

BHA SEXUAL HEALTH TEAM



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023



During National HIV Testing week 2023, we launched our new community ambassador initiative and recruited three community ambassadors to organise events to engage the public and get people talking about all things sexual health, HIV, prevention and testing!

It was a massive success with our amazing community ambassadors running events at MMU (with the support of the BAME society), Manchester Central Library and Love Community Cafe in Salford.

Building on this success we are looking to expand our list of community ambassadors for future campaigns. So, if you think this is for you, get in touch!

Condoms are one of the best ways to protect yourself from HIV and STIs, but did you know you can order them for free from BHA?!

We have 10 different types available to make using a condom pleasurable and fun, so why not order a few and try some new ones out!?

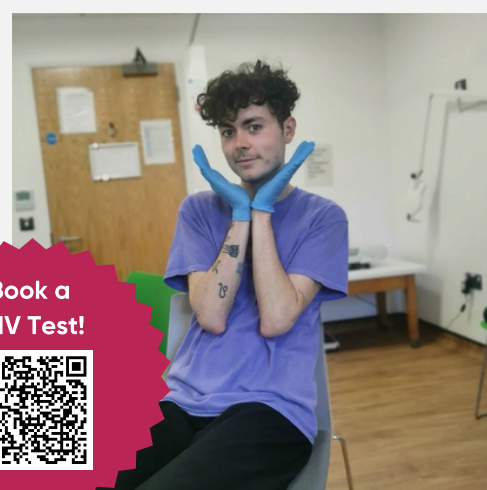
We are on a mission to make condoms as accessible as possible and can arrange regular condom delivery for community groups across Greater Manchester.

If you're interested in this email pash@thebha.org.uk

Order
Condoms!



Book a
HIV Test!



Book a
Home HIV test!



We now have FREE bookable HIV and STI testing available weekly in Trafford and Manchester as well as monthly in Salford, Bolton, Rochdale and Wigan.

Our appointments are not limited to 10 minutes, so if you need extra support we can spend time talking through the test and we will make sure you feel supported and ready to find out your test result.

Booking is quick, easy and doesn't require you to make an account or wait for appointments to become available.

The HIV test involves a tiny finger prick and only takes 1 minute to come back with a result.

We can also offer you a full STI screen with results texted or emailed to you in 2 weeks.

We're passionate that tackling racial health inequalities in sexual health is not just about being in the community, but also about working with mainstream health services, public health specialists, doctors, clinicians and nurses to make change.

That's why we've been delivering HIV training to doctors with our PaSH partners, LGBT Foundation and George House Trust.

This training has been really well-received and sparked good conversations about PrEP, referral pathways and how HIV can be best managed and diagnosed early.

We've also used these sessions to help doctors understand how fear and stigma around HIV operates in racialized communities.



We have a growing bank of FREE resources to read online, download or order in bulk for your clinic, space or community group.

Currently available are a guide to contraception, a guide to STIs and an information booklet about PrEP (a pill which prevents HIV).

Our contraception guide is also available in French, Arabic, Hungarian, Romanian and Ukrainian!

To order physical copies in bulk email pash@thebha.org.uk.



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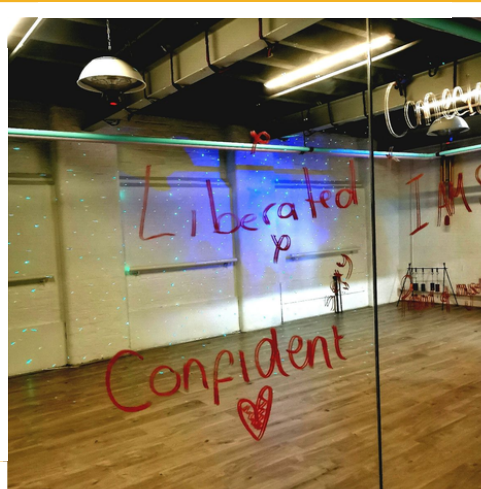


Data from the UK Health Security Agency consistently reports an inequality in STI diagnoses with people of Black Caribbean heritage facing disproportionately higher rates.

This is not down to ethnicity or biology and is an inequity which needs to be investigated and acted upon to prevent Black Caribbean communities from experiencing poorer health outcomes.

Last year we published a community research report with recommendations for clinicians and those in public health on how to address this. Through community focus groups we were able to get into the nuances behind the statistics and we are working with those funding and designing services to make changes.

STI INEQUALITIES FACED BY BLACK CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES: COMMUNITY RESEARCH REPORT



This April, we launched the SEXATION project which follows on from our 2022 project addressing STI inequalities faced by Black Caribbean communities. This new project aims to bring sexual health and creatives together to enable deeper, stigma-challenging conversations to happen among racialized communities in Manchester and Salford. The project launched in April with our first workshop in collaboration with womb healer and dance embodiment facilitator, Latrice Gray.

We LOVED every moment and it was powerful to bring Black women together and to use sensual dance to break down social conditioning around our relationships with sex, sexual health, sensuality and communicating with partners.

We can't wait for the workshops we have coming up which include collaborations with poets, PTs, barbers and a sound bath facilitator - but to all the creatives out there....we want to hear from you!

PrEP is a pill which prevents HIV and is now available for free through sexual health clinics.

However, there are currently significant inequities in access and low take up in Black communities. This is compounding the existing inequality in HIV outcomes as people of Black African heritage are more likely to be diagnosed late.

The racial inequities in access has been highlighted nationally by National Aids Trust in their report 'Not PrEPared' (2022) and it is an issue which is beginning to gain more interest.

Here at BHA, we are working hard to get out into the community and to understand the barriers to PrEP access in more depth. We are feeding this back to those funding and designing services, as well as to the wider HIV action sector, in order to make change.

To do this, we've been doing a series of focus groups and we have now set up a community panel with people of Black, Asian and Minoritized Ethnic heritages to get into the nuances of why PrEP uptake is low and what the barriers to access are.



On top of all our extra projects, we are still out there doing community outreach, attending festivals, events and running group sessions across Greater Manchester!

As a project we have a specific focus on HIV and HIV prevention but we approach sexual health in a holistic way and often deliver group sessions on navigating the health system as a non-English language speaker, safe sex, menopause, pleasure, body positivity, relationships, consent, talking to children about sexual health and more!

We have a busy summer coming up and you're sure to find us at an event near you!

If you have an event or group and would like us to come and do outreach, deliver HIV and STI testing or to do a group session on anything related to get in touch!



@the_BHA @BHA_for_Equality @bha_for_equality @bha_for_equality @BHA_for_equality

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