



UK Health
Security
Agency



Department
of Health &
Social Care



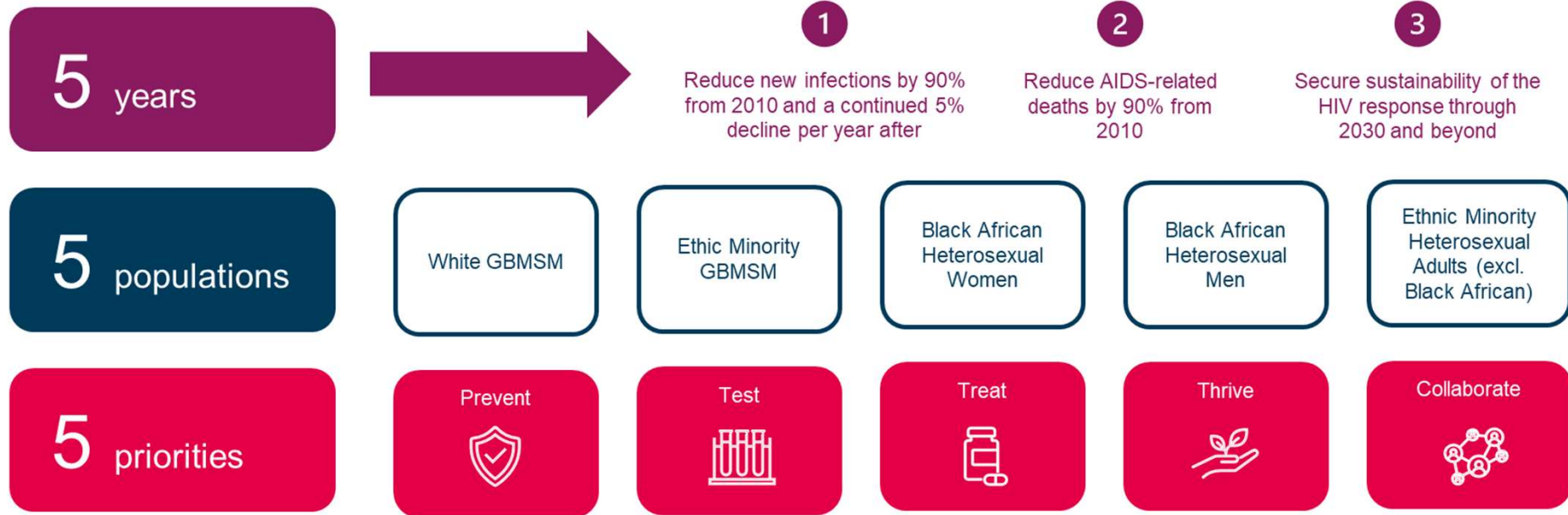
Exploring the challenges and opportunities in delivering the HIV Action Plan in the West Midlands

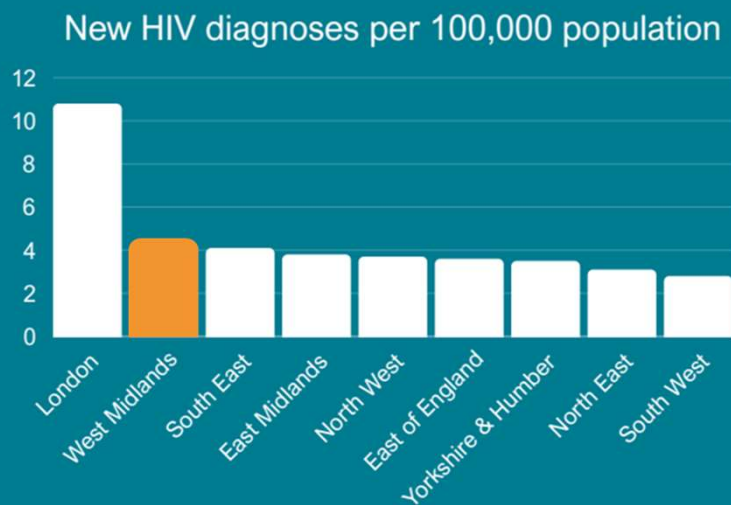
Facilitators: Amy-Marie Clarke (Senior Commissioning Manager, NHSE) Danielle Jayes (Sexual Health Facilitator, UKHSA), Paul Sanderson (Health & Wellbeing Programme Lead, DHSC), James Bell (Public Health Registrar, DHSC)

Today's workshop will explore...

