

Speaker Name	Statement
Silvia Petretti	Nothing to declare
Date :	June 2017

Heterosexual Women Living with HIV

Engaging with HIV Services

Silvia Petretti
NHIVNA 23 June 2017

Women Living with HIV



Women experience greater changes



I am really lonely,
I can't tell no one
that I have HIV
too much stigma

I want to be
heard... how
do I go about
it?

I have no money,
and I am really
struggling

ARVs,
CD4, Viral Load,
PrEP, PEP,
U=U what doe
is all mean?

Dating?!?
How can I tell
my partner
about HIV?

I feel awful,, I am
worried it's the side
effects of ARVs, but
the doctor wont listen

What about
getting the
sex I really
want...?!

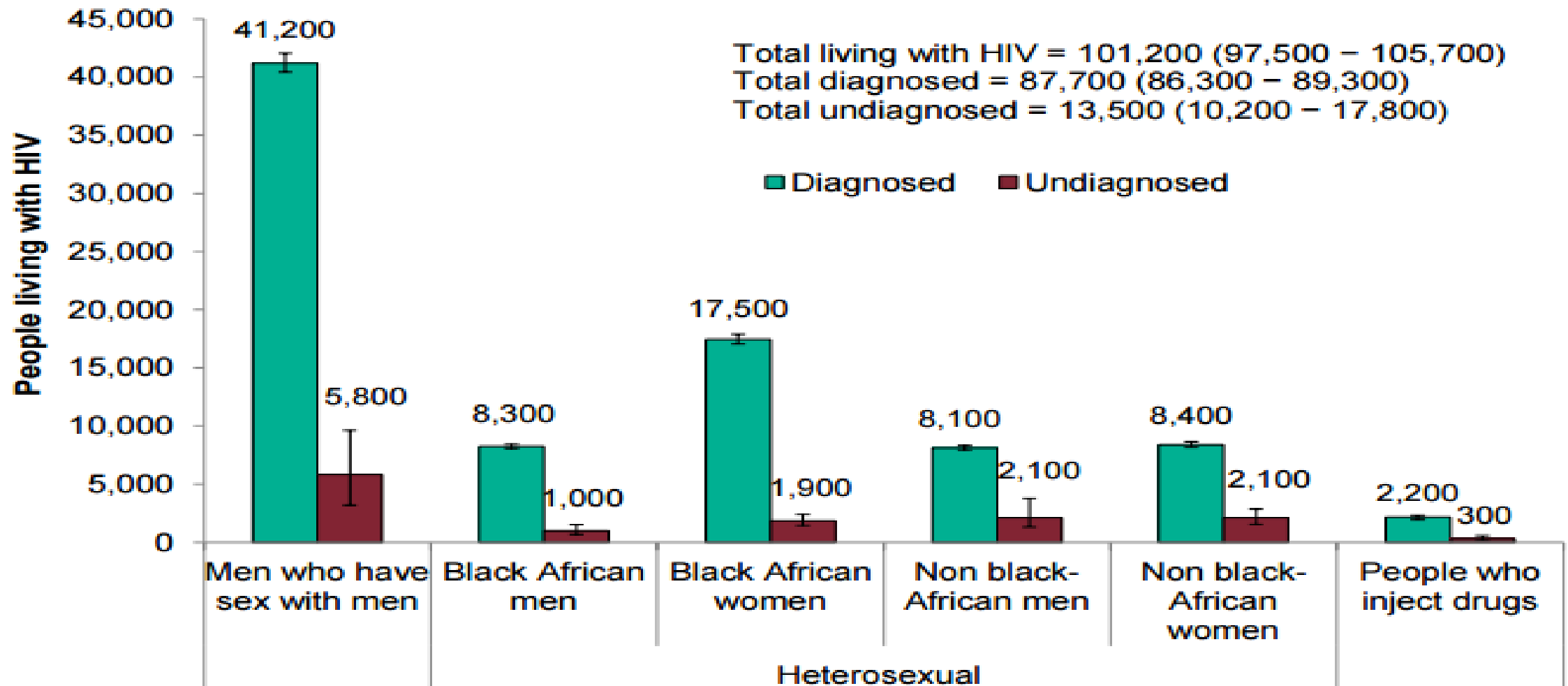
Is it hot here...?
...Does HIV
affect the
menopause?

How do I get
pregnant with
HIV?

