INTRODUCTION

- HIV disease is now a chronic, long term condition which may be associated with other chronic conditions, including hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, mental and neurocognitive disorders [1,2,3,4].
- Understanding the burden and pattern of comorbidities is important to developing appropriate models of care which meet the need of people living with HIV (PLHIV).
- We present the first population-level estimates of self-reported prevalence of selected co-morbidities in people living with HIV in England and Wales, and compare them with the prevalence of co-morbidities in the general population obtained from the Health Survey in England (HSE).

METHODS

- Positive Voices is a cross-sectional probability survey of the healthcare needs, lifestyle and sexual behaviours of PLHIV. The survey was piloted between May and November 2014 at 30 HIV clinics purposively sampled, using the SOPHID (Survey of Prevalent Infections Diagnosed) census. Randomly selected participants completed an online survey which included questions on socio-demographics, diagnoses of non-HIV comorbidities, and quality of life.
- Data were weighted to the age, sex, ethnic and risk group distribution in the SOPHID dataset, to improve representativeness. We calculated the frequencies of answer in the question: “Have you ever been diagnosed with...?”. From this we calculated adjusted prevalence of self reported comorbidities, and compared these to the prevalence of co-morbidities in the general population obtained from the Health Survey in England (HSE) 2012 (Data collected face to face interviews, and a visit from a nurse, including blood collection and measurements such as blood pressure)[5].

RESULTS

- 781 people living with HIV completed a questionnaire (response rate 22.5%).
- Self reported prevalence (ever diagnosed) comorbidities in our survey of PLHIV compared with the general population estimations of the HSE are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.
- Self reported comorbidities (ever diagnosed) of men who have sex with men (MSM) are compared with the rest of PLHIV people responding in our survey in Figure 2.

Table 1. Age specific prevalence (18 to 59), sex specific and total self reported comorbidities in PLHIV compared with the general population (HSE) (% and 95% CI) in England and Wales, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Depression-anxiety</th>
<th>High blood pressure</th>
<th>High cholesterol treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLHIV</td>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>PLHIV</td>
<td>General Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>28.7 (24.6-35.4)</td>
<td>17.4 (16.2-18.6)</td>
<td>12.5 (9.8-15.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>32.2 (25.1-40.2)</td>
<td>11.6 (10.5-12.7)</td>
<td>13.5 (10.6-17.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>24.5 (18.6-31.4)</td>
<td>16.5 (15.4-17.7)</td>
<td>13.3 (8.8-19.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>29.6 (24.5-33.4)</td>
<td>14.1 (13.3-14.9)</td>
<td>13.4 (11.0-16.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS

- There are limitations in the comparisons made due to the methodological differences of the two surveys, (i.e. HSE is face to face with a nurse while our was computer self administered).
- In keeping with other studies depression and treatment for high cholesterol appear higher in PLHIV compared to the general population.
- Hypertension appears to be similar in PLHIV compared with the general population.
- Depression-anxiety was the most prevalent self reported comorbidity among PLHIV and MSM in particular.
- The Positive Voices pilot successfully demonstrates that rates of comorbidities among PLHIV can be monitored at a population level to inform health planning and models of care.

REFERENCES


DISCUSSION

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- *Positive Voices Study Group

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  - Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
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  - St Mary's Hospital, Oxford
  - Southampton University Hospital
  - The James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough
  - Royal Blackburn Hospital, Blackburn
  - Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester
  - Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham
  - North Manchester General Hospital
  - Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham
  - Derriford Hospital, Plymouth
  - Great Western Hospital, Swindon
  - Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Walsall
  - Queen's Hospital, Burton on Trent
  - Queen's Hospital, Burton on Trent
  - Royal Liverpool Hospital, Liverpool
  - University Hospital, Walsall
  - Greenwich University Hospital
  - Warrington & Halton Hospitals
  - Royal Bolton Hospital, Bolton
  - Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester
  - Wrexham County Hospital, Wrexham

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