- Key priorities in the new HIV Action Plan
- Inequalities in HIV PrEP access and uptake in the West Midlands
- Challenges and opportunities in low prevalence areas
- Experiences of people living with HIV in region
- Opportunities to strengthen our HIV response across the West Midlands

HIV Action Plan 2025 - 2030





HIV testing continues to increase

Inequalities in PrEP offer and uptake

8,498
people living with HIV in the West Midlands.

Current picture in the West Midlands

261 new HIV diagnoses in 2024

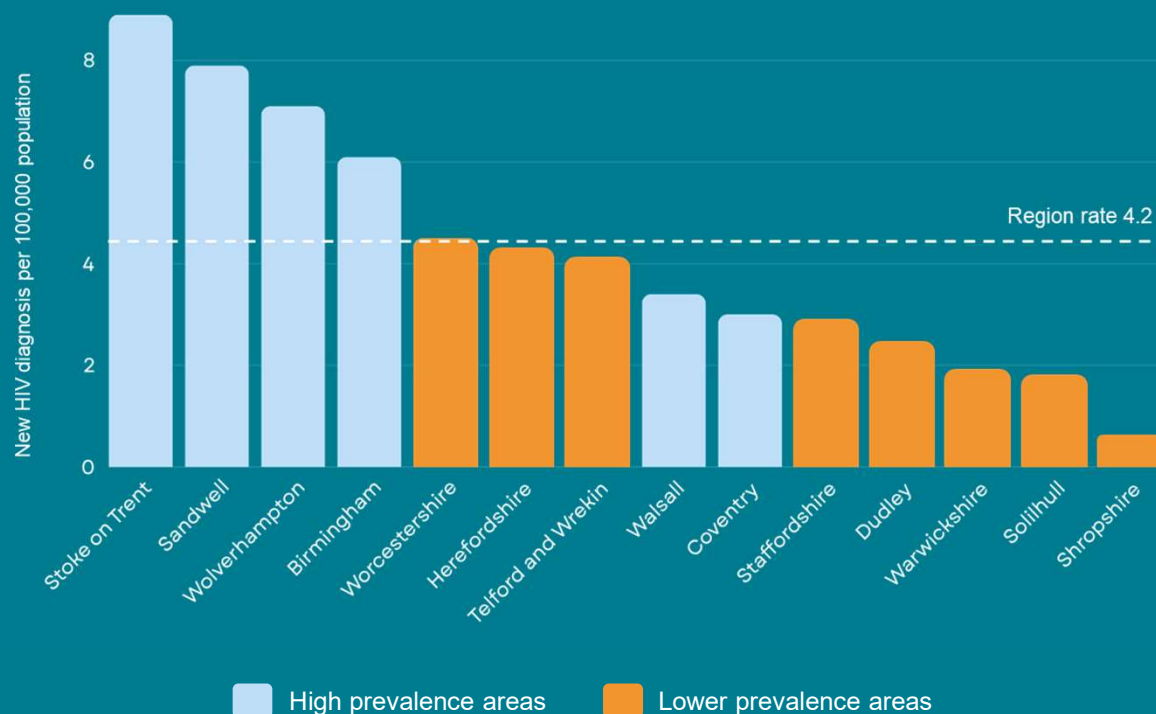
- 27% among gay and bisexual men
- 44% among people of Black African ethnicity
- 47% diagnosed late

2 x Fast Track Cities



9 ED opt-out testing sites
43 new HIV diagnoses
218 Hep B diagnoses
145 Hep C diagnoses

Different approaches will be essential for achieving the goals of the HIV Action Plan



- Slower reductions in undiagnosed HIV compared with high prevalence areas
- Lower visibility as a priority in local systems
- High rates of late diagnosis
- Fewer options for high-impact testing pathways (ED opt-out)
- Risk of widening inequalities as progress concentrated in high prevalence areas
- Lower public and professional risk perception?

