


How it all began



How and why we were founded and how we've developed as a charity.


Our name



[Terry Higgins](#) was one of the st people in the UK to die of an [AIDS](#)-related illness. He died aged 37, on 4 July 1982 at St Thomas' Hospital, London. By naming the trust after Terry, the founder members – his partner and friends – hoped to personalise and humanise AIDS in a very public way.

Setting the charity up



In 1982, after Terry's death, his partner Rupert Whitaker and his friends Martyn Butler, Tony Calvert, Len Robinson and Chris Peel met to discuss what could be done. The Terry Higgins Trust was subsequently set up by Martyn Butler and Rupert Whitaker with the intention of preventing others from having to suffer as Terry had. It focused on raising funds for research and awareness of the illness that was then called 'Gay-Related Immune Deficiency' (GRID).

 The following year, a public meeting about GRID was organised by London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard and the Terry Higgins Trust at which a small group of committed volunteers from a range of backgrounds came together. This included Tony Whitehead, who went on to become st chair of the trust's steering committee.

 August 1983, the trust was reborn as a formal organisation, Terrence Higgins Trust, with a constitution and a bank account. By November we were a limited company with a Board of Directors, and by January 1984 we had gained charitable status. We provided direct services immediately, including buddying/home-help, counselling, drug education and sex education.


We were the st charity in the UK to be set up in response to the HIV epidemic and have been at the forefront of the ght against HIV and AIDS ever since.


How we've developed

From its small beginnings in a at in central London, we have grown to become the UK's leading [HIV and sexual health](#) charity, and one of the largest in Europe. We have always been at the forefront of the ght against HIV and AIDS. Since we were formed, the needs of people living with and affected by HIV have been fundamental to our development.

Our roots were in the gay community and, for many years, the HIV epidemic in the UK affected mainly gay men. Nonetheless, we've always worked in an equal way with gay men, haemophiliacs, sex workers and drug users from the start.

As the shape of the epidemic here has changed, so has the charity. There are now around half as many African people living in the UK diagnosed with HIV as gay and bisexual men, though the largest group of new diagnoses continues to be men who have sex with men. So existing services have been developed and new services introduced to meet ever-changing needs.

But the involvement of people with HIV has remained constant, and volunteers and staff who are living with HIV have, and always will be, central to the charity. Of the people who work with us, more than half are drawn from the communities we serve. More than 10% of our employees are people living with HIV, 25% are from Black or other minority ethnic communities and more than a th are gay men.

In more recent years, the charity has also developed sexual health services – stly for people living with or at risk of HIV, and then more broadly for the general population, especially young

people who are most at risk of sexual ill health. Again, we have grown and evolved in response to the needs of people using its services.

Partnerships and mergers

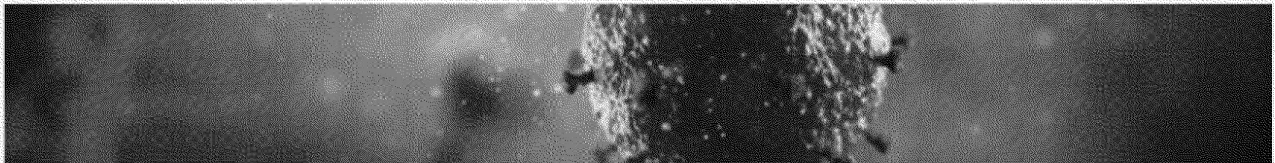
Terrence Higgins Trust has a strong record of collaboration with other agencies in both the voluntary and statutory sectors. We believe very firmly in the benefits of partnership working.

Since 1999 we have merged with several other organisations, both in London and further afield. This included Sussex AIDS Trust in Brighton, London Lighthouse and Cardiff AIDS Helpline. In 2006, a merger resulted in the launch of Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland. We now have around 225 staff and hundreds of volunteers.

These mergers have brought a wealth of expertise and experience, enabled the charity to provide services across England, [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#), and strengthened its response to HIV and other sexual health issues affecting the UK.

In 2010, we continued this strategy when we stepped in and quickly merged with the HIV charity Crusaid to ensure that its Hardship Fund remained available to help people living with HIV in greatest need.

During 2010 and 2011, we expanded our reach by working with the Eton John AIDS Foundation (also known as EJAf) to launch LifePlus, the UK's first national long-term condition management programme for people living with HIV.



HIV statistics

Statistics about HIV in the UK, including how many people are currently living with HIV.

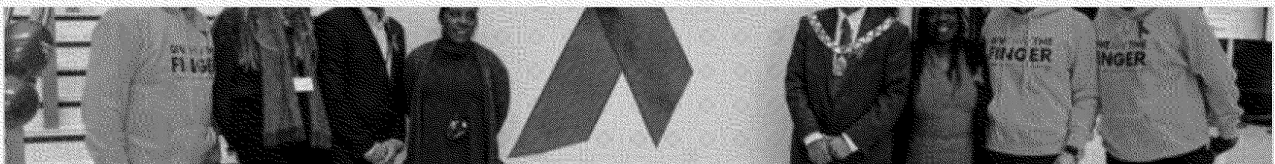
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Our campaigns

Find out what we're campaigning on and how you can help improve sexual health in the UK.

[Read more](#)



Can your organisation support us?

Many organisations support us through fundraising, grants and partnerships.

1980s

The founding and development of the charity in the 1980s.



Donate Now 

Public meeting at Conway Hall, 1983 (Robert Workman Archive, Bishopsgate Institute)

1981

- First cases of 'Gay-Related Immune Deficiency' (GRID) are identified in the United States.

1982

- Terry Higgins dies at St Thomas' Hospital. The Terry Higgins Trust is set up.
- GRID is renamed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) after the same immune deficiency syndrome is found in Haitians and heterosexual women.

