



Increase in HIV Testing during European Testing Week and Type of Tests Used

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OBJECTIVE

Around one in three of the 2.5 million people living with HIV are unaware that they have HIV, and about 13.3 and 15 million live with hepatitis B and C, respectively, in the WHO European Region. The purpose of the European Testing Week (ETW) is to promote HIV and hepatitis testing and optimal care in the WHO European Region.

METHODS

ETW is a partnership of civil society, health care clinics, governmental and other policy organisations. A dedicated website (www.testingweek.eu) provides a hub for organisations to sign up and download materials to support planned activities. In 2015, ETW took place from 20-27 November 2015 and organisations that took part were invited to complete an online survey in REDCap¹.

RESULTS

Of the 417 organisations that signed up for ETW, 194 (46%) submitted the evaluation survey. The majority of respondents were civil society organisations (66%) and 35 were health care professionals (18%). The respondents covered 39 countries. Of the 194 respondents, 188 (97%) reported carrying out HIV activities and 158 (84%) HIV testing activities specifically during ETW. Of the 158 organisations that carried out HIV testing activities, more than 75% reported an increase in HIV testing rates as compared to an average week. More than 20% reported a more than 200% increase in HIV testing during ETW.

¹Research Electronic Data Capture system

Table 1

HIV tests used* during testing week

	Civil society (N=104)	Healthcare clinics (N=28)	Governmental and other policy organisations (N=14)	Other (N=12)	Total number of respondents (N=158)
Rapid blood test (incl. INSTI test)	83 (80%)	18 (64%)	12 (86%)	8 (67%)	121 (77%)
HIV antibody/antigen test	29 (28%)	17 (61%)	7 (50%)	3 (25%)	56 (35%)
Saliva test	18 (17%)	4 (14%)	1 (7%)	1 (8%)	24 (15%)
Home sampling/postal testing	3 (3%)	2 (7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (3%)
Do not know	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (7%)	2 (17%)	5 (3%)

*More than one test were reported by some participants

The majority of the 104 civil society organisations that carried out HIV testing during ETW reported using rapid tests (blood and saliva (97%) followed by HIV antibody tests (28%), as did the 28 healthcare clinics with 79% and 61% reporting use of rapid tests (blood and saliva) and HIV antibody tests respectively. Governmental and other policy organisations (N=14) also most frequently used rapid tests (blood and saliva) (93%) followed by HIV antibody/antigen tests (50%) (Table 1).

CONCLUSION

Overall, more than 75% of participating organisations reported an increase in HIV testing during ETW. More than half of the organisations saw an above 50% increase in testing, and more than 20% a more than 200% increase. Participants organisations reported the rapid blood test as the most frequently used.

REFERENCES

- UNAIDS. Factsheet. 2014 Global Statistics. 2014.
- WHO. Data and statistics. 2013.
- Raben D et al. Auditing HIV Testing Rates across Europe: Results from the HIDES 2 Study. PLoS One 2015.



Let's talk testing

Why should YOU test for HIV and hepatitis?

Join @ECDC_EU, @HIVheptestweek, @Hep_Alliance and @EATGx to discuss the benefits of testing.

When: Friday, 27 November 2015
11:00 - 12:00 CET

Send us your questions using the hashtag #time2test



If you're HIV positive, taking treatment and undetectable... the chances of passing the virus on are extremely low.

Get Tested

#EuroHIVheptestweek