

Perceptions of support amongst adolescents living with and affected by HIV



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Background



Adolescents living with and affected by HIV are disproportionately vulnerable to poor health and social outcomes

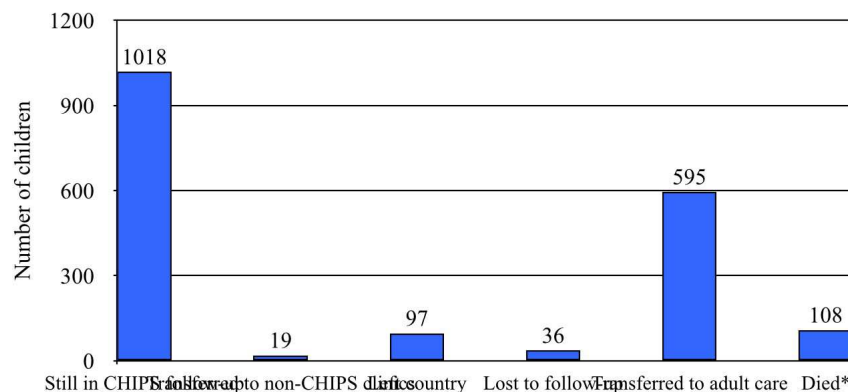
Global Picture

- ☀️ 3.2 million children under 15 living with HIV
- ☀️ 2.1 million adolescents
- ☀️ Young people (under 25) account for over half of all new HIV diagnoses annually

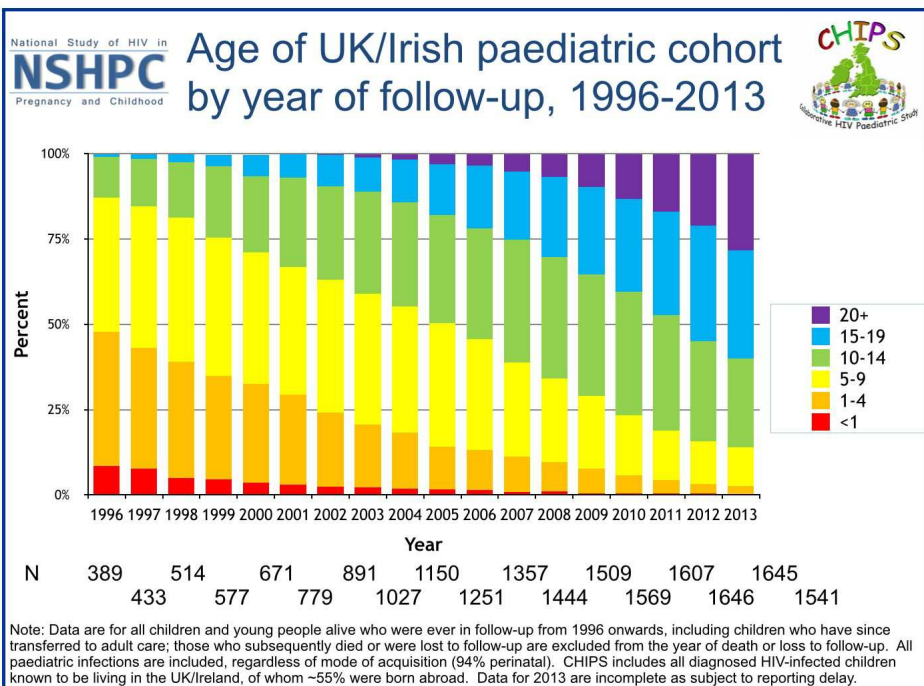


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Follow-up status of 1873 children enrolled in CHIPS



* 93 deaths prior to 2008, 6 in 2008, 6 in 2009, 2 in 2010, 1 in 2011



Background

-  The purpose of this service-improvement related needs assessment was to identify factors that the adolescents (herein referred to as participants) view as risky or protective in their lives, with a focus on factors that bring confidence or strength.
-  This presentation specifically focuses on participants' relationship with key individuals.



Methods

- 💡 A survey comprising multiple choice and short answer questions was administered to a convenience sample of 24 adolescents between the ages of 13-20.
- 💡 Survey questions were developed along with HIV positive peer mentors.
- 💡 The survey focused on relationships and relationship quality, as it was an area that peer mentors identified as essential to young people's lives.

