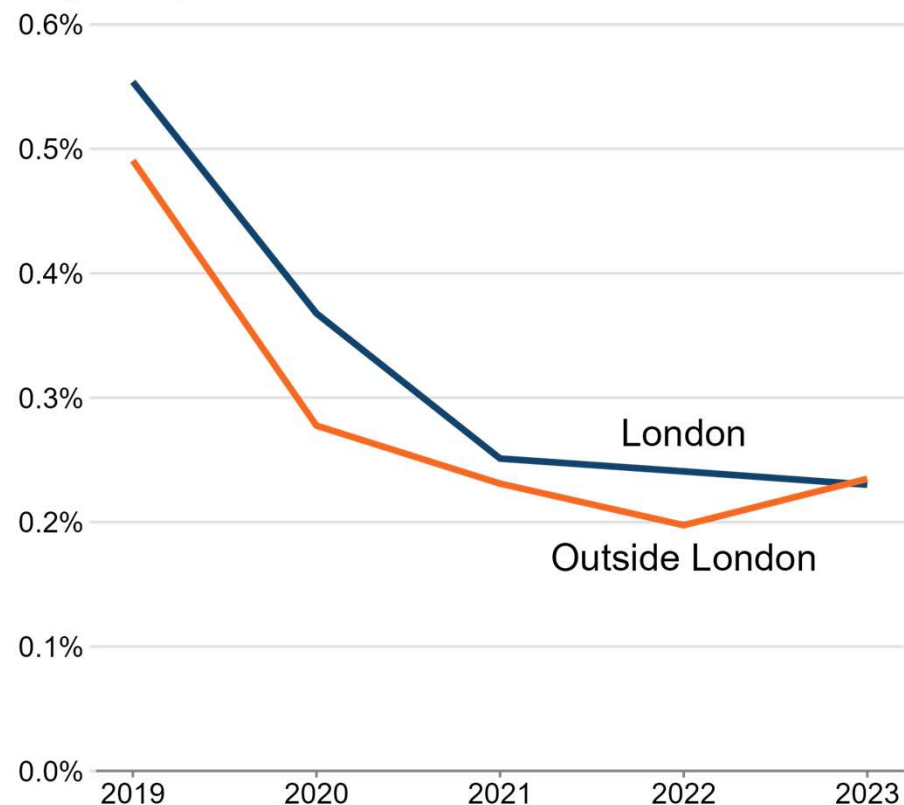
- The number of people tested in all SHSs rose by 8% between 2022 and 2023, a substantial recovery to 96% of the testing levels in 2019
- Compared to 2019, there was a 10% and 22% decrease in the number of heterosexual and bisexual women and heterosexual men tested in 2023, respectively, but a 34% increase in the number of GBMSM tested

Number of people tested for HIV and proportion positive at all SHSs among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM): London and outside London: England, 2019 to 2023

Number of people tested



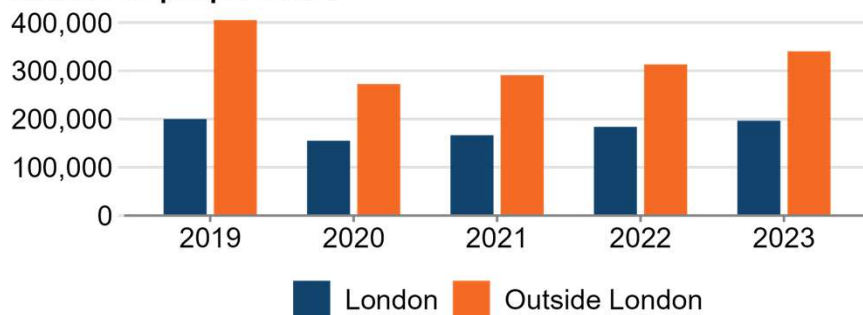
Proportion positive



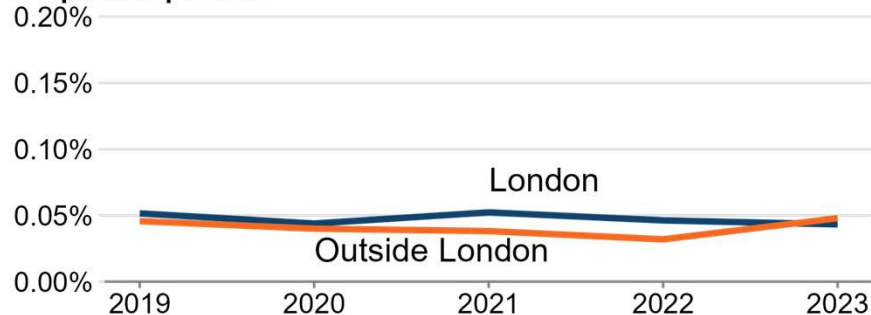
Number of people tested for HIV and proportion positive at all SHSs, by sexual orientation and gender identity: London and outside London: England, 2019 to 2023

