

# WHAT FACTORS IMPACT OUR HEALTH? UNDERSTANDING DISPARITIES

Why is your health status different from mine? Health varies based on neighborhood, education, sexuality, gender and more. These differences are health disparities - they're unfair and cost us all. *Achieving Health Equity: A Roadmap To Eliminating Disparities*, a report conducted by Economist Impact and sponsored by ViiV Healthcare, explores opportunities that could be created if we could eliminate health disparities in the UK and US over the next 20 years.

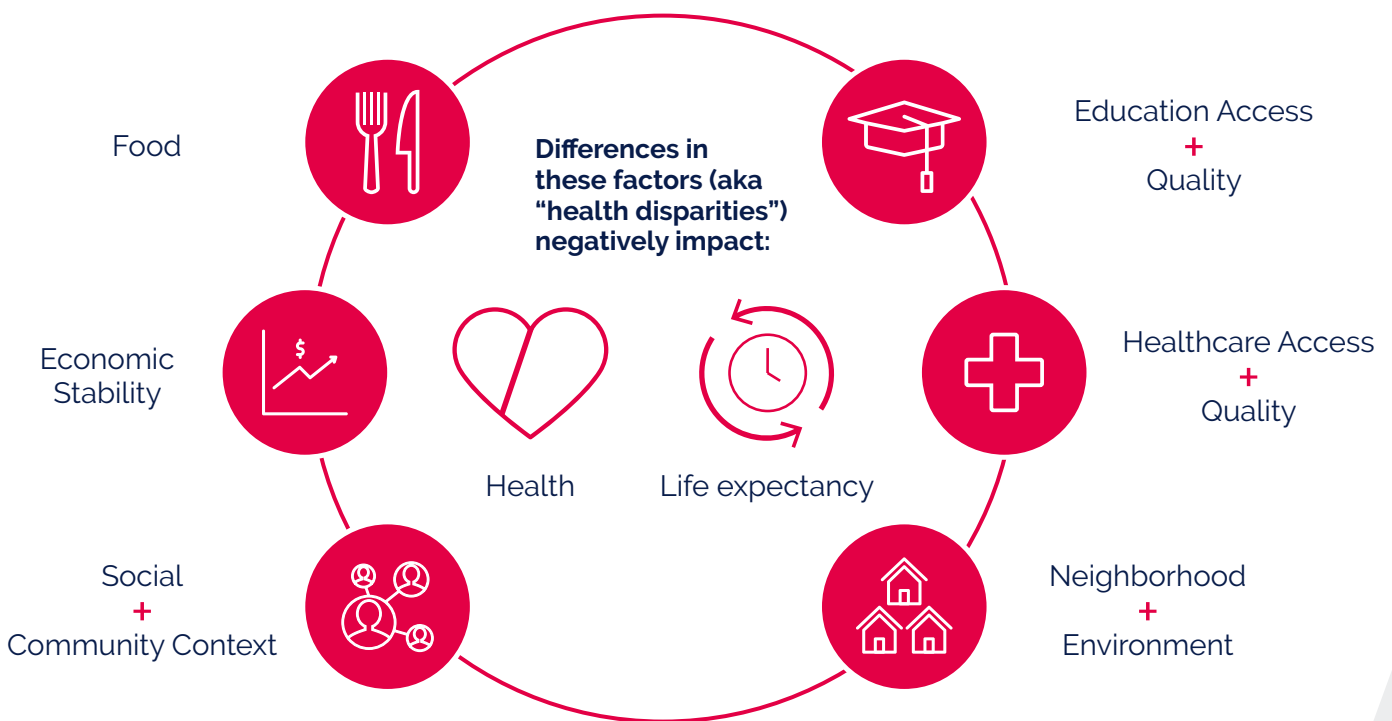
The report uses the connections between the COVID-19 pandemic, HIV + STIs and mental health as a window to view the reality of health inequities and aims to break the cycle of repeated discussion of disparities and instead focus on how society can take action.

Visit [viiVhealthcare.com](http://viiVhealthcare.com) to download a copy of *Achieving Health Equity: A Roadmap To Eliminating Disparities*

## HEALTH DISPARITIES 101

Health disparities are avoidable and unfair differences in the health of people in particular groups. These differences tend to overlap, making them difficult to address.