1983

- Three thousand AIDS cases have been reported in the USA with 1,000 dead.
- London Gay Switchboard and the Gay Medical Association hold a public meeting about AIDS at Conway Hall.
- A second public meeting is held at the London Apprentice in August – we're reborn as the Terrence Higgins Trust.
- The first Terrence Higgins Trust health promotion leaflet is published, and the first appeal for Buddies is made.
- France's Pasteur Institute discovers lymphadenopathy associated virus (LAV). Researchers believe causes AIDS, meaning that it is an infectious condition.

- Television programmes *Panorama* and *Horizon* run documentaries about the new disease.
- Scottish Aids Monitor (SAM) is set up to educate gay men about the threat of HIV and AIDS.

1984

- Terrence Higgins Trust becomes a registered charity and we move into our first office: one room at Panther House in Mount Pleasant.
- The Helpline starts up, operating from 8pm to 10pm on weekdays.
- We form Europe's first People with AIDS (PWA) support group, and our first national conference, 'AIDS UK 84'.
- In the US, Dr Robert Gallo isolates the retrovirus called HTLV-III, which is also believed to cause AIDS.
- HIV genetic variations are discovered, making the development of a vaccine more difficult.
- The first European AIDS conference is held.
- By the end of 1984, there have been 108 AIDS cases and 46 deaths in the UK.

1985

- We apply to the Greater London Council (GLC) for a £17,000 grant to pay staff salaries. Westminster Council challenges the validity of the GLC's decision to award Terrence Higgins Trust a grant and is overruled by the High Court.
- The first Terrence Higgins Trust candlelight vigil is held in Trafalgar Square.
- We rent a second room in Panther House and employ our first two full-time paid members of staff. One of them is Nick Partridge, who went on to become our chief executive.
- The first meeting takes place between Terrence Higgins Trust and the government.
- Scientists agree that the LAV and HTLV-III viruses are the same.
- The Department of Health publishes its first advice on AIDS to medical practitioners.
- The Health Education Council produces its first literature on AIDS.
- Actor Rock Hudson dies with AIDS.
- Body Positive, the first UK self-help group for people with HIV, is founded in London.
- AIDS reported in 51 countries.
- First report of the transmission of the virus from mother to child through breastfeeding is published.
- An HIV test is developed and blood donation centres start screening for HIV.
- GUM clinics start offering HIV testing.
- HIV arrives among the drug injecting population on the east coast of Scotland and the introduction of a number of punitive measures around needle possession rapidly generate an HIV epidemic. Subsequent prevention strategies, including the introduction of a network of needle exchanges and methadone maintenance programmes, lead to the successful containment of the epidemic.

1986

- The Legal Services Group is set up to offer legal consultancy to clients.
- Interfaith Group, Women's Group and Family Support Group are set up.
- We produce our first safer sex video, *Gearing Up for Safer Sex*, with Clean Out.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) launches its global AIDS strategy.
- UK government sets up a Cabinet Committee on AIDS.
- The government launches its first AIDS health education campaign, 'Don't Aid Aids', which has little public impact.
- John Fitzpatrick is appointed our first chief executive.

1987

- Terrence Higgins Trust moves to Gray's Inn Road in King's Cross, London.
- We employ our first health education officer, health information officer, volunteer coordinator and legal officer.
- Stephen Fry produces 'Hysteria', a comedy benefit for Terrence Higgins Trust.
- The government launches the 'Don't Die of Ignorance' campaign and delivers the campaign leaflet to every household.
- Our phone number is listed as a source of information and advice on the government leaflet.
- Princess Diana opens the first specialist AIDS hospital ward in England at Middlesex Hospital.

- UK HIV organisations Positively Women and the National AIDS Trust are launched.
- The Football Association warns players not to use communal baths or to swap shirts at the end of a game.
- The AIDS memorial quilt is started by San Francisco gay rights activist Cleve Jones, who made the first panel in memory of his friend Marvin Feldman.
- Photographs taken by John Sturrock of people living with HIV/AIDS on the Muirhouse Housing Estate, Edinburgh, serve as the initial inspiration for the Positive Lives project.

1988

- We employ our first welfare rights officer.
- The Helper Cell Group is formed to provide practical help to people with HIV.
- *Tales of the City* author Armistead Maupin signs copies of his books at our offices to raise funds.
- We release 1,000 balloons to commemorate the first [World AIDS Day](#) on 1 December, roughly matching the number of recorded UK AIDS cases in 1987.
- London Lighthouse opens as a residential and support centre for people with HIV.
- British insurers call for HIV tests for all men seeking policy cover of more than £50,000.

1989


- 'Hysteria 2', a Terrence Higgins Trust fundraising event produced by Stephen Fry, is broadcast on Channel 4, together with a Terrence Higgins Trust telethon.
- The government's Cabinet committee on AIDS is disbanded.
- Foundation of Frontliners, the UK's first PWA organisation run for and by people with HIV.
- Robert Mapplethorpe, the American photographer, dies with AIDS.



1990s

What we worked on and how we developed as a charity.

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1990s

What we worked on and how we developed as a charity.

1990

- Terrence Higgins Trust employs our st gay men's health education officer, housing officer, women's officer and solicitor.
- The 6th International Conference on AIDS is held in San Francisco amid protests about the US immigration policies banning entry to the US of HIV infected immigrants, aliens and short-term visitors. Many groups and organisations boycotted the conference, including Terrence Higgins Trust.
- The red ribbon is launched as an international symbol of AIDS awareness.

1991

- Our st [World AIDS Day](#) street collection raises £25,000.
- Freddie Mercury dies of AIDS.


Basketball star Magic Johnson announces he has HIV.

The National Audit Office shows that millions of pounds allocated for AIDS have been misspent on other programmes by health authorities.

1992

- Rock group Queen presents Terrence Higgins Trust with the initial proceeds from *Bohemian Rhapsody* (£974,000) at the Ivor Novello Awards Ceremony.
- THT Helpline extends its operating hours to 12pm-10pm.
- The living will is launched, now usually referred to as an [advance decision](#), the result of a joint project with King's College.
- Tennis player Arthur Ashe announces his HIV diagnosis.
- Benetton uses an image of a man dying of AIDS to advertise its clothes and receives widespread criticism.