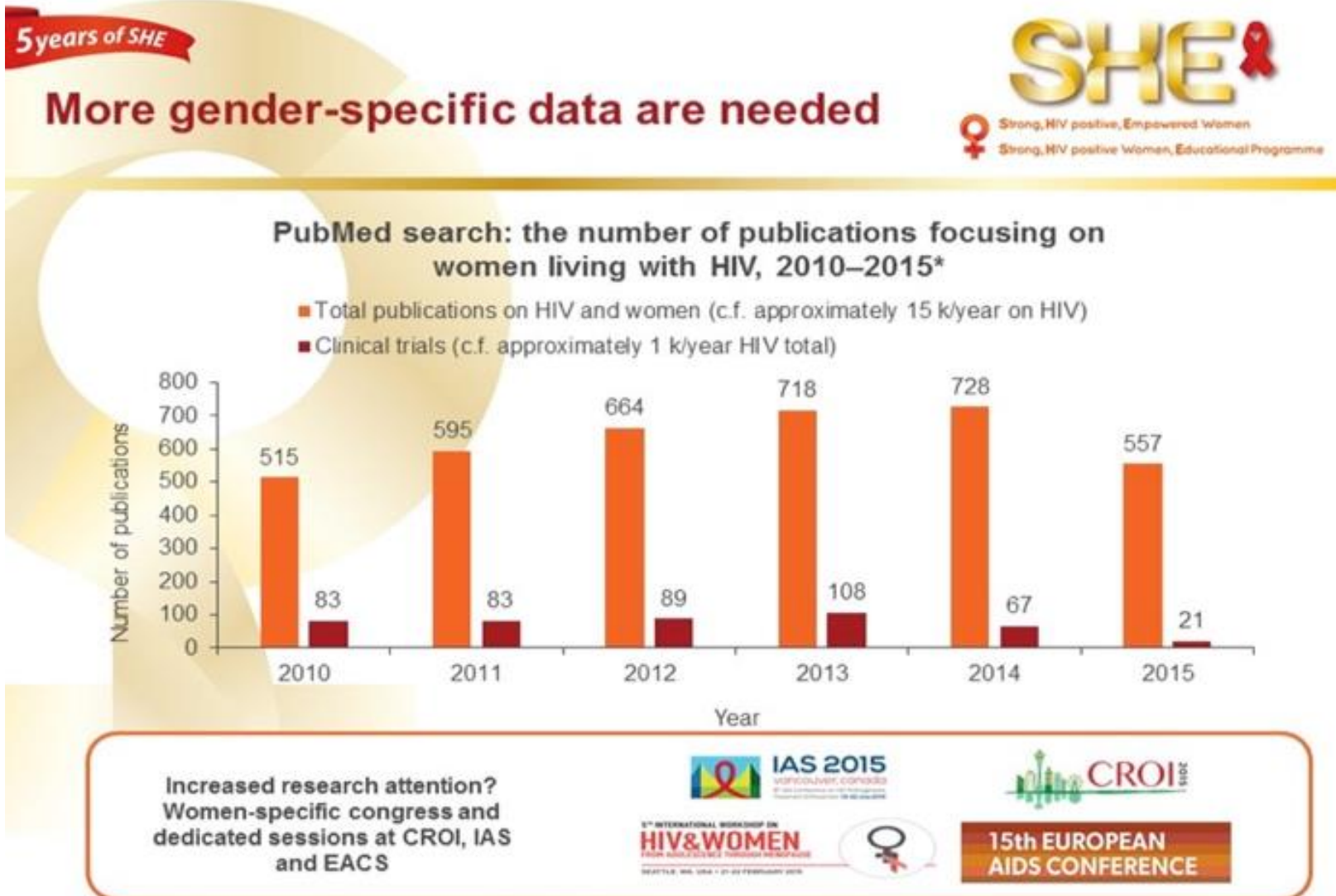
My husband
treats me
badly and I am
scared...



Figure 2: Estimated number of people living with HIV (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) using the MPES model, all ages: UK, 2015



Lack of Gender Specific Research



*Searched for records that included 'women' in the title and 'HIV' in either the title or abstract.

OL. Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; EACS. European AIDS Clinical Society; IAS. International Antiviral Society.

