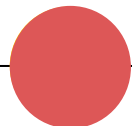


# Lessons learned from the HIV pandemic to strengthen qualitative research methods for (re)emerging infections



**Emily Jay Nicholls**, Marthe Le Prevost, Davide Bilardi, Nadia A. Sam-Agudu, Chibueze Adirieje, Chinye Osa-Afina, Esther Esekwe Amadosi, Sarah Denford, Tom May, T. Charles Witzel, Shema Tariq.



Figure 1: A Timeline of Monkeypox



- May 2022: cases of monkeypox in several non-endemic countries without travel to endemic areas
- July 2022: WHO declare monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern
- December 2022: Named mpox



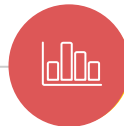
# 87,858

Cases of mpox globally since 01/01/22

# 51.9%

Diagnoses in people living with HIV

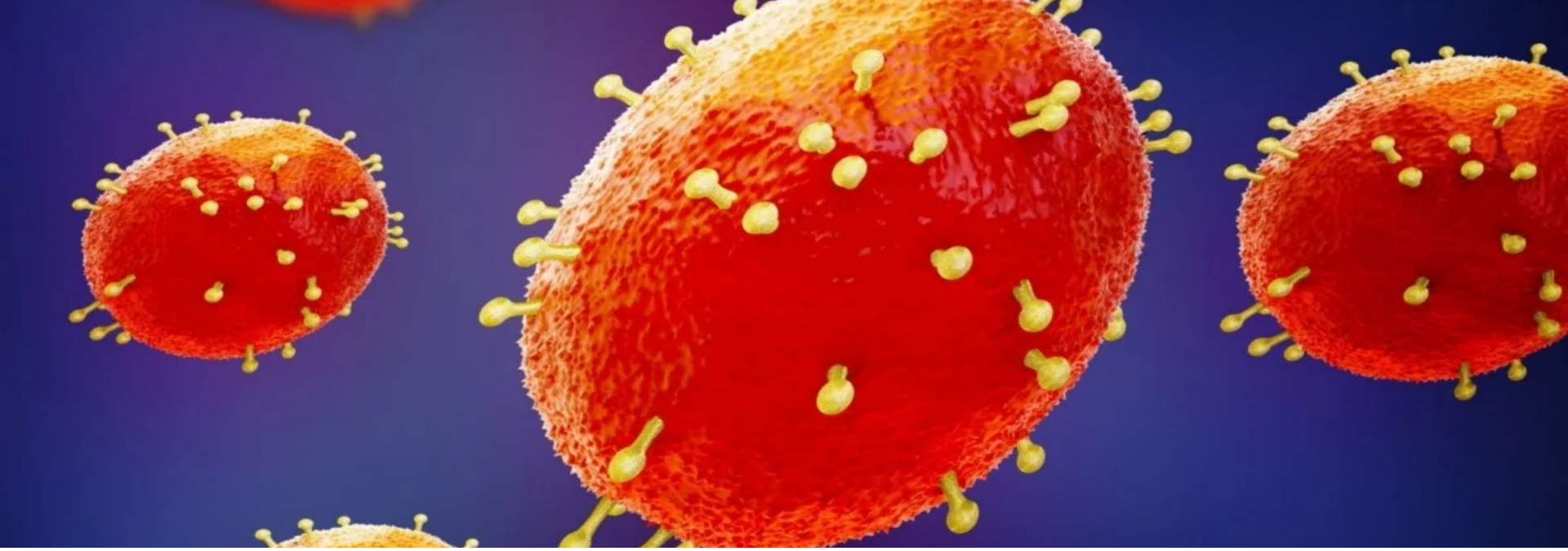
# 143 deaths



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Source: [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx\\_global/#2\\_Global\\_situation\\_update](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/#2_Global_situation_update) (accessed 05/06/23)





**To develop contextual understanding of the lived experiences of mpox in order to inform prevention, clinical care and support**



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## **The VERDI Consortium**

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- ⦿ Consortium of 28 research centres of excellence globally
- ⦿ Research on COVID
- ⦿ Pivot to mpox following declaration of public health emergency of international concern
- ⦿ Focus on pandemic preparedness



