we can stop the virus

IS HIV SORTED?
SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Date of preparation: September 2018
001/IHQ/18-09/1419
Provide insight into the general public’s awareness, perceptions, knowledge, and attitudes towards HIV in European countries within Fast-Track Cities

**Key Objectives**

1. Explore general public awareness and understanding of HIV
2. Investigate levels of stigma amongst the general public towards people living with HIV
3. Identify levels of complacency towards HIV prevention

**Key Themes**

- General knowledge about HIV
- Understanding of what an HIV diagnosis means today
- Attitudes towards PLHIV
- Attitudes towards risk and prevention
Respondents recruited via consumer panel

Online survey conducted by Opinium

Age 18+

Fieldwork conducted June 2018

12 COUNTRIES
9 OF 12 INCLUDED FAST-TRACK CITIES
24,212 HIV-NEGATIVE* ADULTS

*self-described
HIV-RELATED STIGMA, MISCONCEPTIONS AND COMPLACENCY PERSIST AS MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Across Europe a significant proportion of respondents (68%) would not feel comfortable dating someone living with HIV (66% in Western Europe and 74% in Eastern Europe).
- In Eastern Europe, half (52%) of respondents have negative attitudes about working with PLHIV; a quarter in Western Europe also have the same attitude.
- Across Europe half (50%) of respondents believe that PLHIV should not be allowed to work as healthcare professionals.
- In Eastern Europe only one in five (20%) respondents believe that PLHIV should be able to do any job, regardless of their status; a quarter (25%) believe that PLHIV should not even be allowed to work in a store.

• Only one in 10 (12%) understand the meaning of ‘undetectable’*

• Around half (53%) believe that it would still be possible to transmit HIV to others if the treatment was having the best effect possible

• Nearly half (47%) are aware that it is possible for women living with HIV who are undetectable to conceive HIV negative children

When you had sex with these new partners, how often did you use a condom?

- Always
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- Prefer not to say

Western Europe
Eastern Europe

- 24%

- 24%

Worrying levels of complacency regarding combination prevention interventions remain barriers to stopping HIV
- Almost a quarter of respondents stated that they had a new sexual partner in the last year
- Of these respondents, only 44% always used a condom during sex with a new sexual partner, and around one in four (24%) stated that they rarely or never using a condom

*U=U - While effective viral suppression with antiretroviral therapy has been proven to substantially reduce the risk of sexual transmission, a residual risk cannot be excluded. Precautions to prevent transmission should be taken in accordance with national guidelines.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC STILL SEE HIV AS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

Nearly half (47%) believe that HIV is still a major health concern

• Less than one in five (18%) Eastern European respondents believe that HIV is under control in their country

The majority (75%) believe that funding for HIV should be a priority for their government or health service

• 73% in Western Europe; 82% in Eastern Europe
A WAKE UP CALL

2020 is not far away - we must not allow HIV to be deprioritised

- Lack of understanding – about HIV in general
- Lack of awareness – regarding reality of successful HIV treatment
- Discrimination – creating barriers to testing

Wider general public need to be more informed