

## ABSTRACT

A successful outcome of HIV testing in south London termination of pregnancy services.

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**Background:** National guidelines recommend universal HIV testing of women attending TOP services to reduce prevalence of undiagnosed HIV. Unlinked anonymous testing of women attending termination of pregnancy (TOP) clinics in London found an HIV prevalence of >1% and 0.42% in ante-natal clinics (ANC) in 2006.

**Methods:** Retrospective review of HIV testing in TOP clients attending NHS teaching hospital and independent sector organisation in south London. Serum samples were tested using 4<sup>th</sup> generation assay AxSYM Ag/Ab Combo (Abbott). Paper/electronic databases were used to identify attendees. Age, ethnicity, post-code, country of origin, route of referral and previous obstetric history were documented. Reason/s for declining testing were recorded if volunteered. Clients consenting to an HIV test were compared to those who declined. Clients excluded if known to have HIV, if recent (< 6 months) HIV negative result was verified or when tests weren't processed. Only a client's first visit was recorded. HIV testing outcomes in TOP services were compared with testing at ANC.

**Results:** 1/04/09-31/12/09 (9 months data): 870 women attended the NHS TOP service. Mean age 26.5 years, 488/870 (56%) Caucasian, 93/870 (11%) Black African and 65/870 (7.5%) Black Caribbean. 844 (97%) seen were offered HIV tests, 702/844 (83%) HIV results received, 107/844 (13%) declined, 3 known HIV+, 16 verified recent negative results, in 16 cases no results available. One new case of HIV diagnosed and an equivocal result excluded gave an HIV prevalence of 4/720 (0.56%) compared with 7/1478 (0.47%) in ANC where HIV testing was >99% and no new diagnoses made from 1/04/09-1/09/09. 54/107 (50%) declined testing citing previous HIV test. Those declining were older; mean age 28.7 vs 26.3 years (t test, p=0.0007).

16/08/09-31/12/09 (3.5 months data): 426/941 (45%) of women attending independent sector service offered HIV testing. Mean age 25.3 years, 134/426 (31%) Black African, 117/426 (27%) Caucasian and 66/426 (15%) Black Caribbean. 355/426 (83%) HIV results received, 57/844 (7%) declined, 14 excluded as results unavailable. No patients identified with HIV. Those declining HIV test were younger; mean age 20.7 vs 25.9 years (p<0.0001). No significant interaction with ethnicity/country of origin in either cohort.

**Conclusion:** The results indicate a high uptake of HIV testing in women attending abortion services in south London. To date, few new cases of HIV have been diagnosed.