



Community HIV testing:

The feasibility and acceptability of assertive outreach and community testing to reduce the late diagnosis of HIV

M Brady, C Harrison, J Warriner, C Skinner,
N LARBalestier, P Ward

Background

- Strategies are needed to reduce the late diagnosis of HIV in the UK
- Community HIV testing can be an effective tool to reach groups at risk who are not accessing healthcare
- THT has run community based HIV testing (targeting MSM and BME) since 2003
- We evolved this model to pilot the delivery of HIV testing (targeting African communities) in partnership with

Methods

- Outreach workers developed partnerships with over 32 community organisations in areas of London with high HIV prevalence
- Clients were engaged in Health Promotion and HIV information
- Clients were offered HIV POCT
 - (Alere 4th generation)
- Referral pathways were agreed with local HIV services for on-going treatment and care
- Staff and clients (including those who

Results

- 3789 people were approached
- 489 accessed the testing service (12.9%)
- 467 consultation with nurse (12.3%)
- 459 consented to HIV testing (12.1%)
 - 61% male, 39% female
 - 90.2% heterosexual
 - 50.3% African
 - 52.4% had never tested for HIV before

Results

- 4 clients tested positive for HIV (0.87%)
 - 2/4 already knew their status
 - not accessing care and were referred back into services
 - 2/4 new diagnoses

Results: Surveys

- 364/459 (79.3%) clients who accepted testing completed the client questionnaire
- 272 (8.3%) of those declining a test completed the non-tester questionnaire
- 22 staff members from 10 venues completed the staff questionnaire

Results: Client Surveys

Question		Testers (n=364)	Non-testers (n=272)	
Gender	Male	221 (60.7%)	173 (63.6%)	p=0.45
	Female	143 (39.3%)	99 (36.4%)	
Sexuality	Heterosexual	296 (90.2%)	250 (96.2%)	p=0.0003
	Homosexual / bisexual	32 (9.3%)	6 (3.8%)	
Have you had an HIV test before?	Yes	163 (47.6%)	171 (68.9%)	p<0.0001
	No	179 (52.4%)	77 (31.1%)	
Do you think testing in this venue is appropriate?	Yes	295 (97.4%)	224 (90.3%)	p<0.0001
	No	8 (2.6%)	24 (9.7%)	
Would you use this service again?	Yes	283 (88.2%)	N/A	p<0.0001
	No / Maybe	25 (11.8%)	N/A	
Would you recommend the service to a friend?	Yes	307 (97.2%)	186 (73.5%)	p<0.0001
	No / Maybe	9 (2.8%)	67 (26.5%)	

Results: Tester surveys

Question		Testers (n=364)
There is no cure for HIV	I knew this before	267 (79.7%)
	I didn't know this before	35 (10.4%)
There are HIV medicines that help people with HIV stay healthy	I knew this before	248 (75.8%)
	I didn't know this before	45 (13.8%)
HIV medicines work better if they are taken before people become ill	I knew this before	181 (55.5%)
	I didn't know this before	103 (31.6%)
HIV is never passed on by shaking hands or touching people	I knew this before	300 (90.4%)
	I didn't know this before	16 (4.8%)
A person with HIV can pass it on during sex without a condom	I knew this before	305 (94.1%)
	I didn't know this before	13 (4.0%)
At least 1 in 20 Africans in England have HIV	I knew this before	104 (31.2%)
	I didn't know this before	165 (49.5%)

Results: Non-tester survey

Question		Testers (n=262)
Why did you decide not to test for HIV today?	I recently had an HIV test	131 (50.0%)
	I do not think I'm at risk of HIV	35 (28.2%)
	I do not want to have an HIV test in this setting/location	14 (5.3%)
	Other (see comments)	43 (16.4%)
Do you think it is appropriate to offer HIV services in venues/locations like this?	Yes	224 (90.3%)
	No	24 (9.7%)
Comments (summarised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time Want to think about it I'm scared Needle phobia I don't believe in HIV 	

Results: Staff survey

Question		Staff (n=22)
Gender	Male	7 (31.8%)
	Female	15 (68.2%)
Do you think it's appropriate to offer HIV services in venues/locations like this?	Yes	21 (95.5%)
	No	1 (4.5%)
Would you recommend this service to your friends?	Yes	20 (90.9%)
	No / maybe	2 (9.1%)
Comments (summarised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to normalise HIV testing like this • You should do testing for other STIs • Very impressed the results are so quick • This is a valuable service and I'm pleased we can offer it • Very helpful 	

Conclusions:



- We have demonstrated both the feasibility and acceptability of an assertive outreach approach to HIV testing in community settings
- Over 50% of those testing had never tested before
- Community testing should be an integral part of any strategy to decrease late diagnosis of HIV
- The development of enduring partnerships with community organisations and venues is essential to the success of this approach

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- Staff of partner organisations:

Inspire Café, SE17	Lewisham library
999 Club, Deptford	Salvation Army, Kilburn
All Souls Church, Harlesden	Southall Town Hall
African Community Network	St Swithuns Church, Hither Green
All Saints Community Centre, New Cross Gate	Pollards Hill library
Migrant Refugee Community Forum	Fountain Gate church, Seven Sisters
Centerprise bookshop, Dalston	Parkway Health Centre, CR9
Building Healthy Communities	Bells Gardens Community Centre
Browning Street Community Centre	MRCF Resource Centre
QT internet café/money transfer	New Motions, Barking
St Giles Community Centre	Bliss Cottage Training College, IG1
Gharweg, SE1	St Mungos, Camden
Edridge Road Health Centre	Croydon Voluntary Action
African Health Forum, SE17	The Albany, Deptford
Score Community Centre, E10	Crescent & Co Solicitors, Finsbury Park
	Healthy Living Centre, CR7