Expanding HIV Self-Test Reach: Comparative Outcomes Across Facility, Community, and Online Channels

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Background:

- **HIV self-testing (HIVST) :** A key strategy to expand HIV testing access
- **Target populations** less likely to use traditional testing services
- **Challenge**: Optimizing distribution channels for better access and uptake
- **Study goal**: Evaluate HIVST implementation and effectiveness, and identify the most effective approach for reaching key populations (KP) through:
  - Facility-based distribution
  - Community-based distribution
  - Online platform distribution



Methods:

- ***Distribution Channels :***

Facility-based: 4 Healthcare centers

Community-based: 5 Outreach Services

Online platform: In collaboration with pharmacies

- ***Target Populations :***

  Men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers (SW), and people who inject drugs (PWID), Transgender (TG)

- ***Data Collection :***

  Collected via **Sate Cha online platform** with pre-defined variables **from May 2022 to September 2024**



- ***Analysis :***

  Descriptive and statistical analyses of key variables. Additional data on barriers to prior HIV testing gathered from participants

Community Outreach: *Reaching 56% of First-Time Testers* – A Vital Channel for Engaging Underserved Populations

Results:

- ***Distribution Channels :***

5,882 HIVST kits distributed

- **57%** through facilities
- **35%** via community outreach
- **8%** through online platforms

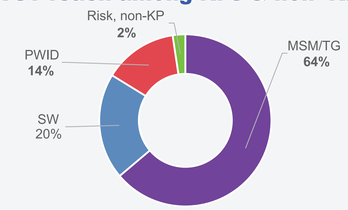
- ***Demographic Profile :***

Median age: **26 years**

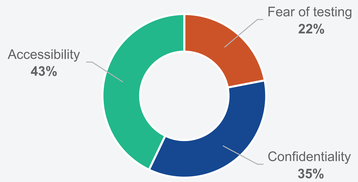
Sex distribution:



HIVST reach among KPs & non- KPs



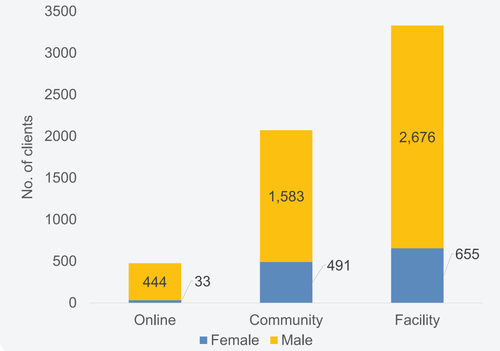
Barrier identified for HIV testing



- ***Positivity Rate :***

4,468 reported results → **6%** 247 Reactive → **81%** 200 confirmed positive cases

Sex distribution over 3 distribution channels



- ***Result Reporting :***

Highest reporting rate : **100% at facilities**

Online reporting rate : **81%**

Conclusion:

This study highlights the overall effectiveness of facility-based, community-based, and online distribution channels in promoting HIV self-testing among key populations. Key findings include:

- **Facility-based services :** Excels in result reporting
- **Community-based approaches :** Successfully engaged more first-time testers
- **Online platforms :** Provided discreet access but faced challenges in engagement and result reporting

Future strategies should leverage these strengths, enhance online reporting mechanisms, and improve linkages to confirmatory testing to maximize impact.