Heterosexual and bisexual women

Number of people tested

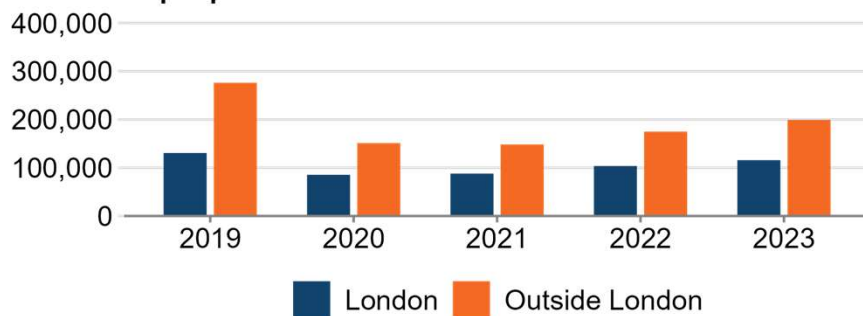


Proportion positive

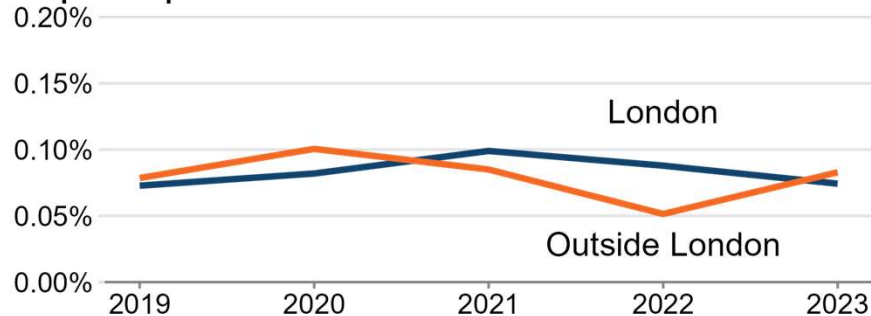


Heterosexual men

Number of people tested

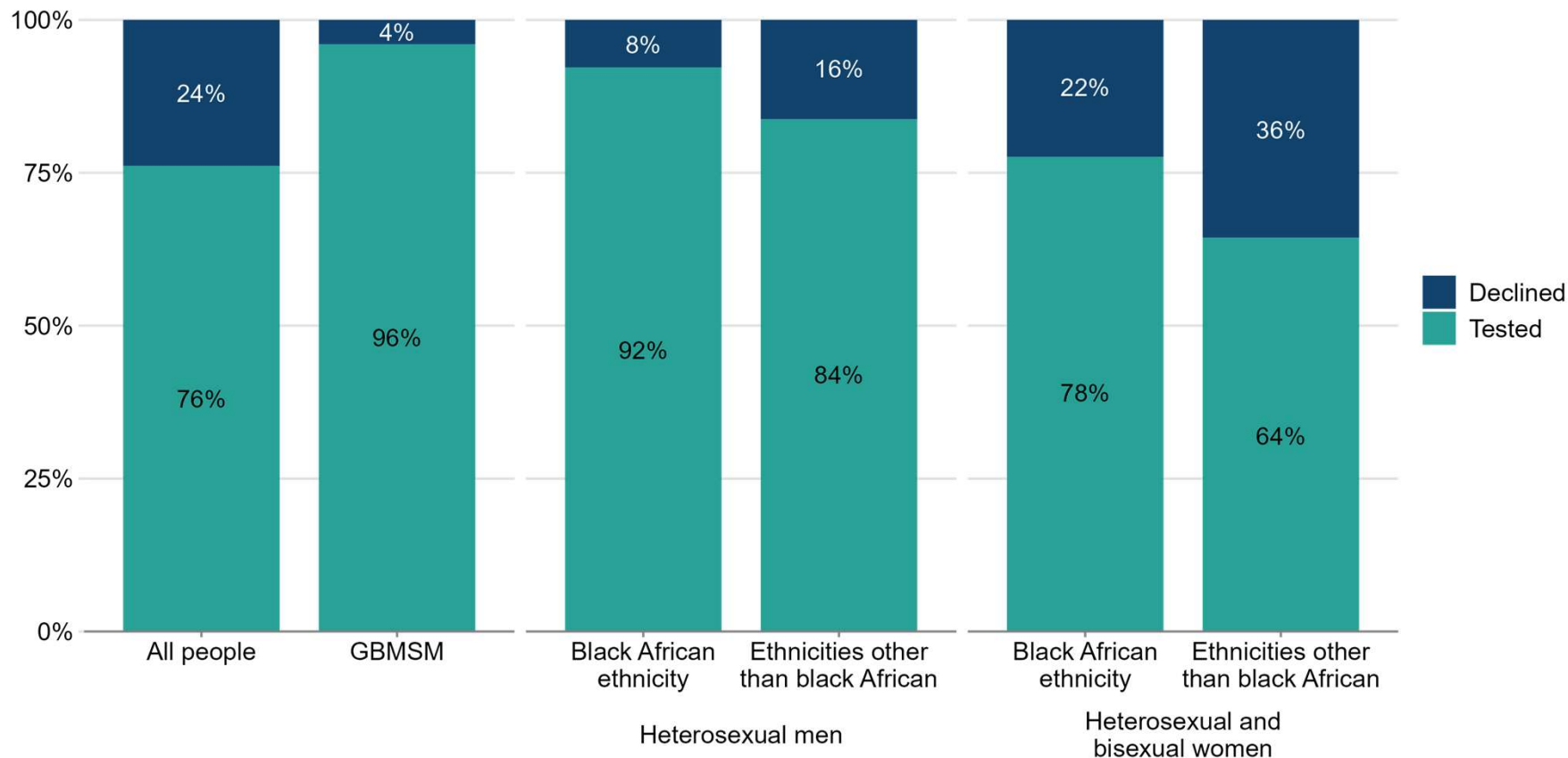


Proportion positive



