

# Knowledge, and actual versus potential use of HIV self-testing and self-sampling testing kits in 8 European countries.

J. Hoyos<sup>1</sup>, M.J. Belza<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Agustí<sup>1,3</sup>, S. Chanos<sup>4</sup>, F. Pichon<sup>5</sup>, M. Kuske<sup>6</sup>, B. Cigan<sup>7</sup>, R. Fuertes<sup>8</sup>, L. Ooms<sup>9</sup>, R. Stefanescu<sup>10</sup>, C. Cabeza de Vaca<sup>2</sup>, B. Arranz<sup>11</sup>, L. de la Fuente<sup>1,11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Madrid, Spain, <sup>2</sup>Institute of Health Carlos III, Escuela Nacional de Sanidad, Madrid, Spain, <sup>3</sup>Centre d'Estudis Epidemiològics sobre les Infeccions de Transmissió Sexual i Sida de Catalunya (CEEISCAT), Departament de Salut, Generalitat de Catalunya, Badalona, Spain, <sup>4</sup>Checkpoint Athens, Athens, Greece, <sup>5</sup>AIDS Fondet, Copenhagen, Denmark, <sup>6</sup>AIDS Hilfe NRW e.V., Berlin, Germany, <sup>7</sup>Legebitra, Ljubljana, Slovenia, <sup>8</sup>GAT-Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos, Lisboa, Portugal, <sup>9</sup>Institute Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium, <sup>10</sup>ARAS-Asociația Română Anti-SIDA, Bucharest, Romania, <sup>11</sup>Institute of Health Carlos III, Centro Nacional de Epidemiología, Madrid, Spain

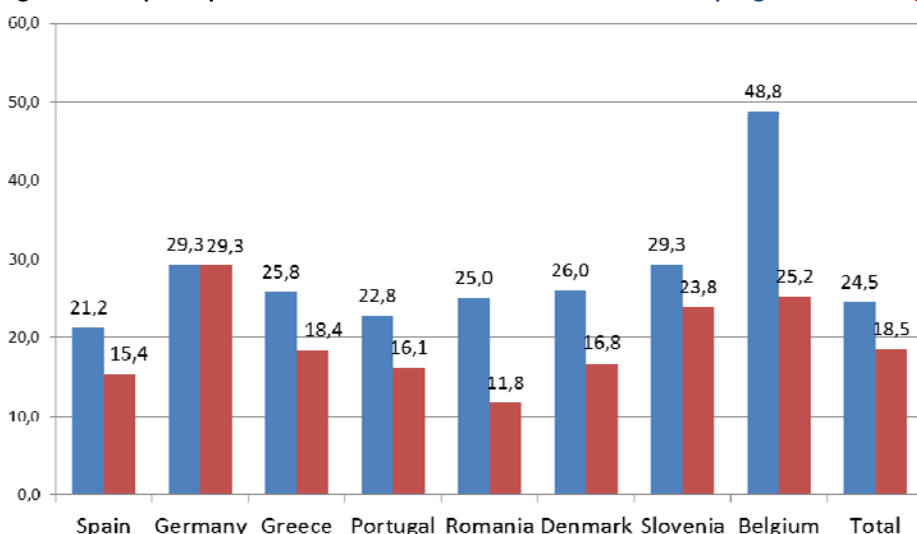
**Aims:** a) To describe the knowledge and actual / potential use of HIV self testing and self sampling in men who have sex with men (MSM) recruited online.

**Methods:** We analyze data from an online survey carried out in the context of the EURO HIV EDAT project. The survey was conducted in 8 countries (Spain, Germany, Greece, Romania, Denmark, Slovenia, Portugal and Belgium) between April and December 2016. It was advertised mainly through banners and mailing lists in a number of transnational and national level gay dating websites. We conduct a descriptive analysis of the main characteristics of the participants who agreed to participate, and present preliminary data on indicators on knowledge, use and potential use of HIV self-sampling and HIV self-testing.

Table 1. Main characteristics of participants (N=11740)

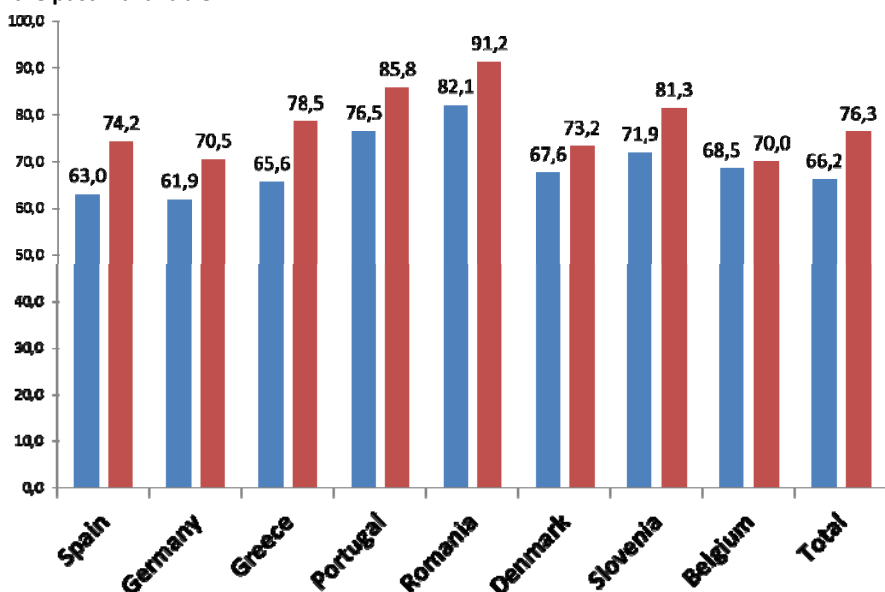
	N	%
<b>Current country of residence</b>		
Spain	5366	45,7
Germany	2253	19,2
Greece	1218	10,4
Portugal	991	8,4
Romania	922	7,9
Denmark	505	4,3
Slovenia	336	2,9
Belgium	149	1,3
<b>40 or more</b>	4332	39,6
<b>Foreigner</b>	1235	11,5
<b>Size of current place of residence</b>		
≥1,000,000 inhab.	3108	29,5
500 mil-999,999	1112	10,5
[...]		
<10,000	1339	12,7
<b>Study level</b>		
University	5129	49,6
<b>How do you live your sex life?</b>		
Hidden/Total secrecy	2482	24,5
<b>Never tested for HIV</b>	2808	28,2

Figure 1: % of participants who know about the existence of self sampling and self testing



*Only 0,8% of the participants reported having used self sampling in the past whereas 2,0% reported having used self testing in the past*

Figure 2: % of participants who would have used self sampling and self testing in the past if available



**Conclusion:** Even though knowledge and use are low, both self-testing and self-sampling have the potential of increasing testing rates in MSM of the 8 countries analyzed if approved in the future.

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