1993

- Health Minister Virginia Bottomley cuts funding for Terrence Higgins Trust by two-thirds.
- An auction of Elton John's record collection raises £182,000 for Terrence Higgins Trust.
- 'Positive Lives' photographic exhibition opens at the Photographer's Gallery.
- Tony Whitehead, the st Chair of Terrence Higgins Trust, is canonised by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.
- To mark our 10th anniversary, Jonathan Mann gives a lecture on human rights and HIV.
- The UK Coalition of People living with HIV and AIDS is launched in London.
- Russian ballet star Rudolf Nureyev dies of AIDS.
- Arthur Ashe dies of AIDS.
- Results of the European Concorde Drug Trial on AZT announced showing some limitations to its effectiveness as an early treatment.

1994

- Paul Gambaccini launches the fundraising initiative the '300 Club' at the charity premiere of *The Age of Innocence*.
- The government's £64 funding to Terrence Higgins Trust, London Lighthouse and AIDS Ahead is cut.

- Health Minister Julia Cumberlege blocks a £2m Health Education Authority safer sex campaign and suspends all of its sexual health work.
- Film-maker Derek Jarman dies with AIDS.
- Tom Hanks wins an Oscar for playing an HIV positive gay man in the film *Philadelphia*.
- A project manager with Scottish AIDS Monitor launches the first comprehensive gay men's health project in the UK.

1995

- The number of AIDS diagnoses in the UK reaches 10,000. More than 25,000 people in the UK are now living with HIV.
- The 300 Club reaches its fundraising target of £300,000.
- Terrence Higgins Trust and Crusaid create a joint hardship fund.
- The Treatment Action Taskforce is formed and Positive Times and Positive Nation are launched.
- The results of the clinical trial 'Delta' confirm that combining the drug AZT with ddI or ddC is far more effective than AZT on its own.
- The World Health Organisation global programme on AIDS is closed as planned, attracting widespread criticism.

1996

- We launch our first website and become a founder member of the Telephone Helplines Association.
- The Community HIV and AIDS Prevention Strategy (CHAPS) is launched.
- The first Terrence Higgins Trust Christmas fundraising event is held at Selfridges, Oxford Street.
- Terrence Higgins Trust, African Advocacy Foundation and ATP launch a campaign to ensure availability of the new treatments: the 'It's Not Over' campaign.
- UNAIDS replaces the WHO global program on AIDS.
- Protease inhibitors, a new class of HIV drugs, are widely discussed at the Vancouver AIDS conference, giving new hope for effective treatment.
- Triple combination therapy using protease inhibitors becomes standard treatment, replacing dual therapy.
- Heavyweight boxer Tommy Morrison is identified as having HIV after being tested prior to a fight, and as a result is barred from the ring everywhere.
- The viral load test is developed, providing information about disease progression.

1997

- The Terrence Higgins Trust Legal Services Group receives an award for 'Best Pro Bono Activity'.
- We employ our first health promotion officer for African people.
- Tony Whitehead is awarded an MBE for his services to Terrence Higgins Trust.
- Helpline is awarded health services accreditation as a quality service to the public.
- 30 million people living with HIV worldwide but death rates fall dramatically with the advent of effective combination treatment.
- It becomes apparent that the new drugs can have some serious side effects.

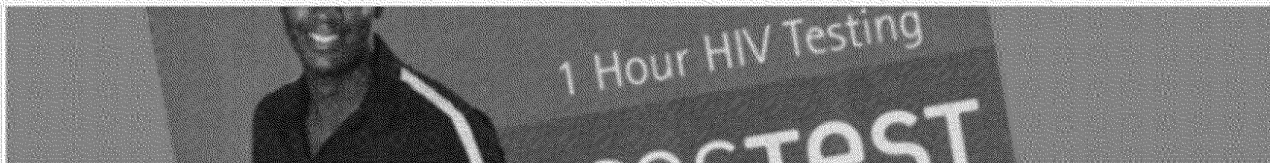
1998

- Our African health promotion team is established and we win a national African health promotion resources contract.
- London Lighthouse closes its residential unit in response to decreased need.
- Jonathan Mann, the first director of the Global Program on AIDS, dies in an air crash along with his wife, the AIDS researcher Mary-Lou Clements-Mann.
- The first human trial of an AIDS vaccine starts, using 5,000 volunteers from across the USA.
- In South Africa, an AIDS activist is beaten to death by her neighbours after revealing her HIV positive status on TV.

1999

- Chief executive Nick Partridge awarded an OBE for services to people with HIV and AIDS.

- Terrence Higgins Trust leads mergers with Bridgeside in Leeds, HIV Network in Coventry, Sussex AIDS Trust in Brighton, OxAIDS in Oxford and, later in the year, with counselling organisation Red Admiral Project in London.
- Launch of the 'It's Prejudice that's Queer' campaign.
- The World Health Report lists AIDS as the fourth biggest killer worldwide, only 20 years after the epidemic began.
- The number of new HIV diagnoses in the UK among heterosexuals exceeds those among gay and bisexual men for the first time.
- Russia's official AIDS prevention centre reports a 12-fold increase in new HIV cases in Moscow.
- The inaugural 'Diana, Princess of Wales, Lecture on AIDS' is held in London, given by Ko Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations.
- In the UK a judge orders that a baby born to a mother with HIV be tested for HIV against her father's wishes.
- 33 million people are estimated as living worldwide with HIV/AIDS.
- The Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales are formed with responsibility for devolved matters such as health, education, justice, rural affairs and transport.



2000s

What we worked on and how we developed as a charity.