HIV testing offer and uptake at specialist SHS, by ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity: England, 2023

Proportion of those offered HIV testing





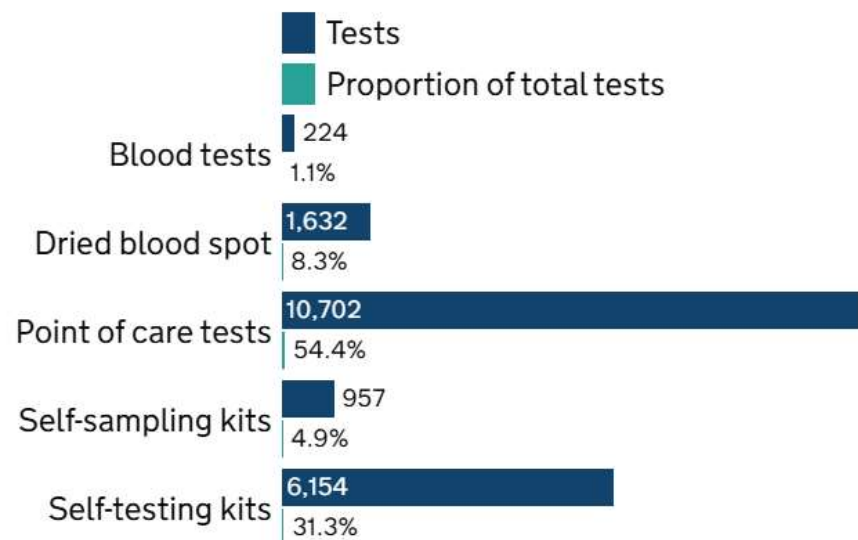
Community HIV testing survey 2024

Survey of HIV testing in community settings: 2024 results (data January to December 2023)