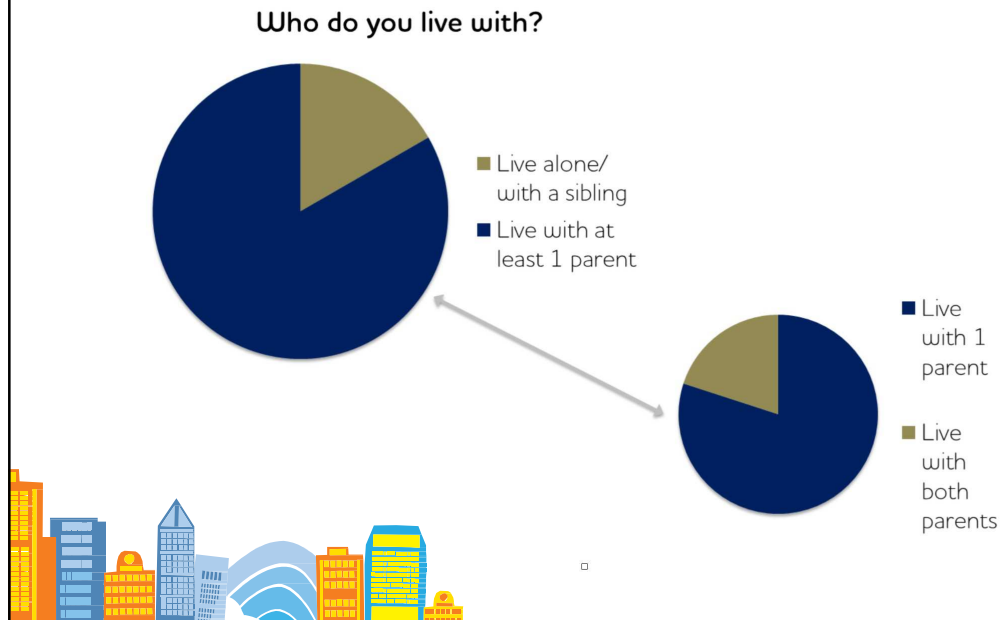


Demographics

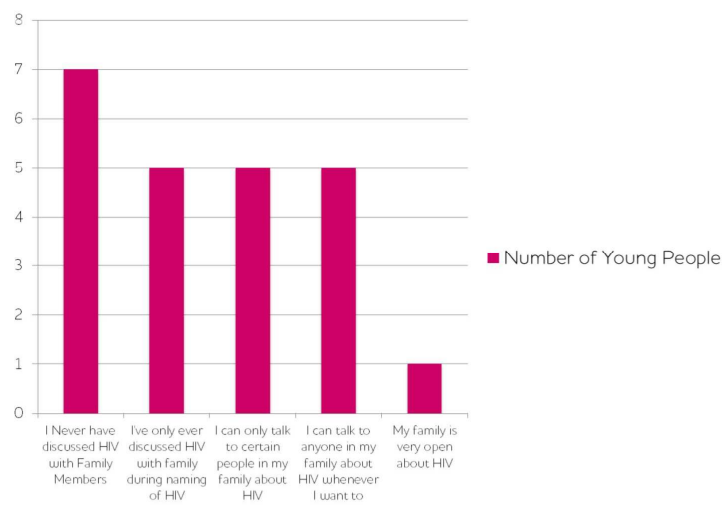


- 💡 100% of participants identified as Black African or Black British
- 💡 50% of participants were female

Who do you live with?

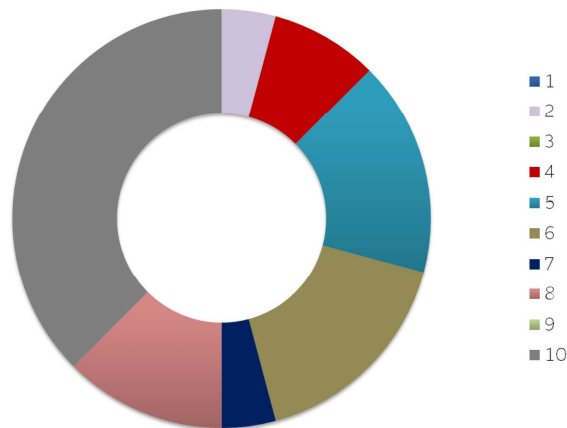


Do you talk about HIV with Family Members?

