



Evaluation of a nationwide HIV self-testing service

Terrence
HIGGINS
TRUST 

Partner Organisation(s):
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OVERVIEW

The non-governmental organisation Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) conducted HIV self-testing pilots in 2016 and 2017 to test the viability of an online HIV self-testing service before its roll-out in 2018.

Tests were available to key populations including men who have sex with men, black African people and trans and non-binary people.

APPROACH

01 The pilots each trialled **one of the two HIV self-tests available in the UK** to check their acceptability.

02 The tests **promoted via digital advertising, the media**, links from partner organisations and other NGO as well as signposting on Terrence Higgins Trust's website.

03 Self-test kits ordered through a **dedicated website** and delivered by 'click and collect' post to any UK address or one of 4,000 pickup points.

04 Tests available to **key populations including men who have sex with men, black African people and trans and non-binary people**.

05 Users answered questions on sexual health history and confirmed mobile number during ordering and **received up to two SMS text reminder messages to encourage reporting** online if no result had been reported.

06 The service was free from June 2016 to March 2019. From April 2019 to March 2020, test kits cost £15 but users could choose a free option if they couldn't afford to pay.

Country Case Study:

UK 

HIGHLIGHTS

61%

users reported their results with variance between groups:

63%

results reporting for men who have sex with men

51%

results reporting for black African people

48%

results reporting for trans & non-binary people



GROUP PAYING FOR TESTS HAD A HIGHER REPORTING RATE OF 67%.



OVER 36 000 KITS HAD BEEN ORDERED BY DECEMBER 2019



OLDER PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT THEIR RESULTS: 57% FOR 16-25 YO & 73% FOR +65 YO



51% OF THOSE WHO REPORTED A RESULT DID SO ON THE DAY OF THE 1ST REMINDER OR THE DAY AFTER



ADDITIONAL 17% REPORTED ON THE DAY 2ND REMINDER OR THE DAY AFTER

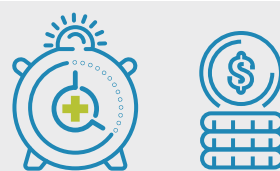
LESSONS LEARNED



It is possible to achieve a good level of result reporting with HIV self-testing, however multiple reminders play a vital role in maximising reporting rates.



There was a lower positivity rate in the absence of targeted promotion.



Free postal HIV self-tests are now available in England, Scotland and Wales via Terrence Higgins Trust and other non-governmental organisations. They are also available for purchase.



There are opportunities for research to better understand those who did not report their results, and whether the test was used.