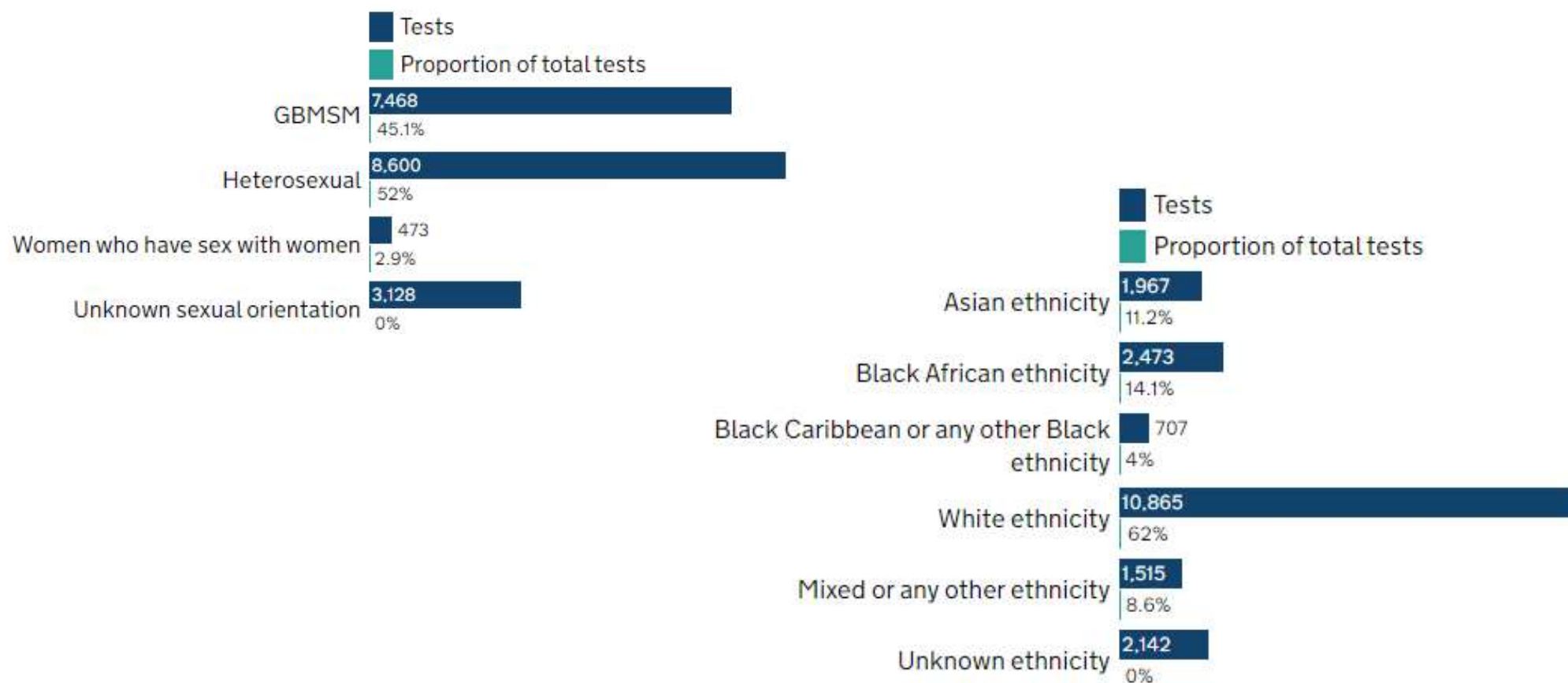
19, 669 tests reported from 19 community testing services with 55 reactive tests (test reactivity 0.3%)