Local system governance insight

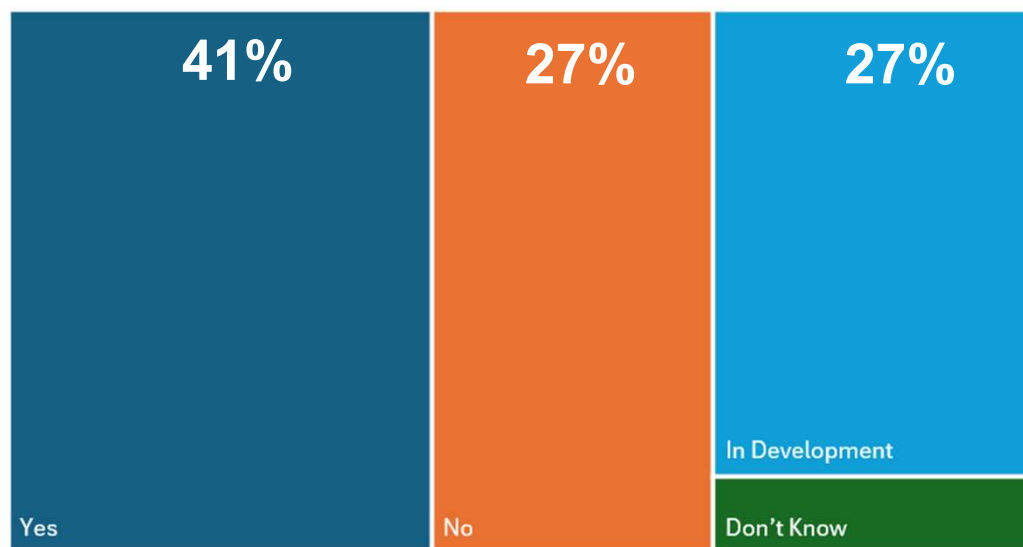
Baseline governance survey Jan – Feb 2026

- 22/24 (90%) response from Local Government
- 0/11 (0%) response from ICBs
- 1/1 (100%) response from NHSE Spec Comm

Of the 14 areas in the West Midlands

- 5 have a governance group in place
- 3 are being established
- 4 had no governance group
- 2 did not respond

Is your local authority covered by a HIV action plan



Key take-aways:

- Building local system governance / planning capacity and capability is crucial to making thematic progress.
- Consider variable response for low vs high prevalence areas
- A defined role for ICBs – esp. Thrive elements
- Regional partners can use established routes to support local system actions

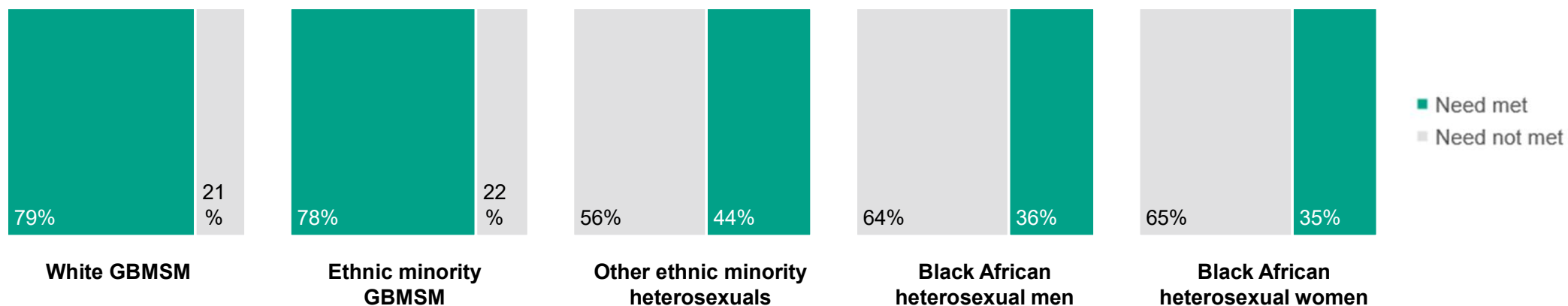


Office for Health
Improvement
& Disparities

Reducing HIV PrEP Inequalities in the Midlands

Project overview

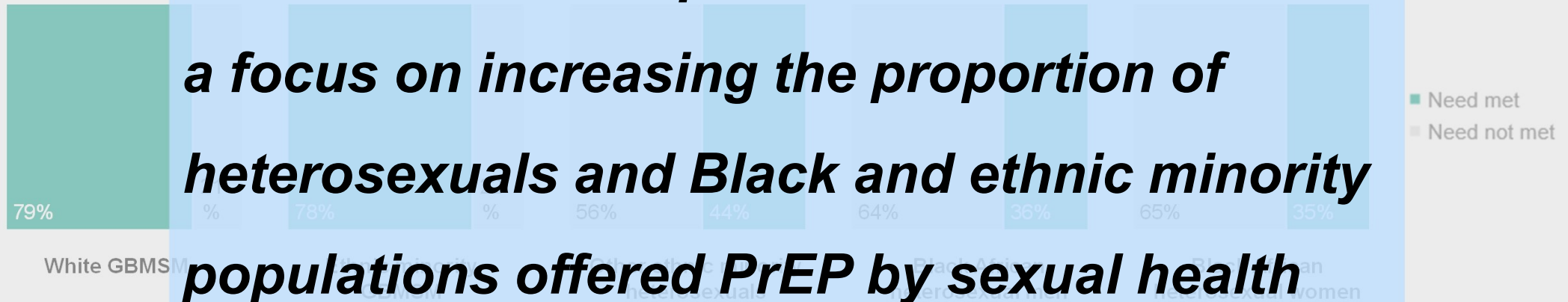
Uptake of PrEP is high among GBMSM but other groups are less likely to have their need met



