# London man jailed for 17 years over deliberate HIV transmissions via dating apps



A 42-year-old man from London has been sentenced to 17 years in prison after deliberately infecting multiple sexual partners with HIV, in a case that has raised serious concerns about online safety and public health. Jonathan Carl, who engaged in sexual activity with approximately 400 men between 2019 and 2023, used dating apps to meet his targets, according to the Metropolitan Police. The investigation was triggered when two victims came forward in 2022 and 2023, but police have since identified 82 victims, of whom several have tested positive for HIV. Authorities fear many more, potentially over 300, may still be unaware of their exposure, creating an urgency around testing and treatment efforts.

Law enforcement officials have expressed grave concern for the health and wellbeing of those still unidentified. The lead investigator urged anyone who might have been exposed to seek medical testing and support promptly. The case has reignited debate around the responsibilities of digital platforms in protecting vulnerable users and highlighted the need for robust prevention measures. Health experts and advocacy groups are calling for enhanced awareness campaigns emphasising the importance of early diagnosis and treatment in curbing the spread of HIV.

This disturbing incident echoes previous cases in the UK involving deliberate HIV transmission. In 2018, Daryll Rowe, a 27-year-old hairdresser from Brighton, was sentenced to life imprisonment after he infected five men and tried to infect others via the Grindr dating app between 2015 and 2016. Rowe’s actions were described by the judge as a "determined, hateful campaign of sly violence," underscoring the severity with which such offences are viewed by the courts.

Other cases have similarly drawn attention to the harms caused by intentional transmission. For example, a man in Leicester received a four-and-a-half-year prison sentence for knowingly infecting his partner between 2006 and 2008. Another older case involved a man convicted of deliberately infecting two women with HIV between 1997 and 2000, highlighting that this issue is not new but remains deeply troubling.

These repeat incidents underline persistent challenges in HIV prevention, particularly the complexities surrounding consent, disclosure, and digital meeting environments. There is a growing consensus among health professionals and rights organisations that alongside legal deterrents, education and safer-sex messaging tailored to the realities of online interaction are pivotal. Encouraging open dialogue about HIV status and improving access to testing remain critical elements in protecting sexual health.

The recent sentencing of Jonathan Carl serves as a stark reminder of the potential risks tied to digital dating and the grave consequences of predatory behaviour. It also prompts reflection on the balance between personal responsibility and the role of technological platforms in safeguarding users, especially within the LGBTQ+ community that frequently utilises these apps for connection. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-24061547> - A 32-year-old man from Leicester was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison for knowingly infecting his former partner with HIV. The man, who cannot be named, was found guilty of one count of grievous bodily harm between 2006 and 2008. During the trial, the court heard that the man was diagnosed in 2004 and spread the virus because he felt he did not deserve to have HIV. The victim, who met the defendant when she was 16, only found out she was infected when medical staff told her. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-24061547?utm_source=openai))