This was 22% increase of reported tests to UKHSA since 2022

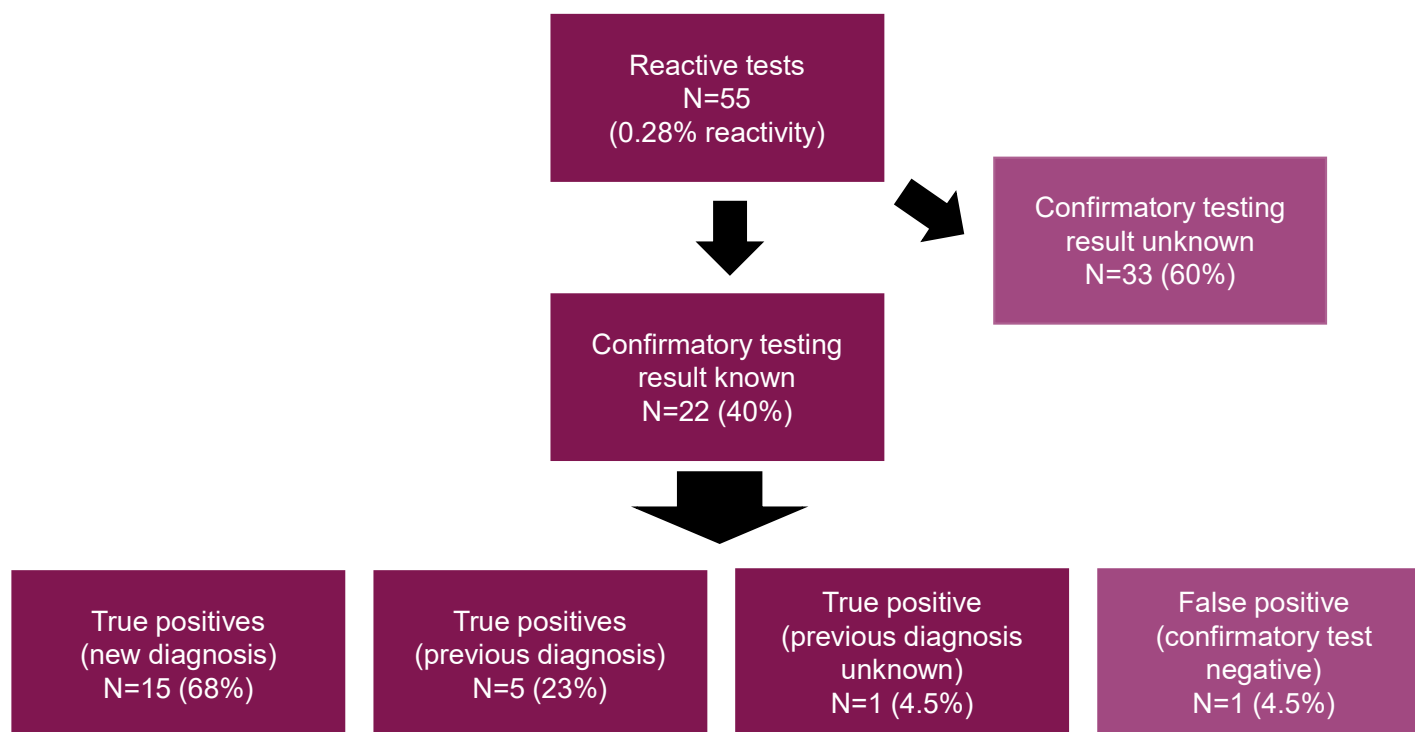
902 (4%) were carried out during HIV testing week (6th to 12th February 2023) with 1 reactive test



Test taken in community settings by exposure and ethnicity



Reactive and true positive HIV tests





Emergency departments opt-out blood borne viruses testing

In its first 2 years, the Programme was rolled out across 34 sites

Number of tests completed in the Programme, by BBV (NHSE Programme data)

Test	HIV	HCV	HBV
Number of tests completed	1,981,590	1,502,799	1,185,678

Among all people tested through the Programme over 24 months, using data from SSBBV:

- 73% of people tested for HIV had no record of a past HIV test
- 80% of people tested for HCV had no record of a past HCV test
- 76% of people tested for HBV had no record of a past HBV test