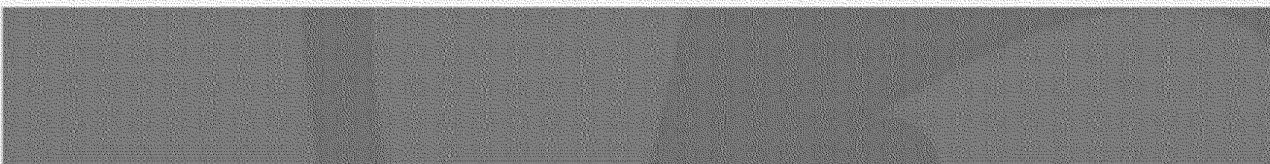
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Jobs

Find out about working at Terrence Higgins Trust and view our current staff vacancies.

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2000s

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2000

- Merger with the Bristol-based Aled Richards Trust in April and the London Lighthouse in October indicates the change in service needs since the introduction of effective [HIV medication](#).
- We're now a national organisation known as Terrence Higgins Trust, with London service centres known as Lighthouse.
- A new UN report suggests that over one third of current 15-years-olds will die of AIDS in worst-affected countries.
- South African President Thabo Mbeki expresses the view that he is unsure the HIV virus is the sole cause of AIDS and refuses to consider allowing treatment to avoid [transmission in pregnancy](#).
- In South Africa, 1,500 people are infected with HIV every day.

2001

- Landmark HIV centre transfer of services to Lighthouse South London.
Innovative South London HIV Partnership is launched.
We publish a groundbreaking report showing links between social exclusion and HIV.
[THT Direct](#), a new telephone advice service, launches as a pilot in London.
Living Well with HIV services launched (a specialist team to support the health and well-being of people living with HIV).
- Former US President Bill Clinton gives the second 'Diana, Princess of Wales, Lecture on AIDS' in London.
 - The [first](#) person to be tried under Scottish law for [culpable and reckless conduct](#) in transmitting HIV is found guilty.
 - One in four people newly diagnosed with HIV in the UK are infected with a viral strain at least partly resistant to antiretroviral drugs.
 - UK government launches the [first](#) national strategy for sexual health and HIV.
 - China acknowledges its AIDS crisis (600,000 people infected with HIV).
 - The Treatment Action Campaign wins its case as a South African court orders government to provide Nevirapine to all pregnant mothers living with HIV.
 - 12 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are orphaned by AIDS.
 - Globally, nearly 3 million people are newly infected with HIV this year.
 - 33 million people are living with HIV worldwide.
 - The UN launches a Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria.

2002

- 20th Anniversary of Terry Higgins' death and the founding of Terrence Higgins Trust.
- We publish our campaigning manifesto *20 Things*, outlining what the government could do to improve the lives of people with HIV.
- Terrence Higgins Trust launches the Black Gay Equality Scheme, specifically focused on challenging homophobia in BME communities.
- UK government scraps ringfenced funding for HIV prevention work as new [figures](#) show numbers diagnosed with HIV are rising.
- UNAIDS reports that half of all adults living globally with HIV/AIDS are women.
- Globally, HIV is the leading cause of death of those aged 15 to 59.

2003

- We open new centres in Wolverhampton and Essex.
- This year also sees the launch of our e-campaigning with a renewed call for an end to the US entry restrictions for people with HIV.
- The [first](#) person in England is [prosecuted and convicted](#) for the reckless transmission of HIV.
- New HIV infections around the world in 2003 reach [five](#) million, the greatest number in a single year since the epidemic began.
- WHO announces the '3 by 5' initiative, which aims to provide AIDS drugs to 3 million people in poor countries by 2005.
- President George W. Bush authorises \$15 billion in funding over [five](#) years to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in 12 African and two Caribbean countries.
- T-20 (Fuzeon), the [first](#) in a new class of anti-HIV drugs called 'fusion inhibitors', is licensed for use in advanced HIV in Europe and the United States.

2004

- In partnership with NHS Chelsea and Westminster, we open the [first](#) Fastest HIV testing clinic at Lighthouse West London, offering test results in one hour.
- Over 20 million people have died of AIDS around the world since 1981.
- We publish *Blueprint for the Future*, a vision for redesigning sexual health and HIV services.
- Department of Health publishes new regulations that mean failed asylum seekers and undocumented migrants no longer get free HIV treatment.
- Department of Health publishes the white paper *Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier*. The paper includes a commitment to spend an extra £300m on sexual health over the next three years.
- [Truvada](#), a once-daily combination tablet containing two anti-HIV drugs, is licensed in the European Union.
- The FDA in the US approves a saliva-based AIDS test, which provides screening results with over 99% accuracy in only 20 minutes.
- G8 leaders unite to demand the creation of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, a consortium of government and private sector groups to coordinate efforts to [find](#) a vaccine for HIV.

2005

- Our booklet on [PEP](#) wins a BMA award for high quality patient information.
- We open a new centre in Shropshire.
- Global Network of People living with HIV/AIDS Europe, Terrence Higgins Trust and UNAIDS produce a report on criminalisation of HIV transmission across Europe.
- A House of Commons Health Select Committee report recommends lifting restrictions on access to free HIV treatment for failed asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.
- Government names sexual health as an NHS priority during 2005/06.
- In December, civil partnerships between same-sex couples are legalised in the UK.
- New HIV diagnoses reach over 7,800 in the UK in 2005. This is the peak of the epidemic so far.
- Scotland's [first](#) sexual health strategy, *Respect and Responsibility*, is published, with £15 million made available by the Scottish Executive to implement it.

2006

- Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland is launched with offices in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness.
- We launch Netreach, a new service offering sexual health advice to users of the gay personals website Gaydar.
- First prosecution for the reckless transmission of HIV between gay men in the UK.
- The Treasury reduces VAT on [condoms](#) to 5%, one of Terrence Higgins Trust's *20 Things* campaigns.
- 16th international conference on HIV and AIDS opens in Toronto, with Bill Gates saying the key to stopping the AIDS pandemic lies in giving women the power to protect themselves.
- On [World AIDS Day](#), the US proposes changes to entry regulations that will mean people with HIV no longer need a special visa to travel to the USA, another of Terrence Higgins Trust's *20 Things* campaigns.