Barriers women living with HIV face

Individual

- Violence Against Women Living with HIV
- Fear and experience of stigma
- Side effects of ARVs
- Inability to meet basic needs

Household Health Service Community

- Gender Roles and responsibilities
- Violation of rights in health care services
- Poor communication in health services
- Mental Health and Self Stigma
- Care Giving Responsibilities
- Stigma and Discriminations

National Policy

- Cuts to Health and Social Care budgets

Key barriers to women's access to HIV Treatment

http://salamandertrust.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/web_UNWomenetal_IAS-treatment_access-4pp.pdf

Finding out what women with HIV want

- Women Know Best Conference December 2014
- 47 Women from around UK
- Literary review of best practice



Key Issues Identified by women with HIV in the UK

- Gender Based Violence
- Poverty
- Isolation
- Lack of appropriate information on ARVs
- Sex an Relationships
- Mental Health
- Concerns around aging & menopause
- Access to healthcare



Positively Women

- Steering group of women with HIV leading the project
- 2 Project coordinators
- Women focused peer mentors
- Women's Room, Let's Talk Babies
- Positively Trans
- Thematic Workshops: Our Rights, Between The Sheets, Pregnancy Journey, Economic Independence
- Working closely with Project 100



What can you do about it?

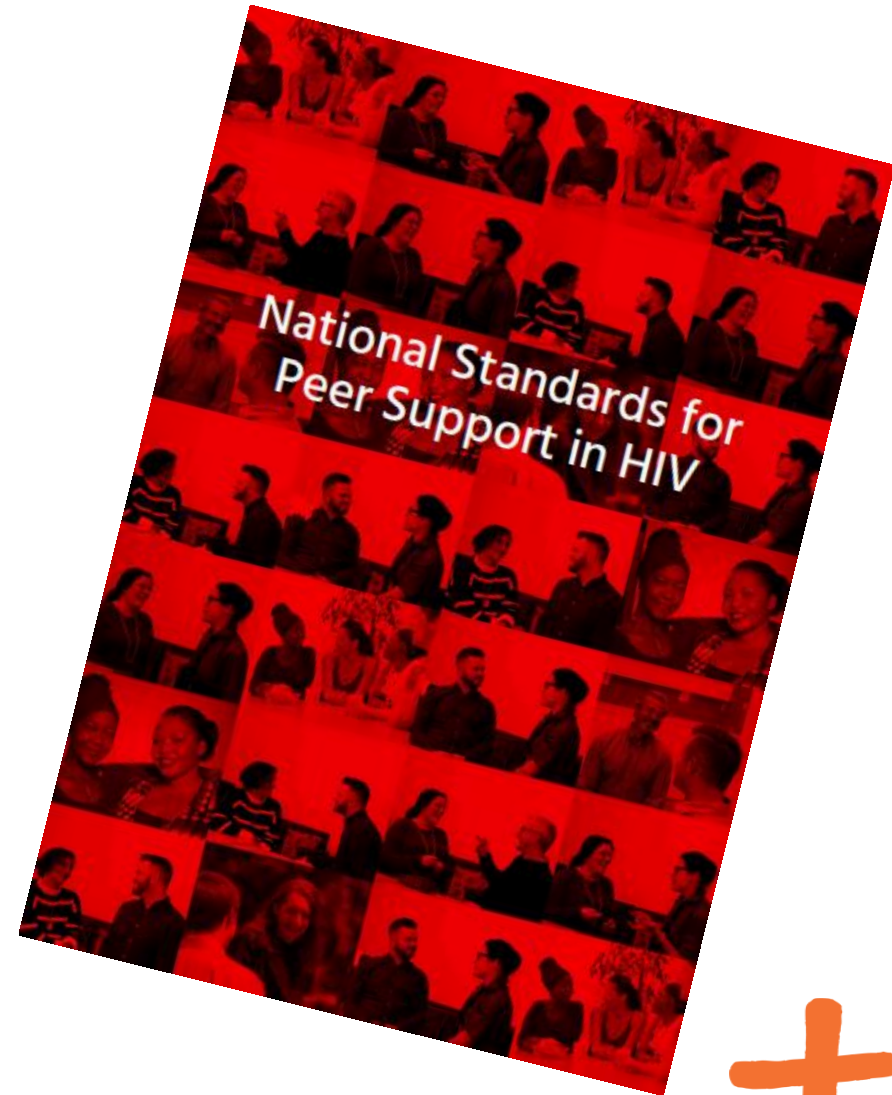
- Frontline staff should be trained to recognise signs of Gender Based Violence & provide regular screening.
- Talk to women about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, pregnancy, U=U, contraception, the menopause
- Provide women centred services and when possible include women only/safe spaces
- Ensure that there are clear pathways for referrals to Peer Support



National Standards of Peer Support in HIV

#HIVPeerSupport

www.hivpeersupport.com



What do women with HIV (really) want?