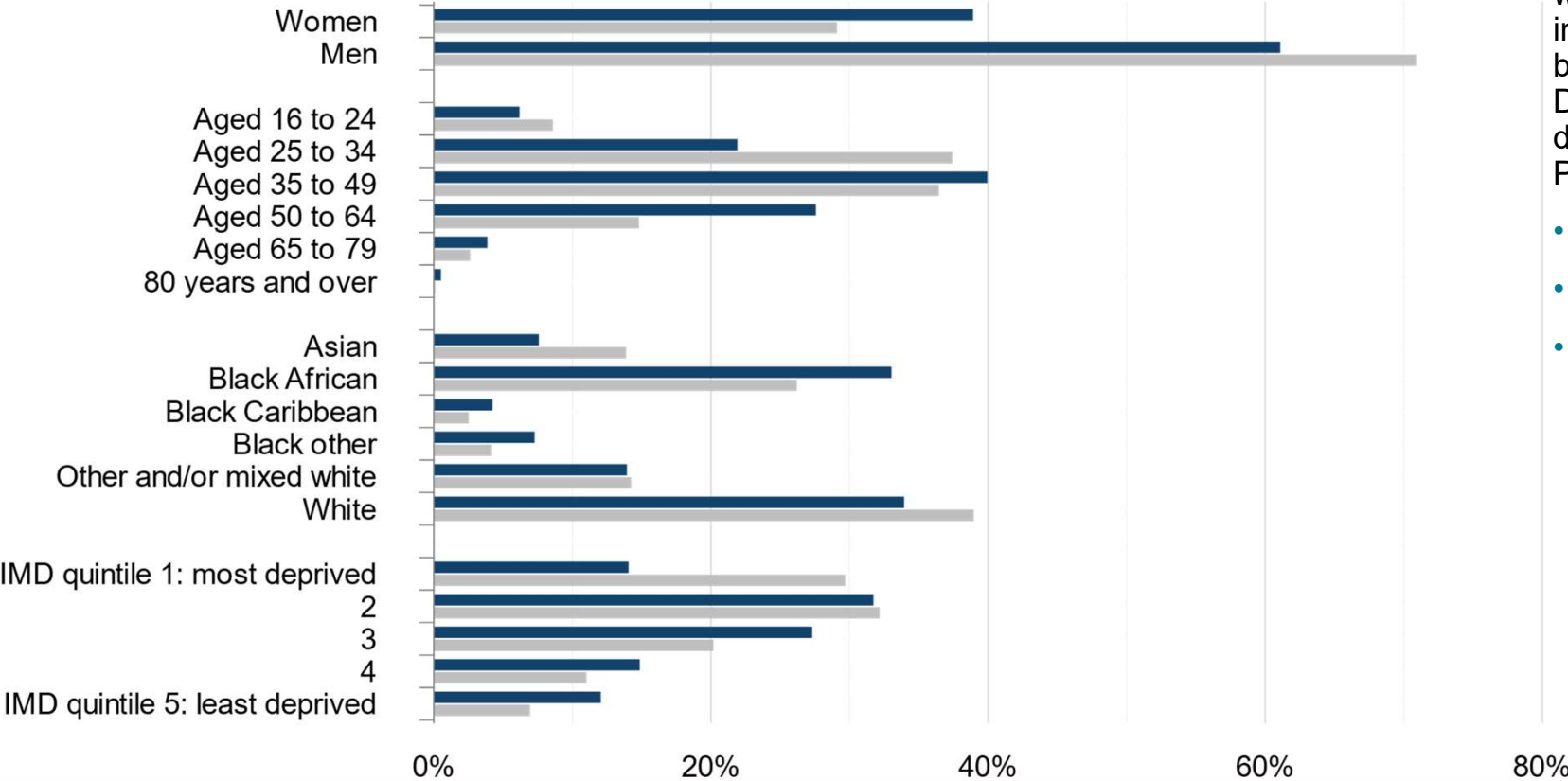
[Public health evaluation of BBV opt-out testing in EDs in England: 24-month interim report - GOV.UK](#)

Across the 21 sites served by laboratories that report through the SSBBV system there were:

- **1,957** new diagnoses of HBV
- **762** new diagnoses of current HCV (HCV RNA positive) and
- **391** new diagnoses of HIV between April 2022 and March 2024, noting that HIV data is only available to December 2023 (based on the latest scheduled HIV surveillance submissions available).
- In addition, there were 519 people diagnosed with HCV who had previously been diagnosed, and 314 people previously diagnosed with HIV.

Characteristics of people with new HIV diagnoses, by setting, April 2022 to December 2023

■ People diagnosed through the ED opt-out testing programme ■ People diagnosed outside of ED opt-out testing programme

