# Police appeal after Hornchurch man’s HIV transmission scandal implicates hundreds



An appeal has been issued by the Metropolitan Police for potentially hundreds of victims to come forward following the conviction of Jonathan Carl, a 42-year-old man from Hornchurch, who was jailed for 17 years for rape and the reckless transmission of HIV. The case has raised significant alarm due to the scale of Carl’s offending and the public health risks involved.

Carl was convicted of one count of rape and grievous bodily harm after being found to have knowingly transmitted HIV to numerous sexual partners. The investigation began in January 2024, following allegations by two men who reported being raped in August 2023 and October 2022. Subsequent digital forensics, including an analysis of Carl’s mobile phone, social media, and dating app activity, revealed that Carl had used platforms such as Grindr and SCRUFF to meet men over a period of four years. Officers believe he may have had sexual contact with as many as 400 men during this time.

To date, 82 men have been identified and notified of the potential risk to their health, but police are urging many more who may have encountered Carl to come forward for confidential testing and support. Detective Chief Inspector Sarah Bishop, who led the investigation, conveyed concern for those unaccounted for and urged anyone who may have met Carl—whether online or at his distinctive Hornchurch address above a fish and chip shop—to seek urgent advice and testing. She emphasised that the welfare and wellbeing of these individuals remain a priority, with police working closely alongside NHS sexual health services and relevant charities to provide support.

The gravity of Carl’s actions is underscored by the legal classification of intentionally or recklessly transmitting a sexually transmitted infection as grievous bodily harm. Victims have spoken out about the profound psychological and emotional impact of Carl’s predatory behaviour. One victim described struggling with feelings of guilt and difficulty in forming romantic relationships, reflecting the long-term trauma inflicted by Carl’s actions. Another expressed a sense of powerlessness and a desperate motive to prevent further harm by encouraging others to come forward.

Multiple news outlets have highlighted the extraordinary breadth of this case. Reports indicate that Carl operated with alarming frequency, sometimes meeting up to four individuals in a day. His awareness of his HIV-positive status, coupled with his decision not to take treatment and to conceal this information, points to a callous disregard for the health and lives of others.

The Metropolitan Police have established dedicated contact channels for witnesses and potential victims, providing both direct and anonymous methods of communication. Health organisations including NHS sexual health services, Positive East, and other charities stand ready to offer confidential assistance.

This case serves as a stark reminder of the dangers associated with the reckless transmission of infectious diseases within intimate relationships, and the crucial role of law enforcement and public health agencies in protecting vulnerable communities.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html), [[2]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/appeal-for-victims-to-come-forward-following-the-sentencing-of-jonathan-carl-501222)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html), [[6]](https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/), [[7]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/police-warn-convicted-rapist-jonathan-carl-may-have-hundreds-of-victims-6698ba86)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html), [[2]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/appeal-for-victims-to-come-forward-following-the-sentencing-of-jonathan-carl-501222), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-09-19/hundreds-of-men-urged-to-get-tested-for-stds-after-sex-attacker-convicted), [[7]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/police-warn-convicted-rapist-jonathan-carl-may-have-hundreds-of-victims-6698ba86)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html), [[2]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/appeal-for-victims-to-come-forward-following-the-sentencing-of-jonathan-carl-501222), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html), [[6]](https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/), [[7]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/police-warn-convicted-rapist-jonathan-carl-may-have-hundreds-of-victims-6698ba86)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html), [[2]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/appeal-for-victims-to-come-forward-following-the-sentencing-of-jonathan-carl-501222), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-09-19/hundreds-of-men-urged-to-get-tested-for-stds-after-sex-attacker-convicted), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jonathan-carl-jailed-hornchurch-stis-b2829830.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.met.police.uk/news/appeal-for-victims-to-come-forward-following-the-sentencing-of-jonathan-carl-501222> - The Metropolitan Police have appealed for potential victims of Jonathan Carl, a 42-year-old man from Hornchurch, who was sentenced to 17 years in prison for rape and reckless transmission of a sexually transmitted infection (STI). The investigation, initiated in January 2024, revealed that Carl used multiple dating apps, including Grindr and SCRUFF, to meet men, and detectives believe he had sexual contact with up to 400 men over four years. So far, 82 men have been identified and advised of Carl’s sexual health status. The police are urging anyone who may have had contact with Carl to come forward for confidential testing and support. ([news.met.police.uk](https://news.met.police.uk/news/appeal-for-victims-to-come-forward-following-the-sentencing-of-jonathan-carl-501222?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-09-19/hundreds-of-men-urged-to-get-tested-for-stds-after-sex-attacker-convicted> - ITV News London reports that police have urged potential victims of Jonathan Carl, a convicted rapist, to come forward and get tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Carl, 42, was sentenced to 17 years in prison after being convicted of rape and grievous bodily harm for recklessly transmitting HIV. The investigation revealed that Carl had been using dating apps over several years and officers believe there are 318 men that need to be identified and tested for HIV. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-09-19/hundreds-of-men-urged-to-get-tested-for-stds-after-sex-attacker-convicted?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062> - Sky News reports that detectives believe Jonathan Carl, a 42-year-old man from Hornchurch, had sexual contact with up to 400 men over a four-year period. Carl was jailed for 17 years after being found guilty of one count of rape and pleading guilty to one count of grievous bodily harm. The Metropolitan Police are appealing for potential victims to come forward, as they believe Carl may have transmitted HIV to hundreds of men. ([news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html> - The Standard reports that police have appealed for potential victims of Jonathan Carl, a 'predatory' sex attacker, to come forward after he was jailed for rape and reckless transmission of HIV. Carl, 42, was sentenced to 17 years in prison after being convicted at Snaresbrook Crown Court. The investigation began after a man reported that he had woken up to being raped after having met up socially with Carl. Police believe there are 318 men that need to be identified and tested for HIV. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/> - Court News UK reports that Jonathan Carl, a 42-year-old hairdresser from Hornchurch, was jailed for 17 years for recklessly transmitting HIV and may have claimed up to 400 victims. Carl used the gay dating apps Grindr and Scruff to target vulnerable men and was meeting up to four people a day. Police have identified 82 men who had sexual contact with Carl but are concerned that there may be many more victims. ([courtnewsuk.co.uk](https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/police-warn-convicted-rapist-jonathan-carl-may-have-hundreds-of-victims-6698ba86> - News Minimalist reports that police warn a convicted rapist, Jonathan Carl, may have hundreds of other victims. Carl, 42, was jailed for 17 years for rape and pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm. Investigators found over 400 digital contacts on dating apps, with message contents suggesting further assaults. At least 82 men have been identified for HIV screening. Carl was aware of his HIV status and chose not to take medication, lying about it during encounters. ([newsminimalist.com](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/police-warn-convicted-rapist-jonathan-carl-may-have-hundreds-of-victims-6698ba86?utm_source=openai))