- First collaboration between pharmaceutical companies to produce a triple drug combination in one pill. Atripla is licensed in the US and expected to be licensed in Europe in 2007.

2007

- We launch our highly influential PEP campaign 'Act Fast', doubling gay men's awareness of the treatment in just one year.
- Terrence Higgins Trust's Young Leaders project start a sex and relationships education project for young people across England.
- We also launch the first ever university certificate course in gay men's health promotion in conjunction with the University of East London.
- Our first long-term condition self-management course for people living with HIV starts in Bristol, with a follow up in Brighton and Hove.
- New figures from UNAIDS show that global HIV prevalence has levelled off and the number of new infections has fallen, in part as a result of HIV programmes.
- Although new diagnoses in the UK fall slightly, prevalence is still high among gay men and Black African people.
- 'Sex Facts', Terrence Higgins Trust's online sexual health question and answer service targeted at young people, is unveiled.
- The US Food and Drug Administration approves a new class of HIV drug, the integrase inhibitor Raltegravir.
- We respond to the growing HIV epidemic in the Midlands by opening an office in Nottingham.
- Levels of ignorance about HIV are still alarmingly high, as revealed by a survey commissioned by Terrence Higgins Trust to mark the 25th anniversary of Terry Higgins' death.

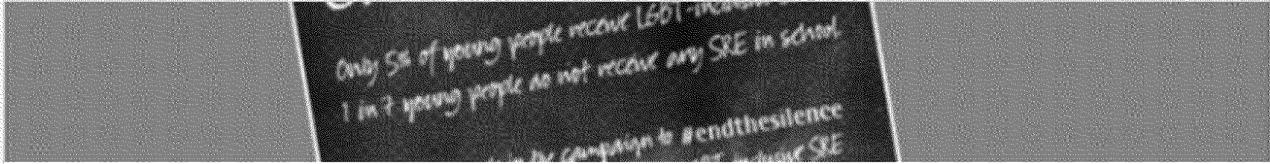
2008

- UNAIDS estimates around 33.5 million people are living with HIV globally, despite reductions in new infections.
- A seven-year £6 billion initiative is launched by the Department for International Development to tackle the epidemic overseas.
- We launch *Play Zone*, a new code of good practice for saunas and other venues where sex between men might happen.
- Crown Prosecution Service issues guidelines on criminal prosecution for HIV and other STI transmission, clarifying how investigations should be conducted in an effort to have more consistency in how justice is administered.
- Health promotion websites Hard Cell and Drugfucked are set up by Terrence Higgins Trust to tackle specific health issues for gay men.
- THT Direct introduces face-to-face accredited advice appointments for people living with HIV.
- 'Get It On', our new safer sex campaign, is launched with 50,000 condoms distributed at Pride in London.
- Our health trainer service begins in London with long-term condition management health support given by a specially trained team.

2009

- Our chief executive Nick Partridge is awarded a knighthood for his work in tackling HIV and AIDS in the UK.
- We publish *Out in School*, an anti-homophobia educational resource.
- Our Young Leaders project wins this year's Brook Award for Best UK Sexual Health Project of the Year.
- Peterborough HIV Support Service merges with Terrence Higgins Trust.
- Terrence Higgins Trust and National AIDS Trust produce a guide explaining criminal prosecutions to people living with HIV in England and Wales.
- A coalition of HIV organisations in the UK, including Terrence Higgins Trust, publish a framework for social care focusing on better living for people with HIV in England.
- We launch a City and Guilds course in understanding HIV and AIDS.
- An experimental HIV vaccine for the first time cuts the risk of infection in the largest ever such trial reducing the risk of contracting HIV by nearly a third. The study was carried out by the US Army and the Thai government.

- Terrence Higgins Trust and sexual health partner organisations launch 'Shout Loud', a local in [counselling](#) campaign.
- Prime Minister Gordon Brown issues a message to mark World AIDS Day, making a commitment to increase [HIV testing](#).



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2010s

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2010

- President Barack Obama's administration's official lifting of the [HIV travel ban](#) to the USA is finally implemented.
- A man in Scotland is sentenced to jail for 10 years for infecting his girlfriend with HIV, later reduced to eight years. Twenty-two people were [prosecuted](#) for reckless HIV transmission in the previous decade.
- The [Equality Act](#) comes into effect in the U.K making indirect discrimination unlawful and ending employers asking pre-employment health-related questions to people living with HIV.
- We launch a free sex and relationships guide book for young people, schools and colleges, *Everything you need to know about... Relationships*.
- Crusaid, one of the UK's best known HIV and AIDS charities, merges with Terrence Higgins Trust, preserving the Hardship Fund, a safety net for people with HIV living in poverty.

A Terrence Higgins Trust campaign highlights a new study showing that one in seven men on the gay scene in London has HIV.

50 plus, a new Terrence Higgins Trust study about HIV and ageing, is launched with findings showing that [older people with HIV](#) face multiple disadvantages in terms of health and chances.

A new report on poverty and HIV by National AIDS Trust and Terrence Higgins Trust reveals at least one in six people diagnosed with HIV in the UK experienced severe poverty between 2006 and 2009.

2011

- In January we launch the myHIV website with support from EAF. Within its first month more than 650 people register for full access to the website, 500 of whom join its online [myHIV forum](#).
- The first patient cured of HIV, Timothy Ray Brown, is confirmed as having a negative HIV status, years after a bone marrow transplant for leukaemia resulted in him becoming resistant to the virus.
- 5 June marks the 30th anniversary of the first AIDS cases, then called GRID, being reported.
- Lisa Power, policy director for Terrence Higgins Trust, receives an MBE from Prince Charles for services to sexual health and to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.
- We run our first 'Walk for Life' fundraiser after the merger with Crusaid, raising £100,000 pounds for people living with HIV in poverty.
- The lifetime ban on gay men [donating blood](#) in the UK is lifted after a review by the blood authority involving Terrence Higgins Trust and other HIV and LGBT organisations.