The percentage of each group who had a PrEP need identified and started or continued on PrEP in 2024

Uptake of PrEP is high among GBMSM but other groups are less likely to have their need met

“drive forward service improvement and innovation for HIV prevention services, with a focus on increasing the proportion of heterosexuals and Black and ethnic minority populations offered PrEP by sexual health services” (HIV Action Plan)



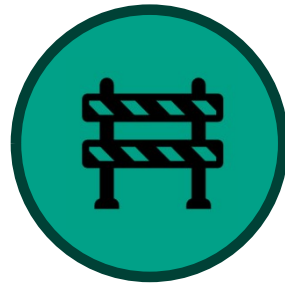
The percentage of each group who had a PrEP need identified and started or continued on PrEP in 2024

OHID is planning work to reduce these inequalities and increase minoritised groups' access to PrEP



Describe inequalities in PrEP offer and uptake

Analysis of data on local authority level to understand needs



Develop our understanding of barriers to PrEP uptake and the system factors that contribute to inequalities

Literature review

Engagement with providers, commissioners and service users



Encourage and facilitate action on a local level

Reports and infographics
Presentations and workshops

What we can offer

- In-depth local data analysis on current PrEP uptake and numbers needed to close inequality gaps
- Data synthesis on barriers to PrEP uptake
- Collaborative working to interrogate the data and co-produce action plans

How you can get involved

- Speak to us about your experiences of commissioning or providing PrEP to underserved groups
- Work with us to engage with service user groups
- Use the findings and outputs to feed into strategies and action plans



Thank you

James.Bell@dhsc.gov.uk

Paul.Sanderson@dhsc.gov.uk

Danielle.Jayes@ukhsa.gov.uk



Patient Survey

HIV Care is here for you - You are always welcome

This short, anonymous survey conducted by NHS England will help to understand any barriers individuals face when accessing HIV services. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete. You can skip any questions you are not comfortable answering.

HIV Care is still here for you - no matter how long it has been.
You're always welcome back



79 responses

- **90%** currently receiving treatment for HIV
- **18%** stopped going to appointments for HIV treatment at some point since being diagnosed

What makes it difficult to attend appointments?

- Work
- Mental Health
- Appointment availability
- Distance to the clinic
- Inflexibility

"Drop in rather than fixed as I have 4 children and struggle"

"I attend all my appointments but do suffer immense stress beforehand"

Patient Survey

Have you experienced any discrimination when seeking support for living with HIV?

- Clinicians wearing double gloves
- Discrimination as soon as you mention HIV
- Discrimination in dental services

“Yes, people think they can’t come near me”

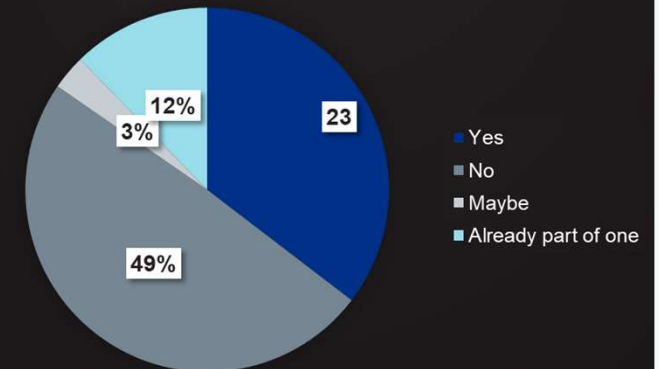
“During pregnancy on the maternity ward... left alone as no one wanted to come in my room”

“A lot of services won’t even see me for f2f as soon as they know my diagnosis such as the GPs it is phone only even when I had a skin condition that needed to be looked at”

