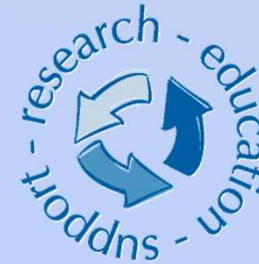


15th Annual Conference of the
National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA)



National HIV Nurses Association

Anele Waters

North Middlesex Hospital, London

27-28 June 2013- The International Convention Centre, Birmingham

To test or not to test? That is the Question

Anele Waters, RN, BSc (Hons), MRes
HIV Research Nurse
Alexander Pringle Centre
North Middlesex Hospital



North Middlesex University Hospital 
NHS Trust

Aims

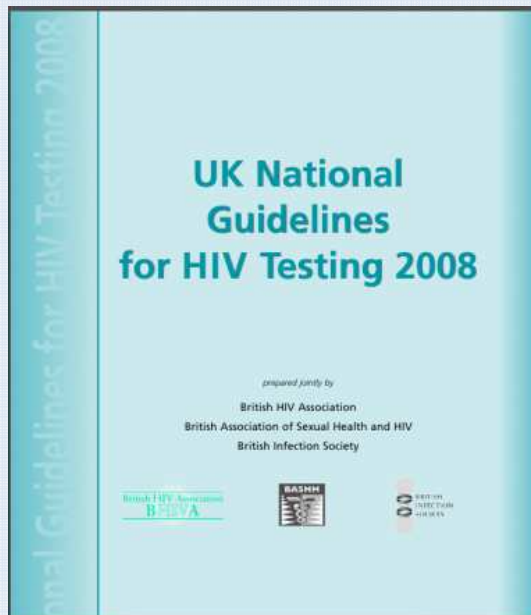
- Investigate nurses' knowledge and attitudes to HIV
- Identify associated background factors
- Explore attitudes of nurses regarding HIV testing of patients and staff

The Study

- Ethics and R&D approved February 2012
- 144 nurses completed an anonymous questionnaire
- 24 different countries of birth, 44% UK, 27% Africa
- Mean age 43.3 years, 93% female
- 67% qualified >10 years, 49% UK nursing <10 years
- 53% religion “very important”

Background

- HIV testing in HIV prevalence areas for GP practices and general medical admissions.
- Routinely offered for those at higher risk



BHIVA, 2008; HPA, 2011a; NICE, 2011

Background

- North Middlesex Hospital
 - high HIV prevalence area
 - Haringey 6/1000
 - Enfield 4/1000
- HIV testing in AMU & AE since Sept 2010
- Rapid HIV testing kits, 4th generation HIV ab/ag tests

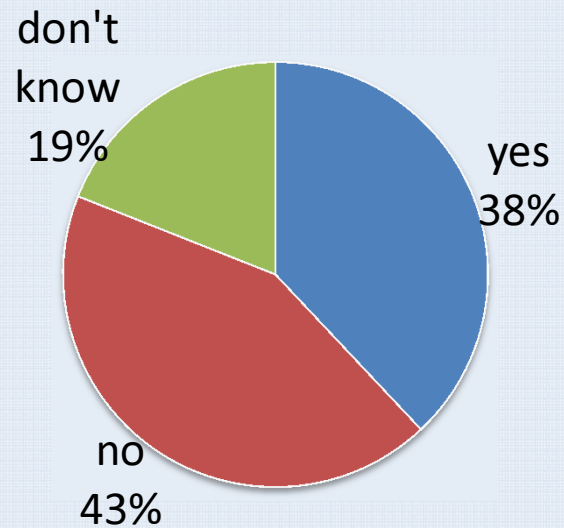
Background

- Lack of HIV knowledge
 - Stigmatizing attitudes & decrease in HIV testing
 - Competent nurses
- Department of Health guidelines 2007
 - Exposure Prone Procedures
 - New Healthcare workers
- Limited research in the UK on NHS staff testing
- Africa, high interest and informal self testing
 - Barriers include fear, stigma and job loss

