**Title:** Depression-Anxiety: the most prevalent co-morbidity among people living with HIV in England and Wales, 2014

**Abstract:**

**BACKGROUND.** HIV infection has become a long-term condition associated with other chronic conditions. We present the first population-level estimates of self-reported prevalence of selected co-comorbidities in people living with (PLHIV) in England and Wales. 

**METHODS.** ‘Positive Voices’ is a cross-sectional probability survey of healthcare needs and sexual behaviour in PLHIV, conducted between May and November 2014. We obtained a random sample of PLHIV from 30 HIV clinics purposively sampled, using the SOPHID (Survey of Prevalent Infections Diagnosed) census. Participants completed the online survey which included questions on sociodemographics, diagnoses of non-HIV comorbidities, and quality of life. Data was weighted to the age, sex, ethnic and risk group distribution in the SOPHID dataset, to improve representativeness. We calculated adjusted prevalence of comorbidities, and compared these to the prevalence of co-morbidities in the general population obtained from the Health Survey in England (HSE) 2012.

**RESULTS.** We obtained 779 questionnaires (response rate 26%). Prevalence of depression-anxiety among PLHIV was 27% (95%CI 22-34), (19% in women, 32% in men), higher than the HSE estimates for the general population: 14% (17%, 11%, respectively). Statin use for high cholesterol was reported by 19% (95% CI 16-22) of PLHIV (11% in women, 21% in men) compared with 9.4%, (8%, 11% respectively) in the general population. Prevalence of hypertension was 12% (95% CI 10-15) (13% in women, 12% in men) compared with 21% (22%, 21% respectively) in the general population. Age specific prevalence (18 to 59 years) in our survey was: depression 31% (95%CI 10-15) (13% in women, 12% in men) compared with 21% (22%, 21% respectively) in the general population. Age specific prevalence (18 to 59 years) in our survey was: depression 31% (95%CI 28-35), statin use for high cholesterol 15% (95% CI 13-18), and hypertension 13% (95%CI 11-16). Compared to the general population, respectively: 18% (CI95% 17-19), 9% (CI95% 9-10) and 16% (CI95% 15-17). Comparing by risk group, within our surveyed population, men who have sex with men (MSM) had a higher prevalence of all three co-morbidities (37% for depression-anxiety, 25% for high cholesterol, and 14% for hypertension).

**CONCLUSIONS.** Depression-anxiety was the most prevalent self-reported comorbidity among PLHIV and MSM in particular. In keeping with other studies depression and high cholesterol appear higher in PLHIV compared to the general population. Monitoring the changing pattern of comorbidities among PLHIV can inform health planning and models of care.