2012

- We mark the 30th Anniversary of Terry Higgins' death. Messages of support are received from Princes William and Harry.
- The Department of Health awards Terrence Higgins Trust and partner organisations a [contract to prevent HIV infections](#) among men who have sex with men and African communities in England.
- This year sees the launch of the first National HIV Testing Week for England, and two new guides with health and wellbeing advice for transgender people – the first of their kind in the UK.

- We also launch our [Back to Work scheme](#), helping long-term unemployed people living with HIV gain skills and experience to re-enter employment.
- [THT Direct](#) reduces opening hours due to loss of government funding. The service remains open during weekdays thanks largely to donations.
- We complete our TalkSafe project, a three-year Lottery-funded sexual health and emotional well-being project for young Londoners.
- Following much campaigning by Terrence Higgins Trust and partner organisations, a change in law granting asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and visiting students in England access to HIV treatment for free on the NHS comes into effect.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the first over-the-counter [HIV test](#), allowing Americans to test themselves for HIV in the privacy of their homes.
- The FDA announces approval for HIV negative people to take [PrEP](#) (using the drug Truvada) to prevent sexual transmission of HIV.
- Australia is the first country to offer the [HPV vaccine](#) to boys; we continue to campaign on the issue.

2013

- Sir Nick Partridge steps down as Chief Executive of Terrence Higgins Trust after 28 years of service.
- We launch [It Starts with Me](#), a new two-year HIV prevention campaign in England.
- A new ['Fits Me' condom tool](#) is introduced to help people find the best condom for them.
- Our first [HIV home sampling kits](#) pilot in England.
- The [Conscient Families](#) project launches at Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland, providing practical and emotional support to people who are living with or are affected by HIV.
- Our lobbying, supported by [our members'](#) campaigning, ensure that HIV diagnosis and chlamydia screening are part of the Public Health Outcomes Framework and therefore priorities for local decision-makers.
- The British HIV Association (BHIVA) states that successful antiretroviral treatment (ART) used by a person who is HIV positive is as effective as consistent condom use in limiting HIV transmission.
- The World Health Organisation revises its guidelines to now recommend providing HIV treatment for people with a [CD4 count](#) of 500.
- San Francisco is the first city to report that people over age of 50 living with HIV make up the majority of those living with the virus.
- UNAIDS reports that new HIV diagnoses and AIDS-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa are continuing to decline, with more people receiving treatment.

2014

- We hold our first ever [HIV Prevention England](#) conference, with Public Health Minister Jane Ellison as one of the speakers.
- Terrence Higgins Trust secures Big Lottery funding for a number of major projects, including the Health, Wealth and Happiness programme supporting older people living with HIV across five cities, plus the Back to Work and Faith and Communities projects. All the projects will be funded for three years.
- We publish our *Guide for Delivering Services for Older People*, designed to provide professionals with the knowledge and skills to better commission, design and provide appropriate health and social care services.
- We launch our [HIV and Poverty](#) report, providing insight into the reasons why some people living with HIV are living in poverty.
- Home HIV testing is legalised in April. We re-launch our postal testing kits in England. Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland launches the first ever postal testing service in that nation.
- Two European [PrEP](#) trials report that treatment is effective at preventing HIV transmission to HIV-negative participants.
- The PARTNER Study demonstrates the effectiveness of Treatment as Prevention (TAsP), reporting zero transmissions from HIV positive participants on treatment with [undetectable viral load](#) to HIV negative partners.
- After more than 20 years, the ban on people living with HIV working as dentists, midwives or in other healthcare jobs was lifted by the Government.

2015

- The [1st Champions of Change](#) launches in the Midlands, using in [essential](#) 'champions' within Black African communities to tackle HIV stigma.
- Following in the footsteps of our successful back to work programme Work Positive, our Sex Workers and New Ambitions Project (SNAP) launches to help participants into alternative work.
- We use our position at the head of the Pride parade in London to campaign for [PrEP availability on the NHS](#) with 'Stop HIV, PrEP Now' banners and launch an accompanying Facebook page.
- The World Health Organisation revises [its guidelines](#) to recommend HIV positive people are put straight on treatment following diagnosis. The British HIV Association (BHIVA) also issues [new guidelines](#) [PDF].
- We hold our [1st](#) ever Condom Week to encourage [condom](#) use and help gay and bisexual men and Black African people to [find](#) the best condom for them using our [Fits Me quiz](#).
- Our lobbying results in the [HPV vaccine](#) being extended to MSM up to the age of 45 in GUM clinics. We continue to campaign for a Quadrivalent vaccine to be given to all boys.
- Actor Charlie Sheen 'comes out' as HIV positive and undetectable in a TV interview. Following widespread coverage and interest, our website has its busiest day of the year.
- A review of [blood donations](#) was announced, which we had been calling on to make sure that the recommendations for maintaining a safe blood supply are up-to-date. This includes a six-month ban for MSM and lifetime bans for sex workers and intravenous drug users.

