

# Telling Rules

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**george house trust**  
still life with HIV



# Telling Rules

Time for Fresh View, Fresh Response



## Who Tells?

### Fresh View & Fresh Positive Response

**"disclosure" is dysfunctional**

*unbalanced, unreliable, ineffective, inconsistent, stigmatising*

**STOP** talking about *"disclosure"*

**TALK ABOUT**

*"talking about HIV / STIs"* instead

**ALL NEED TO TALK about HIV**

# Who Tells?

CHAPS – Making It Count, 2010

4.1 9 risk choices in sex

**choice 3: "Telling our sexual partners about our HIV & STI status"**



*NOT "HIV + disclosure"*

*NOT "HIV+ only"*

# Telling Choices

3 CHAPS choices



**Say Nothing**

*or*

**Mislead**

*or*

**Tell** sexual partners about HIV & STI status

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## Who Tells?

CHAPS Making It Count: Choice 3



- **Talking / Telling status is for ALL**

**CHAPS Strategic Goal:** For men to make the **choices** which give rise to the **best sex**, with the **least harm for others**, and **for themselves**

**Support Better Choices in Telling**

## Dysfunctional Disclosure

- **MOST negative / undiagnosed men** unthinking, choose silence  
**silence : nothing said**
- **MOST men who test negative** only have past-the-sell-by-date HIV status  
**out-of-date status to tell**
- **MANY undiagnosed men** have never had a test result  
**no test to tell**
- **MOST negative / undiagnosed men** only expect **diagnosed** men to tell  
**'my right' to be told**

## Dysfunctional Disclosure



- undiagnosed men  
**dubious status information; normally silence**
- HIV+ diagnosed men  
**definite, useful status information; may not tell**

**'value' of status information varies : HIV+ men's information is valuable, but there's no 'fair' exchange with undiagnosed men**

## Telling Difference?

**Does telling** (negative, uncertain, untested, positive)  
**make any difference to men's sexual risks?**

**Evidence unclear**

**too many other things affect sexual risk-taking**

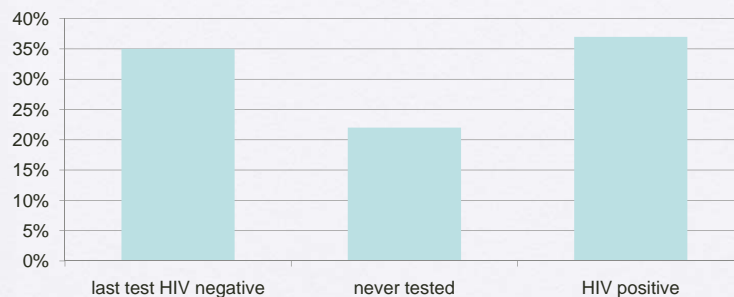
## Risks Taken, so Talk & Tell

**1 in 4 men**  
**Fucked bare with UNKNOWN STATUS men**  
**in last 12 months [GMSS 2008]**  
**UNDIAGNOSED DON'T TALK, DON'T TELL**



## Risks Taken, so Talk & Tell

**1 in 3 men**  
**Fucked bare with men KNOWN HIV NEGATIVE**  
**in last 12 months : GMSS 2008**  
**NOTE Some men definitely have HIV,**  
**even men with the strongest negative convictions**  
**Undiagnosed : risk infect**

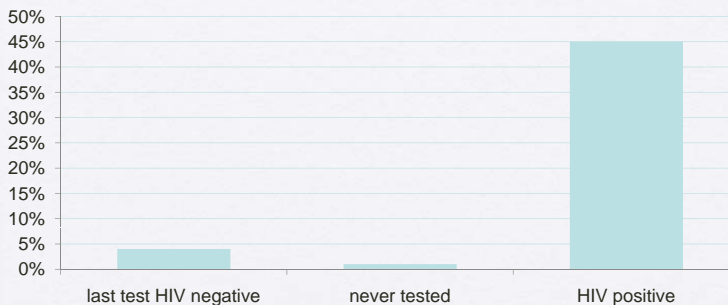


## Risks Taken, so Talk & Tell

**1 in 3 men**

**Fucked bare with HIV POSITIVE men  
in last 12 months [GMSS 2008]**

**A few undiagnosed take risks with men known HIV+  
Some HIV+ men choose HIV+ partners**



## Risks Taken, so Talk & Tell

- Some UNTESTED men **rely on disclosure** by HIV+ men and **then avoid anal sex**
- But Disclosure is Dysfunctional  
Men **CANNOT rely on the truth** of what they are told, by untested, undiagnosed, or positive
- Most **UNTESTED men get HIV from men they believe are HIV negative** – and some pass it on

## Risks Taken, so **ALL** Talk & Tell

- More HIV / STI status Talking & Telling is worthwhile
- Talking & Telling is **for ALL – end the silence of untested and undiagnosed men : a new norm**
- Talking & Telling means **HIV conversations**

## Awareness, Respect & Testing

- Talking & Telling means **Better AWARENESS, Less STIGMA**
- Talking & Telling means **RESPECTING HIV+ men**
- Talking & Telling needs **MORE TESTING to work well**
- Talking & Telling is **RELAXED & Open Ended, *not* fixated with HIV Disclosure**

## Risks Taken, so **ALL** Talk & Tell

- Talking & Telling  
**Doesn't prevent HIV**
- Disclosure is Dysfunctional  
**WARN men not to rely on status disclosed – Relying is Risky**
- Someone's  
**Words are No Condom**

## Discussion & Questions

- What about moral obligations to tell?
- What about the law?
- How will CHAPS implement choice 3 : *"Telling our sexual partners our HIV/STI status"*?

# Thank You



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