

# **Bass Line 2008-09: The African Health and Sex Survey**

## **South West Strategic Health Authority data report (n=52, June 2009)**

This document reports data from Bass Line 2008-09, an assessment of the sexual HIV prevention needs of African people, conducted by Sigma Research in collaboration with health promoters throughout England. This data supplements the main report which describes the survey methods and sets the questions in context. That report will be available from late July 2009 at:

[www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/reports/african](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/reports/african)

### ***The survey***

Bass Line 2008-09 used two data collection methods, a self-sealing, Freepost addressed booklet distributed by health promotion agencies and online via a dedicated website. The survey was available in English and French. This report contains data from both methods and both languages. To be included here respondents had to: consider themselves African or African-Caribbean; be aged 16 or over; be in England; and have completed sufficient questions.

### ***Data reports***

Data reports provide HIV health promotion planners with information about their local population in as much detail as is possible given the number of people who took part in the survey. This report contains data from African people who live in the South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA). Respondents are grouped according to the Primary Care Trust in which they live. To access other SHA reports, and an all England report showing data by SHA, go to: [www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/local/african](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/local/african)

### ***The tables***

Groups of respondents living in the same Primary Care Trust appear as a line in the tables. The bottom line of each table gives the result for the entire South West SHA sample. Tables 1 and 2 show the number of Africans recruited to the survey living in each PCT and the size of the sub-samples in the rest of the tables. The tables show the proportions (%) of each PCT sub-sample in each category of the variable (less missing data). Rows (lines across) add up to 100%.

The contents page identifies the question number (Q) each table is derived from. The questionnaire is available at:

[www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/quests/african](http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/quests/african)

### ***Funding***

The survey was funded by African HIV Policy Network as a part of the National African HIV Prevention Programme, which is funded by the Department of Health.

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# SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

## 1. Primary Care Trust of residence

	Frequency	Percent
NHS Bristol	37	71.2
NHS Swindon	8	15.4
NHS Bath and North East Somerset	3	5.8
NHS Gloucestershire	2	3.8
NHS Plymouth Teaching	1	1.9
NHS Somerset	1	1.9
Total	52	100.0

## 2. PCT area with 20+ respondents (for the rest of the report)

	Frequency	Percent
NHS Bristol	37	71.2
All other South West	15	28.8
Total	52	100.0

## 3. Method of recruitment

Count

	Method - recruitment type			Total
	On-line English	Booklet English	Booklet French	
NHS Bristol	4	32	1	37
All other South West	10	5	0	15
Total	14	37	1	52

#### 4. Gender

% within PCT area of residence

	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
NHS Bristol	36.1%	63.9%	100.0%
All other South West	40.0%	60.0%	100.0%
Total	37.3%	62.7%	100.0%

#### 5. Ethnicity

% within PCT area of residence

	Ethnicity			Total
	Black African	Black African British	African Caribbean	
NHS Bristol	83.3%	11.1%	5.6%	100.0%
All other South West	93.3%	6.7%		100.0%
Total	86.3%	9.8%	3.9%	100.0%

#### 6. Age groups

% within PCT area of residence

	Age groups					Total
	under 20 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50 years and older	
NHS Bristol	2.7%	48.6%	37.8%	10.8%		100.0%
All other South West	13.3%	26.7%	33.3%	20.0%	6.7%	100.0%
Total	5.8%	42.3%	36.5%	13.5%	1.9%	100.0%

### 7. Ten most common countries of birth

% within PCT area of residence

	Top ten countries of birth											Total
	Botswana	Kenya	Namibia	Nigeria	Republic of South Africa	Somalia	Uganda	England	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Elsewhere in Africa	
NHS Bristol	5.4%	5.4%	10.8%	5.4%	8.1%	16.2%	10.8%	10.8%	5.4%	2.7%	18.9%	100.0%
All other South West		40.0%		13.3%					6.7%	26.7%	13.3%	100.0%
Total	3.8%	15.4%	7.7%	7.7%	5.8%	11.5%	7.7%	7.7%	5.8%	9.6%	17.3%	100.0%