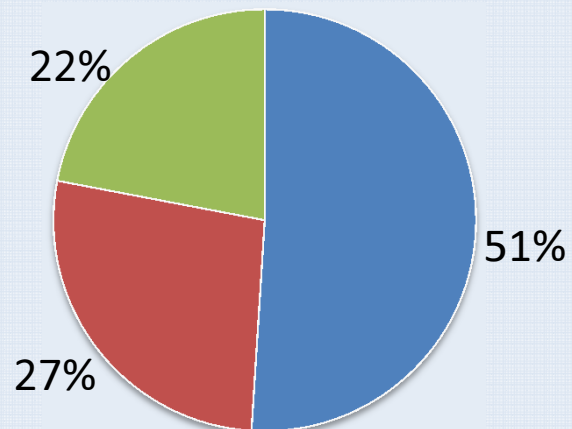
Results

Who should be offered at HIV test on admission

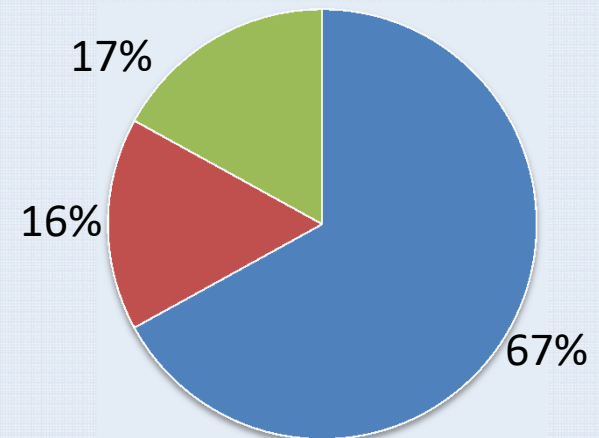
Every Patient



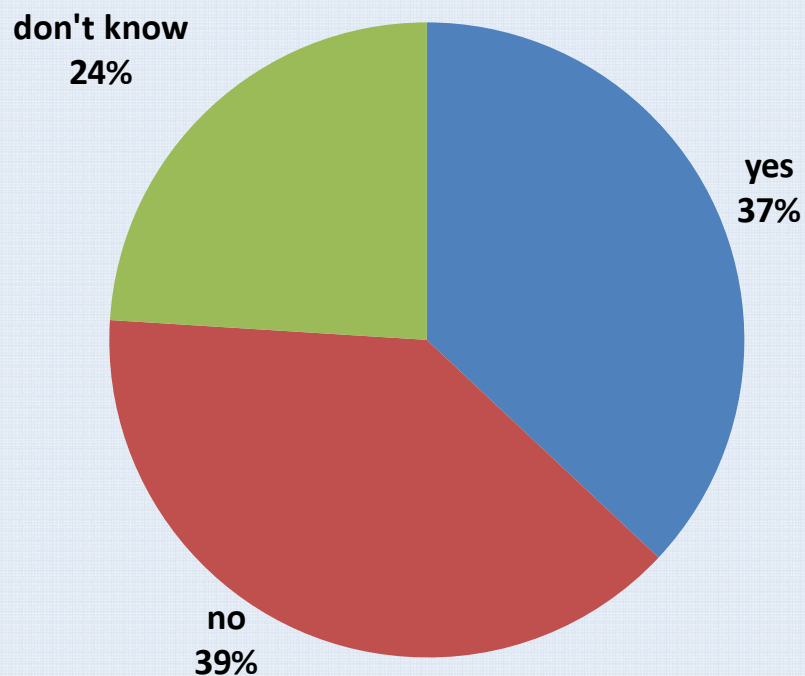
Homosexual



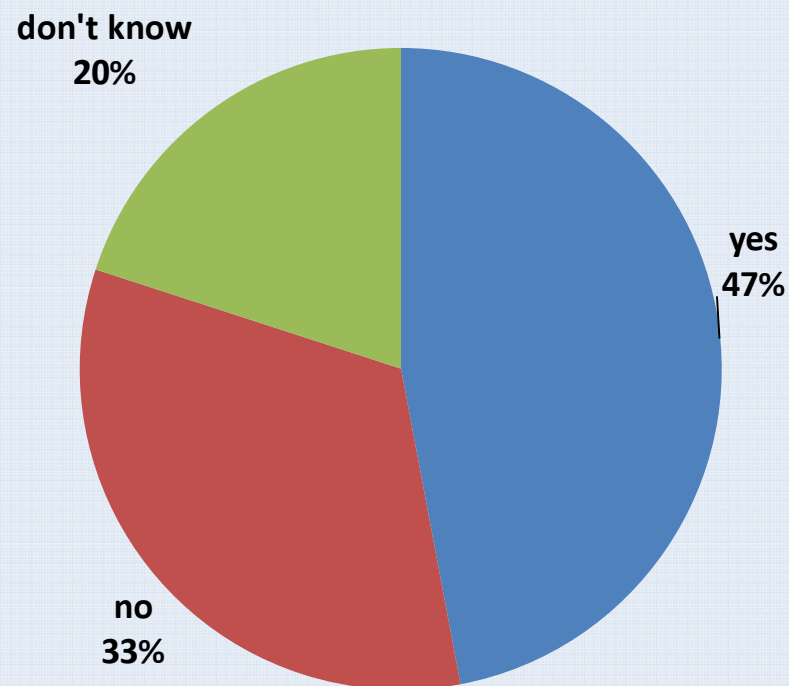
High Risk Country



I would like to self test
anonymously using
rapid HIV test kits



Hospitals should supply
rapid HIV kits for staff
self testing



Discussion

- More accepting for testing higher risk patients
- Motives behind answers not known
- Lack of knowledge of HIV testing
- Nurses want to test for HIV
- Limitations of questions

Discussion

- Balancing reducing stigma and increasing testing in high risk groups
- Anonymous self-testing in reduction of stigma/discrimination/fear
- Universal offering HIV testing of healthcare staff and patients to reduce stigma
 - Financial restraints

Discussion

WHO report on Self Testing in Africa

- Pros

- Confidential, Convenient, Reduce Stigma, Autonomous, Resource reduced

- Cons

- Accuracy, Pre and Post test info and referrals, Unethical use, Justification for sex

- Recommendations

- More Research, Fixing the cons, Couples testing, Cost effectiveness, Benefits and Harms

Conclusion

- More training on HIV testing required for nurses
- Self testing was acceptable to a significant minority of nurses
- Further research needed
- Providing more opportunities increases HIV testing
- Knowing one's HIV risk factors and HIV status is important for all including nurses

Acknowledgements

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