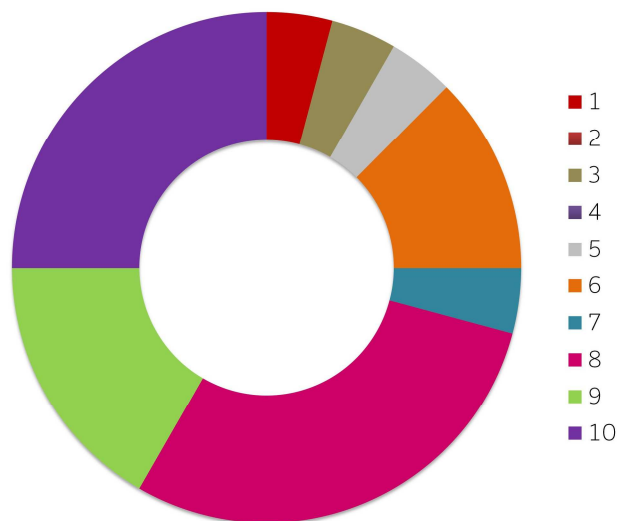


On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best, how would you rank your overall communication with family members?

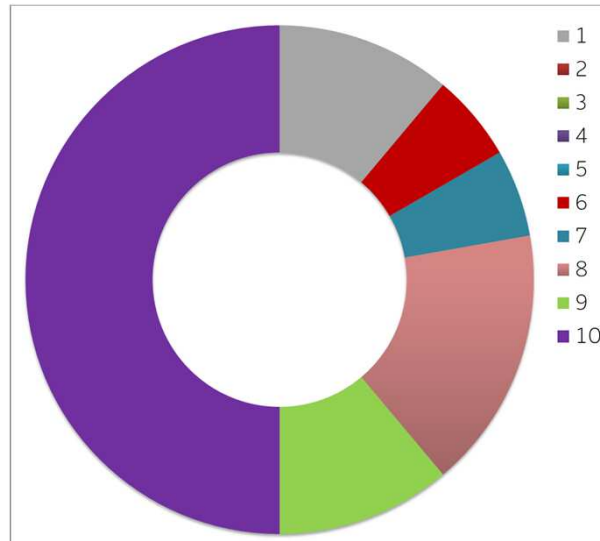
Number of young people



On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best, how would you rank your overall relationships with your friends?



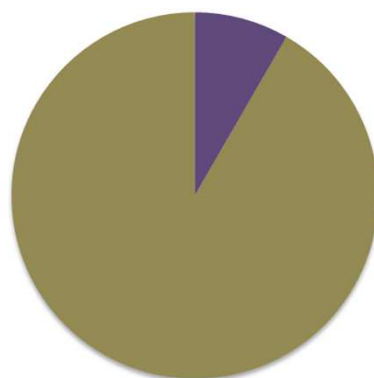
On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best, how would you rank your overall relationships with your HIV consultant?



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Do you talk about HIV with your friends (outside of HIV charities)?

Young people



■ Yes
■ No

Results - Summary

- 💡 All HIV positive participants felt more confident communicating with their HIV consultant than with their friends (means 6.31 and 5.79 respectively), a result which should be explored in greater depth.



Conclusions

- 💡 Participants inconsistently communicated with parents around HIV
- 💡 Participants hardly ever communicated with friends (outside HIV charities) about HIV
- 💡 Participants highly ranked their relationship and communication with the HIV consultant and other health professionals

Conclusions



This assessment provides initial evidence that the degree of connection between adolescents living with HIV and key persons around them is highly variable and dependent on the individual.



Conclusions



Reliable support improves health outcomes of people living with long-term conditions.



Social support and acceptance is especially important in stigmatised conditions like HIV.



Conclusions



- 💡 This information could help improve service provision, especially as it relates to transition. Further, better powered research is needed.

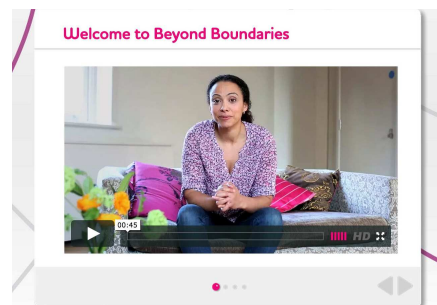
Implications

- 💡 In response to this data, Body & Soul has scaled its programme of in-clinic, phone and skype peer-mentor support.
- 💡 Particular focus on reaching geographically or logistically isolated young people between the ages of 15-29



Beyond Boundaries

- ♥ Trained peer mentors provide remote support for young people living with and affected by HIV
- ♥ Peer support is supplemented by professional interventions (social work, mental health, nutritionist support)
- ♥ Online educational resource
- ♥ Case coordination



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For more information

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