### 8. Length of time living in the UK

% within PCT area of residence

	Length of time in the UK				Total
	over 1 year, less than 3 years	over 3 years, less than 6 years	over 6 years, less than 10 years	10 years or more	
NHS Bristol	43.2%	24.3%	18.9%	13.5%	100.0%
All other South West	7.1%	14.3%	50.0%	28.6%	100.0%
Total	33.3%	21.6%	27.5%	17.6%	100.0%

### 9. Educational level

% within PCT area of residence

	Educational level			Total
	LOW (None / Primary / Elementary School)	MEDIUM (Secondary / High School)	HIGH (University / College)	
NHS Bristol	8.3%	36.1%	55.6%	100.0%
All other South West		26.7%	73.3%	100.0%
Total	5.9%	33.3%	60.8%	100.0%

### 10. Religion

% within PCT area of residence

	Religion category				Total
	Christian	Islam	other	none	
NHS Bristol	60.0%	28.6%	2.9%	8.6%	100.0%
All other South West	93.3%			6.7%	100.0%
Total	70.0%	20.0%	2.0%	8.0%	100.0%

### 11. Gender of sexual partners in the last year (males)

% within PCT area of residence

	Gender of sexual intercourse partners in the last year (males)				Total
	NO SEX	Exclusively heterosexual	Behaviourally bisexual	Exclusively homosexual	
NHS Bristol	25.0%	25.0%	33.3%	16.7%	100.0%
All other South West		83.3%	16.7%		100.0%
Total	16.7%	44.4%	27.8%	11.1%	100.0%

### 12. Gender of sexual partners in the last year (females)

% within PCT area of residence

	Gender of sexual intercourse partners in the last year (females)			Total
	NO SEX	Exclusively heterosexual	Behaviourally bisexual	
NHS Bristol	56.5%	30.4%	13.0%	100.0%
All other South West	44.4%	55.6%		100.0%
Total	53.1%	37.5%	9.4%	100.0%

### 13. Circumcision (males)

% within PCT area of residence

	Circumcision (males)			Total
	Circumcised	Uncircumcised	Don't know	
NHS Bristol	46.2%	46.2%	7.7%	100.0%
All other South West	50.0%	50.0%		100.0%
Total	47.4%	47.4%	5.3%	100.0%

#### 14. Circumcision (females)

% within PCT area of residence

	Circumcision (females)			Total
	Circumcised	Uncircumcised	Don't know	
NHS Bristol	43.5%	52.2%	4.3%	100.0%
All other South West		100.0%		100.0%
Total	31.3%	65.6%	3.1%	100.0%



# HIV AND STI TESTING AND DIAGNOSIS

## 15. Perceived HIV status

% within PCT area of residence

	HIV status belief					Total
	Definitely negative	Probably negative	Not sure / I don't know	Probably positive	Definitely positive	
NHS Bristol	54.1%	10.8%	24.3%	2.7%	8.1%	100.0%
All other South West	73.3%	20.0%	6.7%			100.0%
Total	59.6%	13.5%	19.2%	1.9%	5.8%	100.0%

## 16. HIV testing history

% within PCT area of residence

	HIV testing history			Total
	Never tested	Last test negative	Tested positive	
NHS Bristol	43.2%	37.8%	18.9%	100.0%
All other South West	40.0%	60.0%		100.0%
Total	42.3%	44.2%	13.5%	100.0%

## 17. Desirability of and access to HIV testing

% within PCT area of residence

	Desirability of and access to HIV testing						Total
	Don't want a test but know where to get one	Not sure if want a test but know where to get one	Want a test and know where to get one	Don't want a test and don't know where to get one	Not sure if want a test and don't know where to get one	Want a test and don't know where to get one	
NHS Bristol	11.4%	11.4%	57.1%		11.4%	8.6%	100.0%
All other South West	50.0%	14.3%	7.1%	21.4%		7.1%	100.0%
Total	22.4%	12.2%	42.9%	6.1%	8.2%	8.2%	100.0%

**18. Most recent STI test (other than HIV or cervical smears)**

% within PCT area of residence

	Most recent STI test other than HIV or cervical smears						Total
	In the last month	In the last 12 months	1 to 5 years ago	More than 5 years ago	Never	Don't know	
NHS Bristol	5.4%	10.8%	8.1%	8.1%	40.5%	27.0%	100.0%
All other South West	13.3%	20.0%	26.7%	6.7%	33.3%		100.0%
Total	7.7%	13.5%	13.5%	7.7%	38.5%	19.2%	100.0%

# SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV RISK BEHAVIOURS

## 19. Current regular sexual relationships

% within PCT area of residence

	Current regular sexual relationships				Total
	NO regular partner at present	One regular partner (mongamous)	One regular partner (but NOT monogamous)	More than one regular partner	
NHS Bristol	48.6%	16.2%	29.7%	5.4%	100.0%
All other South West	40.0%	40.0%	13.3%	6.7%	100.0%
Total	46.2%	23.1%	25.0%	5.8%	100.0%

## 20. Total number of sexual intercourse partners in the last year

% within PCT area of residence

	Total number of sexual intercourse partners in the last year								Total
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	6 to 12	13 or more	
NHS Bristol	43.2%	27.0%	16.2%	2.7%	5.4%		2.7%	2.7%	100%
All other South West	26.7%	53.3%	6.7%	6.7%		6.7%			100%
Total	38.5%	34.6%	13.5%	3.8%	3.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	100%

## 21. Regularity of condom use in the last year

% within PCT area of residence

	Regularity of condom use in the last year						Total
	Always	More than half the time	About half the time	Less than half the time	Never	Not had intercourse in last 12 months	
NHS Bristol	13.9%	2.8%	8.3%	2.8%	27.8%	44.4%	100%
All other South West	13.3%		13.3%	13.3%	33.3%	26.7%	100%
Total	13.7%	2.0%	9.8%	5.9%	29.4%	39.2%	100%

## 22. Experienced condom failure in the last year

% within PCT area of residence

	Experienced condom breakage or slippage in the last year		Total
	No	Yes	
NHS Bristol	100.0%		100.0%
All other South West	93.3%	6.7%	100.0%
Total	98.0%	2.0%	100.0%

## 23. Likelihood of sero-discordant unprotected intercourse in the last year (males)

% within PCT area of residence

	Sex - likelihood of unprotected SDUI (males)					Total
	I definitely have	I probably have	I don't know	I probably have not	I definitely have not	
NHS Bristol	8.3%	8.3%	50.0%	8.3%	25.0%	100.0%
All other South West			20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Total	5.9%	5.9%	41.2%	17.6%	29.4%	100.0%

## 24. Likelihood of sero-discordant unprotected intercourse in the last year (females)

% within PCT area of residence

	Sex - likelihood of unprotected SDUI (females)					Total
	I definitely have	I probably have	I don't know	I probably have not	I definitely have not	
NHS Bristol	23.8%		23.8%	14.3%	38.1%	100.0%
All other South West		22.2%	22.2%		55.6%	100.0%
Total	16.7%	6.7%	23.3%	10.0%	43.3%	100.0%

## HIV AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDS

### 25. AIDS caused by virus called HIV

% within PCT area of residence

	AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV			Total
	I knew this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I didn't know this	
NHS Bristol	73.0%	10.8%	16.2%	100.0%
All other South West	100.0%			100.0%
Total	80.8%	7.7%	11.5%	100.0%

### 26. You can not be sure that someone is NOT infected by HIV by looking at them

% within PCT area of residence

	You can not be sure that someone is NOT infected by HIV by looking at them			Total
	I knew this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I didn't know this	
NHS Bristol	51.4%	32.4%	16.2%	100.0%
All other South West	100.0%			100.0%
Total	65.4%	23.1%	11.5%	100.0%

### 27. People can have HIV without knowing it

% within PCT area of residence

	People can have HIV without knowing it				Total
	I knew this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I didn't know this	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	63.9%	19.4%	11.1%	5.6%	100%
All other South West	100.0%				100%
Total	74.5%	13.7%	7.8%	3.9%	100%

**28. There is a medical test that can show whether or not you have HIV**

% within PCT area of residence

	There is a medical test that can show whether or not you have HIV			Total
	I knew this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I didn't know this	
NHS Bristol	66.7%	25.0%	8.3%	100.0%
All other South West	100.0%			100.0%
Total	76.5%	17.6%	5.9%	100.0%

