

HIV Dried Blood Spot test: Internet based self-sampling increases access to HIV testing.

Holden J¹, [McNulty A](#)², Cunningham P³

1. NSW Ministry of Health

2. Sexual Health Infolink

3. St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research



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Background

- NSW HIV strategy 2016-2020 identifies GBM and CALD as priority populations for testing
- 11% of people with HIV in NSW are undiagnosed M Holt GPS
- GBM are interested in self testing however currently not available
- Those from CALD communities are more likely to be diagnosed late



Background

- Terrence Higgins Trust (UK) successfully utilised home based sampling to test >17,000 MSM and black Africans over a 15 month period (1.4% positivity)
- Dried blood spot testing not licenced for use in Australia, however used in NSP surveys and infant diagnosis
- Murex 3rd gen HIV Ab test confirmed by Architect 4th gen Ab/Ag



Background



- DBS test ordered via website
- Validation code required
- Reply paid envelope to SVH lab
- Negative results SMS via Sexual Health Infolink (SHIL)
- Positive results via phone



Background

- Promoted through social media and local initiatives
- Translated into 10 languages



Results

November 2016 to end September 2017: 505 registrations

Population	Overall (n=505)
Aboriginal	26 (5%)
MSM	389 (77%)
Every injected drugs	20 (4%)
Partners from Asia/Africa	161 (32%)
From Asia / Africa	132 (26%)
CALD heterosexual	58 (♂ 33, ♀ 25) (11%)
CALD MSM	69 (14%)

Results

- 54% never tested or tested >2 years ago
- 58% kit return rate
- Median time to kit return: 18 days
- Reactive results: 1 (confirmed and linked to care)
- Repeat testers n=39

Results

- Local health districts that have actively promoted DBS have highest no. of kit requests
- Referral source

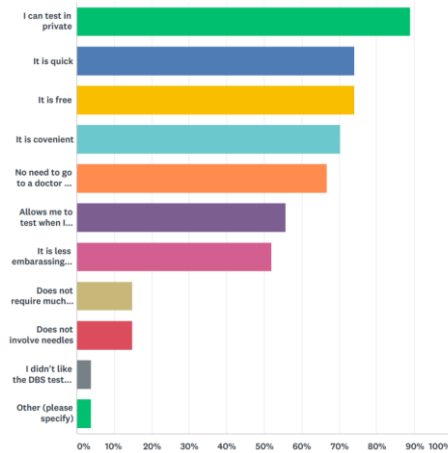
Source	Overall
A healthcare or community service I use	9 (2%)
Advertisement	89 (18%)
Friend/family/partner	38 (8%)
Internet search engine	72 (14%)
Social media	190 (38%)
My doctor/other healthcare provider	9 (2%)
Newspaper	1 (0.2%)
Other	41 (8%)



Results – post test survey

Q1 What did you like about using DBS HIV test? (Tick as many as you wish)

Answered: 27 Skipped: 0



Health

Conclusions

- Successful implementation however slower uptake than anticipated
- Difficult to reach heterosexual CALD
- Expected 1% HIV positivity
- Marketing key to uptake

Future

- Phase 2 – site specific projects including addition of Hepatitis C RNA testing and Aboriginal and PWID added as populations to be targeted
 - SOPV
 - NSPs
 - D&A services

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<https://www.hivtest.health.nsw.gov.au/>

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