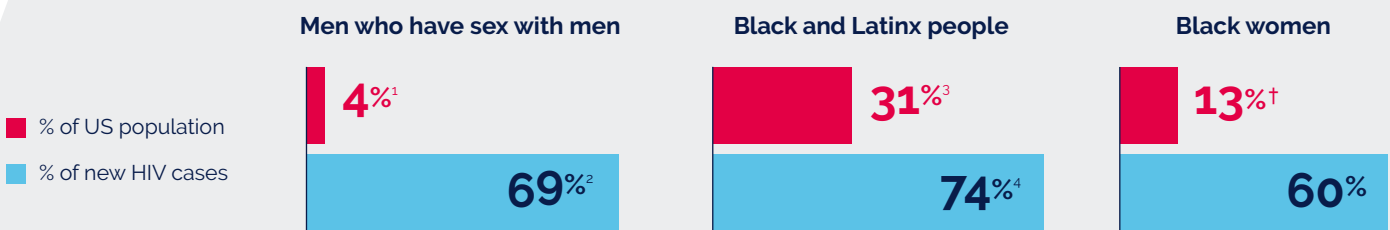
### Many Factors Impact Our Health



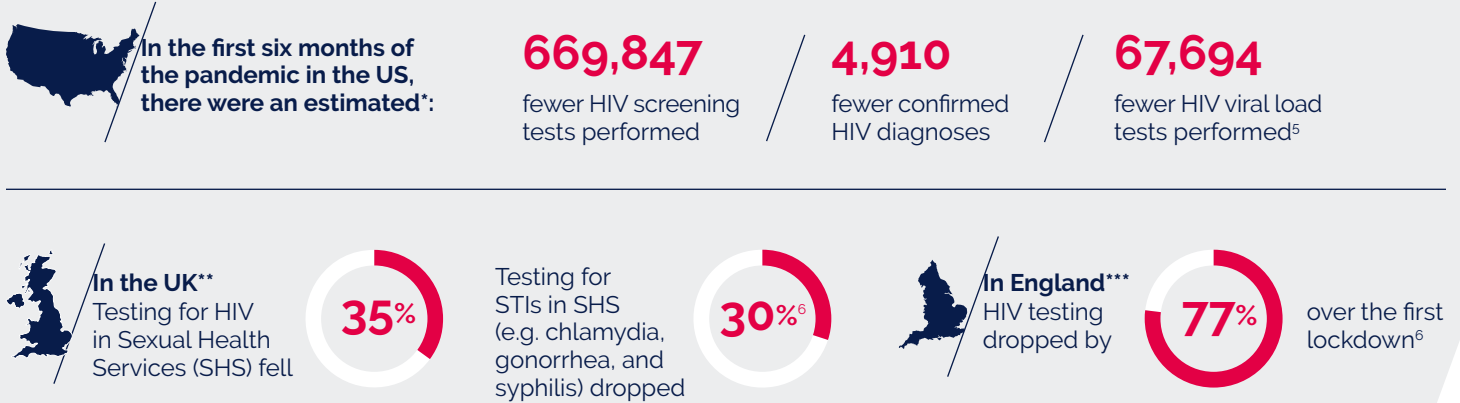
## DISPARITIES IN HIV, MADE WORSE BY COVID-19

During the HIV epidemic there have been huge gaps in the type and quality of healthcare people get, related to age, racial, and ethnic groups, as well as between sexual and gender identities. The epidemic has been defined by the prevalence and interconnected nature of these gaps, including the stark differences in HIV outcomes.

### HIV: A Disease of Disproportionate Impact



Existing health disparities for people living with HIV have worsened during COVID-19, negatively impacting access to testing, treatment, and medication adherence.



**Footnotes:**

<sup>†</sup> black women account for 13% of the population of US women  
<sup>\*</sup> as compared with the number of tests performed in 2019  
<sup>\*\*</sup> from January to September 2020 as compared to same timeframe in 2019  
<sup>\*\*\*</sup> between March and May 2020 as compared to same timeframe in 2019

## THE COST OF HEALTH DISPARITIES

Disparities create unfair economic and social circumstances that place a significant burden on healthcare systems and impact millions of individuals in the US and UK.



1 Purcell D et al. Estimating the population size of men who have sex with men in the United States to obtain HIV and syphilis rates. *The Open AIDS Journal* 2012; 6(Suppl 1: M6): 114-123  
 2 HIV.gov. U.S. Statistics - Fast Facts. <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/data-and-trends/statistics>. Accessed September 20, 2021  
 3 US Census Bureau. Quick Facts. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>. Accessed September 20, 2021  
 4 CDC.gov. HIV - Basic Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/statistics.html>. Accessed September 20, 2021  
 5 Delaney, Kevin P. "IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON COMMERCIAL LABORATORY TESTING FOR HIV IN THE UNITED STATES." CRIQ, National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project, 6 Mar. 2021. [www.natap.org/2021/CROI/croi\\_163.htm](http://www.natap.org/2021/CROI/croi_163.htm).  
 6 PHE. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on prevention, testing, diagnosis and care for sexually transmitted infections, HIV and viral hepatitis in England. London: Public Health England, 2020. Available from: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/943657/Impact\\_of\\_COVID-19\\_Report\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/943657/Impact_of_COVID-19_Report_2020.pdf).  
 7 <https://altarum.org/RacialEquity2018>  
 8 The Equality Trust. The Cost of Inequality. 2014. Available from: <https://equalitytrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/The%20Cost%20of%20Inequality.pdf>. Accessed September 2021.