**29. Africans are NOT deported from the UK solely because they have HIV**

% within PCT area of residence

	African are NOT deported from the UK just because they have HIV				Total
	I knew this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I didn't know this	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	44.4%	30.6%	22.2%	2.8%	100%
All other South West	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%		100%
Total	49.0%	27.5%	21.6%	2.0%	100%

**30. There is no cure for HIV infection once someone has it**

% within PCT area of residence

	There is no cure for HIV infection once someone has it				Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	71.4%	11.4%	14.3%	2.9%	100.0%
All other South West	92.9%		7.1%		100.0%
Total	77.6%	8.2%	12.2%	2.0%	100.0%

**31. At least 1-in-20 of all Africans living in England have HIV infection**

% within PCT area of residence

	At least 1-in-20 of all Africans living in England have HIV infection				Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	14.3%	42.9%	34.3%	8.6%	100.0%
All other South West	35.7%	42.9%	21.4%		100.0%
Total	20.4%	42.9%	30.6%	6.1%	100.0%

**32. There are HIV medicines that can help people with HIV infection**

% within PCT area of residence

	There are HIV medicines that can help people with HIV to stay healthy				Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	57.1%	20.0%	17.1%	5.7%	100.0%
All other South West	92.9%		7.1%		100.0%
Total	67.3%	14.3%	14.3%	4.1%	100.0%

**33. HIV medicines work better if people with HIV take them before they become ill**

% within PCT area of residence

	HIV medicines work better if people with HIV take them before they become ill				Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	22.9%	31.4%	37.1%	8.6%	100.0%
All other South West	78.6%	21.4%			100.0%
Total	38.8%	28.6%	26.5%	6.1%	100.0%

**34. HIV is never passed on through shaking hands or touching people**

% within PCT area of residence

	HIV is never passed on through shaking hands or touching people				Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	71.4%	8.6%	17.1%	2.9%	100.0%
All other South West	100.0%				100.0%
Total	79.6%	6.1%	12.2%	2.0%	100.0%

**35. A person with HIV can pass it to a partner during sexual intercourse**

% within PCT area of residence

	A person with HIV can pass it to a partner during sexual intercourse			Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	
NHS Bristol	80.0%	14.3%	5.7%	100.0%
All other South West	100.0%			100.0%
Total	85.4%	10.4%	4.2%	100.0%

**36. Condoms are free from sexual health clinics, family planning clinics and some community organisations**

% within PCT area of residence

	Condoms are free from sexual health clinics, family planning clinics and some community organisations				Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	42.9%	14.3%	37.1%	5.7%	100.0%
All other South West	92.9%	7.1%			100.0%
Total	57.1%	12.2%	26.5%	4.1%	100.0%



**37. Some people with HIV have been imprisoned in the UK for passing their infection to a sexual partner**

% within PCT area of residence

	Some people with HIV have been imprisoned in the UK for passing their infection to a sexual partner				Total
	I knew this before today	I didn't know this before today	I wasn't sure if this was true or not	I don't understand this	
NHS Bristol	42.9%	20.0%	22.9%	14.3%	100.0%
All other South West	92.9%	7.1%			100.0%
Total	57.1%	16.3%	16.3%	10.2%	100.0%

## OTHER HIV PREVENTION NEEDS

### 38. I can use condoms with a sexual partner if I want to

% within PCT area of residence

	I can use condoms with a sexual partner if I want to					Total
	strongly agree	agree	don't know / does not apply	disagree	strongly disagree	
NHS Bristol	44.4%	27.8%	16.7%	8.3%	2.8%	100.0%
All other South West	40.0%	40.0%	13.3%	6.7%		100.0%
Total	43.1%	31.4%	15.7%	7.8%	2.0%	100.0%

### 39. I sometimes have a problem getting hold of condoms

% within PCT area of residence

	I sometimes have a problem getting hold of condoms					Total
	strongly agree	agree	don't know / does not apply	disagree	strongly disagree	
NHS Bristol	27.8%	30.6%	13.9%	11.1%	16.7%	100.0%
All other South West	6.7%	6.7%	20.0%	33.3%	33.3%	100.0%
Total	21.6%	23.5%	15.7%	17.6%	21.6%	100.0%