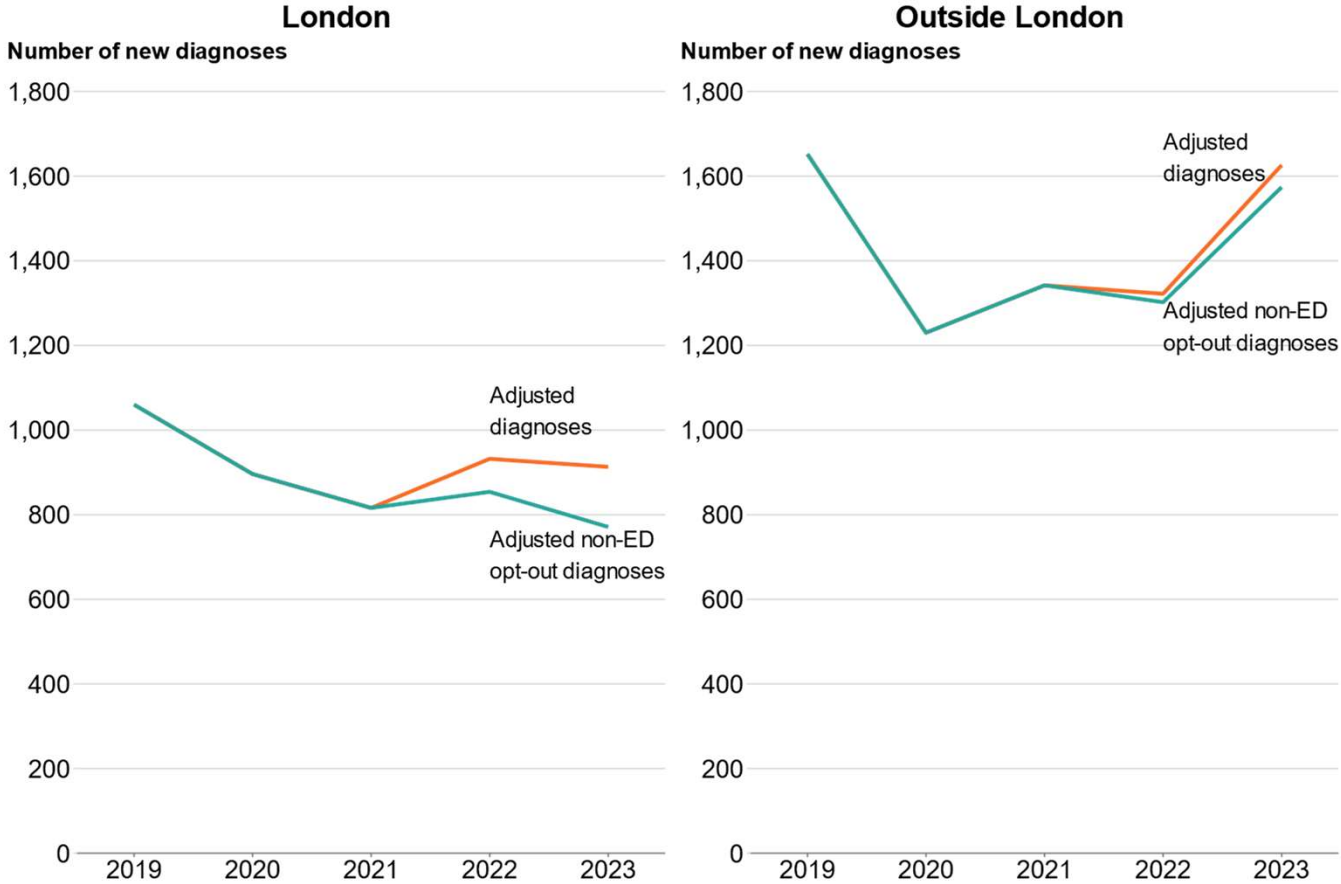


Compared to people diagnosed with HIV in other settings (not including the Programme) between April 2022 and December 2023, people diagnosed through the Programme were:

- older
- more likely to be women
- less likely to be Asian, and more likely to be of black ethnicity

[Public health evaluation of BBV opt-out testing in EDs in England: 24-month interim report - GOV.UK](#)

New HIV diagnoses first diagnosed in England adjusted for new diagnoses occurring due to ED opt-out testing: London and Outside London, 2019 to 2023



- Number of adjusted non-ED diagnoses in London in 2023 was 771, reduction of 10% as compared to 2022
- Number of adjusted non-ED diagnoses Outside London in 2023 was 1574, an increase of 21% as compared to 2022

[Public health evaluation of BBV opt-out testing in EDs in England: 24-month interim report - GOV.UK](#)

Conclusions

- HIV testing is crucial for prevention, access to PrEP and treatment
- HIV testing has increased substantially over the last few years but inequalities still persist
- There has been a big shift towards online testing
- Targeted community testing appears to be successful
- People testing positive in ED departments have different demographic characteristics to those tested in traditional services
- Need to understand better barriers to accessing testing
- More work is needed to get to zero HIV transmission by 2030

Testing priorities for HIV Action Plan 2025 - 2030

- Full implementation and monitoring of BHIVA Adults HIV Testing guidelines 2020
- Awareness raising of HIV prevention interventions
- Continuation of ED testing in very high and high prevalence HIV areas (subject to full evaluation)
- Scaling up community testing focusing on those groups that are more likely to benefit from it
- Understanding reasons behind high decline of HIV testing in women
- Scaling up of partner notification activities
- Understand further risks for late diagnoses to focus interventions