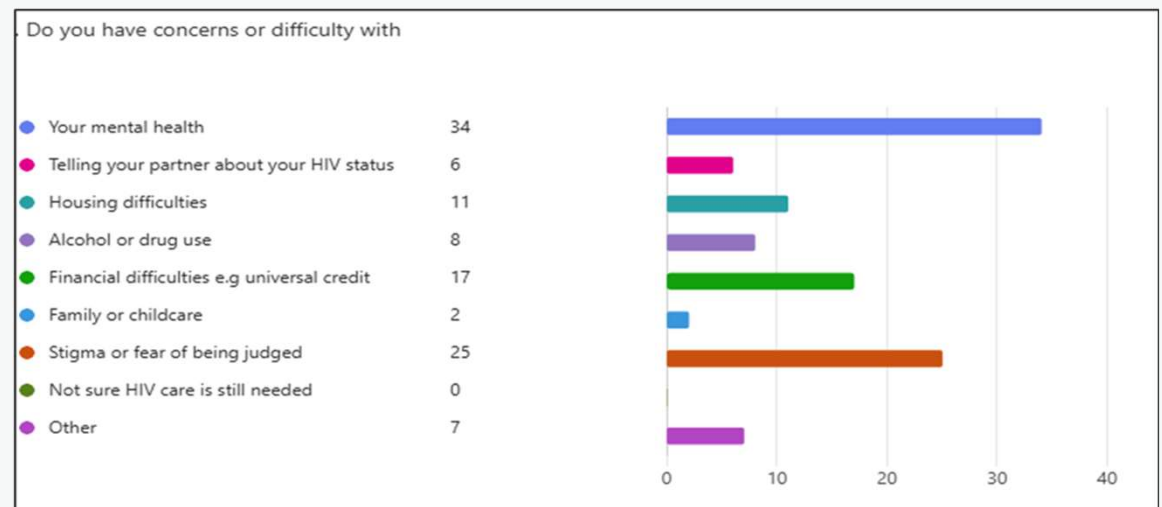
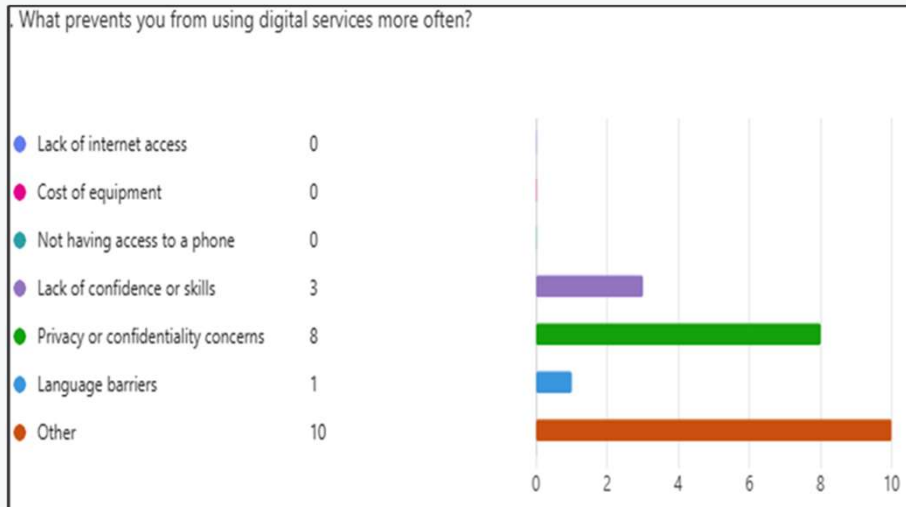
2/3

not received any support from HIV peer support services or charities

Would you be interested in peer group support (either 1:1 or within a group)



Patient Survey



What would help you feel more confident using digital HIV services?

- Assurance my personal data is completely safe
- To be taught how to use digital HIV services
- Having an information portal to refer to
- Accessibility to digital services in various languages
- Confidentiality

How can we help you feel supported in living well with HIV?

- Help with necessities e.g. food, accommodation etc.
- Support when released from prison
- Frequent appointments/check ins for older patients
- Support in education for families and relatives about HIV.

“To be treated fairly and without discrimination”

Table discussions



20-minute discussion and 10-minute feedback

HIV PrEP

What are the barriers for Black African and ethnic minority heterosexual groups to take PrEP in your area, and what can we do to reduce the inequalities these populations face?

Low prevalence areas

What does a meaningful and proportionate HIV response look like in low prevalence and how can current approaches be tailored to address their specific challenges?