### 40. If I carried a condom I would worry about what people thought of me

% within PCT area of residence

	If I carried a condom I would worry about what people thought of me					Total
	strongly agree	agree	don't know / does not apply	disagree	strongly disagree	
NHS Bristol	22.2%	30.6%	19.4%	11.1%	16.7%	100.0%
All other South West	13.3%	6.7%	20.0%	40.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Total	19.6%	23.5%	19.6%	19.6%	17.6%	100.0%

**41. I would find it easy to talk about safer sex and HIV with new sexual partners**

% within PCT area of residence

	I would find it easy to talk about safer sex and HIV with new sexual partners					Total
	strongly agree	agree	don't know / does not apply	disagree	strongly disagree	
NHS Bristol	30.6%	38.9%	13.9%	11.1%	5.6%	100.0%
All other South West	53.3%	46.7%				100.0%
Total	37.3%	41.2%	9.8%	7.8%	3.9%	100.0%

**42. I do not want to get HIV (if I haven't already got it [Among those who had NOT tested HIV positive])**

% within PCT area of residence

	I do not want to get or pass on HIV (not tested HIV positive)				Total
	strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	
NHS Bristol	41.4%	44.8%	10.3%	3.4%	100.0%
All other South West	100.0%				100.0%
Total	60.5%	30.2%	7.0%	2.3%	100.0%

**43. I think I am at risk of getting HIV [Among those who had NOT tested HIV positive]**

% within PCT area of residence

	Think I am at risk of getting or passing on HIV (not tested HIV positive)					Total
	strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree	
NHS Bristol	17.2%	51.7%	17.2%	3.4%	10.3%	100%
All other South West			7.1%	42.9%	50.0%	100%
Total	11.6%	34.9%	14.0%	16.3%	23.3%	100%

**44. I have the power to reduce my risk of getting HIV [Among those who had NOT tested HIV positive]**

% within PCT area of residence

	I have power to reduce risk of getting or passing on HIV (not tested HIV positive)				Total
	strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	
NHS Bristol	31.0%	44.8%	20.7%	3.4%	100.0%
All other South West	92.3%	7.7%			100.0%
Total	50.0%	33.3%	14.3%	2.4%	100.0%

**45. Desire for more sexual health and HIV knowledge**

% within PCT area of residence

	Desire for more sexual health and HIV knowledge		Total
	No	Yes	
NHS Bristol	2.8%	97.2%	100.0%
All other South West	35.7%	64.3%	100.0%
Total	12.0%	88.0%	100.0%

**46. Desire to learn about sexual health and HIV through reading**

% within PCT area of residence

	Desire to learn about sexual health and HIV through reading		Total
	No	Yes	
NHS Bristol	45.7%	54.3%	100.0%
All other South West	14.3%	85.7%	100.0%
Total	36.7%	63.3%	100.0%

**47. Desire to learn more about sexual health and HIV through talking to an individual**

% within PCT area of residence

	Desire to learn about sexual health and HIV through talking to an individual		Total
	No	Yes	
NHS Bristol	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
All other South West	57.1%	42.9%	100.0%
Total	30.6%	69.4%	100.0%

**48. Desire to learn more about sexual health and HIV through taking part in a group**

% within PCT area of residence

	Desire to learn about sexual health and HIV through taking part in group/workshop		Total
	No	Yes	
NHS Bristol	97.1%	2.9%	100.0%
All other South West	92.9%	7.1%	100.0%
Total	95.9%	4.1%	100.0%

**49. Heard of PEP**

% within PCT area of residence

	Heard of PEP		Total
	No	Yes	
NHS Bristol	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
All other South West	78.6%	21.4%	100.0%
Total	65.3%	34.7%	100.0%

**50. Willingness to use PEP [Among those who had NOT tested HIV positive]**

% within PCT area of residence

	Willingness to use PEP (among those who have not tested HIV positive)			Total
	No	Yes	Maybe	
NHS Bristol	3.6%	50.0%	46.4%	100.0%
All other South West	7.1%	71.4%	21.4%	100.0%
Total	4.8%	57.1%	38.1%	100.0%

<ENDS>