Investigating HIV testing preferences in black, latin american and other minority ethnicities to inform the co-design of digital vending machines for HIV self-testing kits

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Introduction

- HIV testing vending machines) has shown high acceptability in men who have sex with men (MSM) and in particular accessing those who never previously tested for HIV2.
- Black, latin american and other minority ethnicities remains disproportionately affected by HIV compared to the general population2.
- The aim of this survey was to identify attitudes and perceptions towards community HIV testing and vending machines for HIV self-testing in these communities.

Methods

- A structured survey was developed with community groups, with English, French and Spanish translations.
- Outreach volunteers surveyed black, latin american and other minority ethnicity service users in South-East London.
- The survey took place between September 2018 to January 2019 in a range of venues.
- The survey was available online through community websites and social media communications and supported iPad replies via volunteers.
- Respondents were shown information and pictures of the HIV self-testing vending machines, before being asked about their views on the use of these machines.
- Univariate analysis by Pearson’s chi-squared test for categorical data performed in Minitab.

Results

193 participants completed the survey

Demographics of survey respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic background</th>
<th>AC</th>
<th>LA</th>
<th>ONWE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Latin american (LA)</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other non-white ethnicities (ONWE)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<td>ONWE</td>
<td>7</td>
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<table>
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<th>Sexuality</th>
<th>Heterosexual</th>
<th>Non-heterosexual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AC</td>
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<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONWE</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIV testing history

Have you ever had a HIV test ever?

- I am not at risk of HIV
- I have never had an opportunity to test which I was comfortable with
- Don’t know where to go
- I do not want to know my HIV status

Views on the HIV self-testing kits and vending machines

Would you use the HIV self-testing kit?

Would you use the HIV self-testing vending machine with HIV self-testing kits would be suitable at the following venues?

- Easy access
- Nearby staffed
- High visibility
- Non-crowded areas

Which factors are most important for HIV self-testing vending machine within a venue?

Would you use the HIV self-testing kit?

Conclusions

- 30% of respondents who never tested for HIV report never having an opportunity they were comfortable with for HIV testing.
- The concept of vending machines to distribute HIV self-testing kits were highly acceptable amongst black, latin american, and other ethnic minority respondents and would represent an opportunity to reach those who previously never tested.
- To extend HIV testing coverage, differences in concerns and location preferences will inform and tailor development of the vending machine interface and choice of venue.

References:


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