2016

- Ian Green is appointed as Chief Executive.
- We join other HIV charities and professional bodies, including Metro, National AIDS Trust and BHIVA to protest against proposed cuts to HIV services. This is in response to increasing numbers of local authorities withdrawing funding.
- For the [1st](#) time in the history of London LGBT Pride, HIV and sexual health charities joined forces as United4PrEP to march together in the parade to show united support for [pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#) as a game changer for HIV prevention.
- Our Health, Wealth and Happiness project hosted a conference in London for the [1st](#) ever generation growing older with HIV.
- Northern Ireland's lifetime blood donation ban for men who have sex with men is lifted and the government in England announces a review of current blood donation bans for men who have sex with men, former sex workers and people who used to inject drugs.
- We worked with over 900 young people to launch a report highlighting the poor quality of Sex and Relationships Education young people across the UK receive.
- We launch a pilot offering nearly 5,000 free HIV self testing kits to gay and bisexual men and Black African people.
- Prince Harry tested for HIV live on Facebook – causing a surge in the number of people ordering a self test as part of our pilot. The Prince announced he is to make raising awareness of HIV a priority, following in the footsteps of his mother Diana, Princess of Wales.
- The London boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark cut many of their HIV support services, despite having the highest HIV prevalence in the UK.
- NHS England claims it doesn't have the power to provide [PrEP](#) through its specialised commissioning process and that responsibility lies with local authorities.
- NHS England is taken to court and it is ruled that it does have the legal ability to commission PrEP – a decision which is upheld in the Court of Appeal.
- It's not over – we marked [World AIDS Day](#) by acknowledging how far we've come in the [fight](#) against HIV, but how far we've still got to go. Our polling shows that knowledge of HIV hasn't kept up with medical advances – with 30% of Brits still believing you can contract HIV from sharing a toothbrush with an HIV-positive person.
- NHS England announces a PrEP trial for 10,000 people.
- Following pressure from Terrence Higgins Trust and Stonewall Cymru, the Welsh government announces a review of sexual health services in Wales, a new Sexual Health Programme Board to consider the priorities for sexual health in Wales, the establishment of an independent HIV expert group to consider the potential of PrEP, and a new opt-out system for blood-borne viruses (including HIV, hep B and hep C) in prisons in Wales.

2017

- Jonathan McShane is appointed as the new chair of the [board of trustees](#).
- We run a second self testing pilot, making nearly 2,000 more free HIV tests available.

- We launch a new report – [Uncharted Territory](#) – into the experiences of people 50 and over living with HIV. The research shows a wealth of different experiences for the first ever generation growing older with HIV, including concerns about money, health and loneliness. Over half of the respondents were living in poverty.
- After decades of campaigning, a law is passed to make [sex and relationships education](#) compulsory in all schools in England.
- Men who have sex with men up to the age of 45 become eligible for a free [HPV vaccination](#) on the NHS when they visit sexual health clinics in Wales.
- The lifetime ban on former and current sex workers donating blood is lifted after we push for [changes in donation rules](#), which also include a reduction in the deferral period for gay and bisexual men to three months.
- Ahead of the General Election, we join forces with 20 other organisations to launch an HIV manifesto, calling on the UK Government to stand with people affected by HIV. We then welcome the subsequent commitments in the party manifestos on various HIV issues.
- We invite women affected by HIV to tell us their experiences as we launch the year-long [Women and HIV: Invisible No Longer](#) project.
- We announce Beverley Knight, Lord Cashman and Lord Black as new [patrons](#).
- The Welsh Government announces a three-year trial to make [PrEP](#) available to those who need it.
- Public Health England (PHE) publish figures showing an 18% decrease in HIV diagnoses in the UK in 2016.
- Prince Harry attends the opening of our [HIV self test pop-up shop in Hackney](#) to launch National HIV Testing Week, and later our World AIDS Day fair in Nottingham.
- During National HIV Testing Week, more than 15 MPs give HIV the finger by having a test and meeting people affected by HIV.
- Our World AIDS Day theme is revealed as See Red: 'The colour red represents solidarity, love, activism and remembrance. The more we see red, the sooner we will end the HIV epidemic.'
- PHE announces the start of a three-year PrEP trial in England starting in October, with 10,000 places available.

2018

- The PARTNER 2 study confirms that people living with HIV on effective treatment can't pass it on.
- Following two successful pilots, we launch our [nationwide HIV self testing service](#).
- We release a major report to conclude our [Women and HIV: Invisible No Longer](#) project after hearing from over 350 women living with HIV.
- We relaunch our main website, fully updating all content and ensuring it works across all devices.
- Sexual health services across England continue to face cuts to public health spending, with demand outstripping supply.
- We step up our [PrEP campaigns](#) to ensure more people can access [PrEP](#), both through the capped trial in England, resulting in an additional 3,000 places, and by working to increase uptake of the uncapped PrEP study in Wales.
- We help shape the first guidance on sex education in nearly 20 years, ensuring compulsory lessons in England are LGBT-inclusive.
- In Wales, we secure a win with the Welsh Government, confirming Relationships and Sexuality Education will be a mandatory part of the new curriculum.
- The [HPV vaccine](#) is confirmed to be rolling out to boys in England, Scotland and Wales, following our years of campaigning.
- Figures show that new HIV diagnoses are continuing to fall in the UK but 43% of people with HIV are still being diagnosed late.
- Our Mags Portman PrEP Access Fund opens to help 1,000 people who could otherwise not afford it to buy PrEP.
- We launch our 'Give HIV the Finger' message for National HIV Testing Week.
- Wales becomes the first part of the UK to commit to zero new HIV infections by 2030.
- A [special performance of The Inheritance](#) on World AIDS Day raises awareness and funds for our work.
- The [UK reaches the UN's 90-90-90 HIV target](#) which was set for 2020.
- Following the closure of the Macfarlane Trust, its assets transferred to Terrence Higgins Trust and we took on the responsibility to [support former Macfarlane beneficiaries](#).

2019

- The UK Government commits to [ending new HIV transmissions in England by 2030](#) in an announcement by Health Secretary Matt Hancock.
- We launch a three-year project, funded by the National Lottery, to [revolutionise beneficiary involvement](#) for the whole charity sector.
- NHS England supports an official proposal from researchers for the PrEP trial to double in size to 26,000 places, but this is soon hit by further delays.
- MPs back plans for LGBT-inclusive Relationships and Sex Education lessons in all secondary schools, plus inclusive Relationships Education lessons in all primary schools. Lessons will have up-to-date information about HIV.
- Reductions in sexual health budgets over the previous years lead to soaring rates of STIs, in particular syphilis and gonorrhoea.
- We set up the [HIV Commission](#) with the National AIDS Trust to deliver a set of ambitious and achievable recommendations to end new HIV transmissions in England by 2030.
- The Government announces it will be increase public health budgets. We say it's a step in the right direction after years of consecutive spending reductions.
- Former Wales rugby captain Gareth Thomas [speaks publicly about his HIV status](#) for the first time, leading to a spike in people ordering HIV tests and contacting [THT Direct](#).
- We work with Gareth and The Duke of Sussex to turn the media's spotlight on the importance of everyone getting tested and knowing their HIV status, including a film to mark National Testing Week.
- Gareth Thomas is [announced as an HIV Commissioner](#).
- We hold a [Sexual Health Manifesto Twitter day of action](#), asking parliamentary candidates how their parties will prioritise sexual health if they are elected.