## **Qualitative research team**

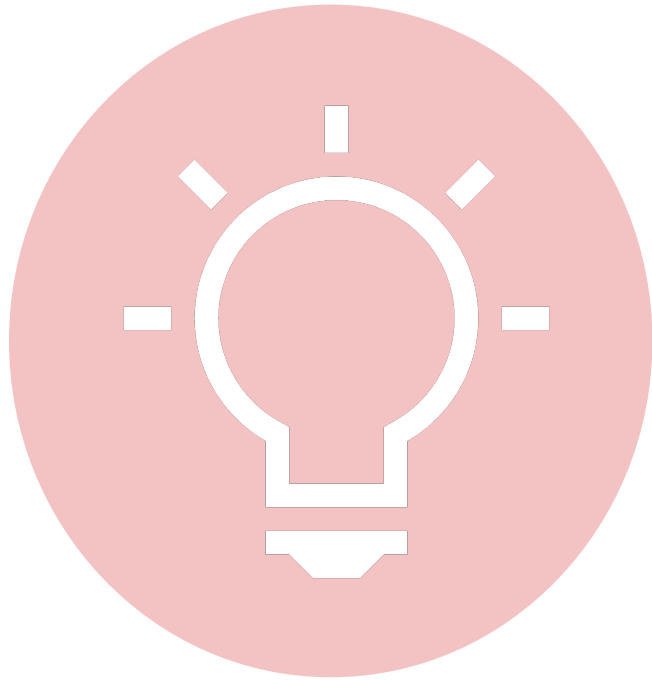
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- ⦿ HIV and sexual health researchers in UK, Italy and Nigeria
- ⦿ Qualitative and mixed methods researchers
- ⦿ Social science, clinical and public health expertise
- ⦿ Working collaboratively including on comparative analyses



## Lessons from HIV research

- The importance of robust qualitative data to understand complex phenomena
- Role of stigma and behaviour change
- The role of language and media representation in popular understandings and experiences of health issues
- Importance and value of community involvement
- Interdisciplinarity and collaboration





Print media



Social media



Focus groups



Interviews



Photography

UK



Nigeria








Italy








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	Target population/source of data	Focus
 Print media	Newspaper articles	Discourse analysis of language and representation, including time trends, language, themes, dissent and agreement
 Social media	Twitter, TikTok and/or Facebook	Time trends, mapping, themes, visual material, hashtags, influencers
 Focus groups	Communities affected by mpox	Information, policies and messaging including sources of information, impact of outbreak, attitudes towards transmission-reducing behaviour
 Interviews	Nigeria: Older adolescents (15-17 years), parents, key stakeholders UK: People with recently acquired mpox	Experiences of mpox, including mental health, stigma, experience of transmission reduction strategies, healthcare access and experience, wellbeing and support
 Photography	People with recently acquired mpox (UK)	Experiences of mpox including stigma, support, wellbeing

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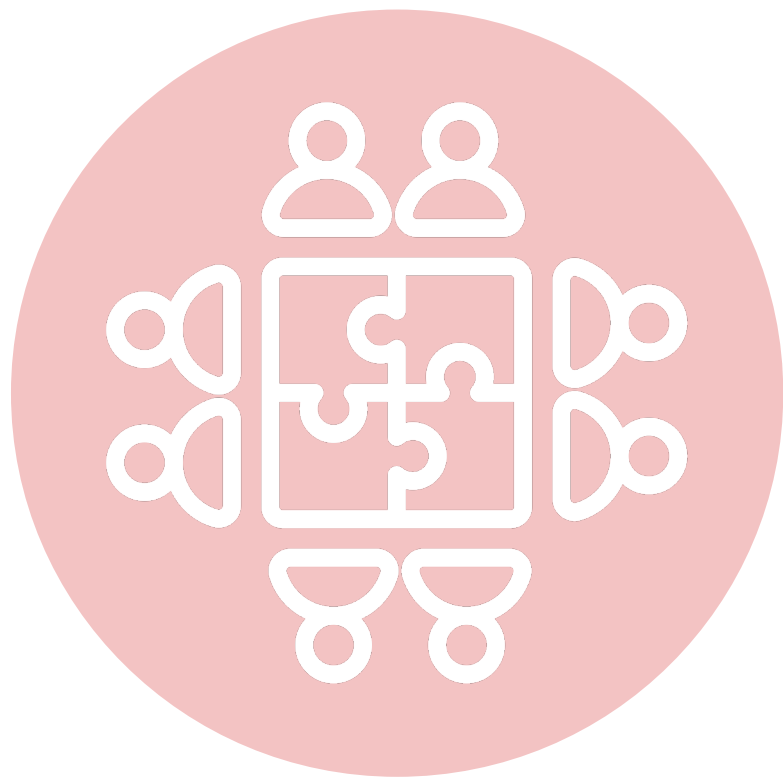
## **Pandemic preparedness**

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Establishing structures and systems to enable rapid response to (re)emerging infections using robust qualitative methods:

1. Establish collaborations and community partnerships
2. Build network of collaborating sexual health clinics
3. Develop management structure and procedures, including developing standard operating procedures for all tasks
4. Capacity and team building: qualitative research training and experience
5. Methodological innovation and modular research design





## **How our team works:**


- Co-led by UK and Nigeria
- Regular meetings within and between national teams
- Shared community advisory board (with representation at UK, Nigerian and European level)
- Adapting research methods to local context
- In the spirit of generosity and collaboration!





## Funded by the European Union

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 @ejnicholls\_

 emily.nicholls@ucl.ac.uk