How it all began

How and why we were founded and how we've developed as a charity.

[Read more](#)



Our governance

How our membership, trustees and staff work together to deliver our strategy.

[Read more](#)



Raise money

Support our work by raising vital funds – from organising a Ribbon Walk or shaving off your hair! Get inspired to organise your own event or take on a UK trek or running challenge!

2020s

What we worked on and how we developed as a charity.

2020

- We launch our major report [The State of the Nation](#) setting out the challenges facing the nation's sexual health, with services under-funded and over-burdened.
- We expand our online services and support channels in response to the coronavirus outbreak, with more free counselling for people living with HIV, online events, HIV self tests and condoms by post.
- We publish advice by Dr Michael Brady not to hook up for sex during COVID-19 lockdown, and on how to manage the risks of COVID-19 if you do have sex.
- Our head office in London moves to new premises on Caledonian Road, close to our previous address in King's Cross.
- Gareth Thomas launches the [Tackle HIV](#) campaign, for which we're the charity partner, to help address stigma associated with HIV. He also [becomes a patron of Terrence Higgins Trust](#).

Donate Now

We set up new sexual health services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

As part of Black History Month, we launch our PrEP Protects campaign to ensure Black African people aren't left behind in the fight against HIV.

We launch [My Community Forum](#), a dedicated online space to meet others living with HIV, which replaces our myHIV forum set up in 2011.

After further delays, [PrEP](#) becomes available free and uncapped on the NHS in England from sexual health clinics, starting in October. It's also now available through sexual health clinics in Scotland and Wales.

- On World AIDS Day we highlight the need for more women to participate in routine testing for HIV. We also launch a COVID-safe remembrance hub online to remember those lost to the HIV epidemic.
- The [HIV Commission's recommendations](#) to end HIV transmissions by 2030 are [backed by Government and the opposition](#).
- Our refreshed and hugely expanded information on [trans-specific sexual health](#) launches online.

2021

- We [successfully lobby](#) to give people living with HIV the option to access the COVID-19 vaccine through their HIV clinic.
- The UK Government announces an independent review into compensation for those infected and affected as part of the [Contaminated Blood Scandal](#).
- *It's A Sin*, the Channel 4 series about the AIDS epidemic set in the 1980s and 1990s, is broadcast.
- National HIV Testing Week, postponed from 2020, is hugely successful with a record-breaking number of HIV postal tests distributed.
- [New eligibility rules for blood donation](#) come into force in June with a much-needed move to more individualised risk assessment, allowing more gay and bisexual men to safely donate blood in the UK.
- Philip Normal's T-shirts inspired by *It's A Sin* [raise £500,000 for our life-changing work](#).
- Lord Chris Smith, the first HIV positive MP, joins a wide variety of people to appear on posters as part of our stigma-busting Life Really Changes campaign.
- We mark Black History Month by celebrating our Black staff, volunteers and allies and the impact they have in addressing HIV in the UK.
- We win at the [Proud Scotland Awards](#) for our work in Scotland during COVID-19 lockdowns.

- We successfully campaign for the UK Government to change the rules that predominately impacted Black people of African heritage from donating blood and plasma.
- Through our lobbying efforts we secure a Government commitment of £20 million for opt-out HIV testing in England. When the Department of Health and Social Care's HIV Action Plan is launched, it includes a recommendation-by-recommendation response to the HIV Commission's (co-founded by us).
- We work with a member of the Armed Forces to secure historic change in policy: (a) ending the ban on people living with HIV entering the forces, (b) ending the ban on people who are on PrEP entering the forces, (c) ending the 'limited medically deployable' status faced by serving personnel living with HIV, and (d) getting a commitment by the Ministry of Defence for greater investment in HIV prevention services for military personnel.
- We launch our Principles for Fair Compensation for those impacted by HIV through contaminated NHS blood products in the 1980s. It is submitted to Infected Blood Compensation Framework Study led by Sir Robert Francis QC.

2022

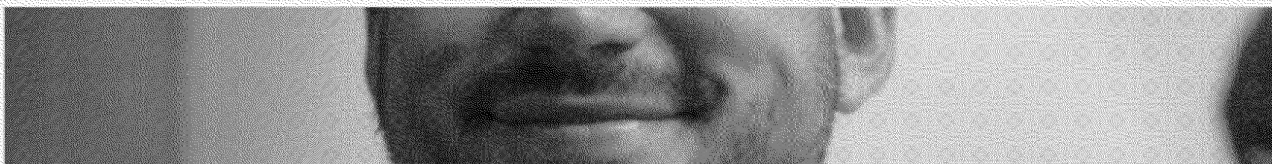
- We secure a public-facing campaign by NHS Blood and Transplant to raise awareness about the rule changes for Black donors and encourage more donors to come forward.
- We launch Wales' first PrEP promotion campaign, along with the Welsh Government. The campaign is fully bilingual.
- With LGBT+ and HIV sector partners, we lead the protest at the Government's refusal to legislate for a trans-inclusive conversion therapy ban and pull out of the UK-Government hosted 'Safe To Be Me' global LGBT conference. The conference is cancelled in the following days.
- At the start of April, opt-out HIV testing becomes routine at A&E departments in London, Brighton and Manchester.
- We launch our new Together We Can strategy, setting out our mission over the next three years.



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