National HIV Self-Test Distribution Program: HIV Testing, Diagnosis and Treatment, 3/2023 – 9/2024

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U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

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BACKGROUND

- ~ 13% (n=158,300) of 1.2 million people with HIV in the US are unaware of their HIV status.
- Distributing HIV self-tests (HIVSTs) to populations most affected by HIV increases awareness of infection
- Insufficient information on linkage to clinical HIV testing and antiretroviral therapy (ART).

METHODS

- 3/2023 - National HIVST distribution program launched
- Eligibility: ≥ 17 years of age, reside in US or Puerto Rico
- HIVSTs (1 or 2) ordered online every 90 days, at no cost
- Voluntary uncompensated surveys at Post-order, 10 and 60 days after HIVSTs mailed.
- Data collected: socio-demographic, prior HIV testing and diagnosis, HIVST results, subsequent provider/clinic testing and ART initiation within 30 days of using HIVST.

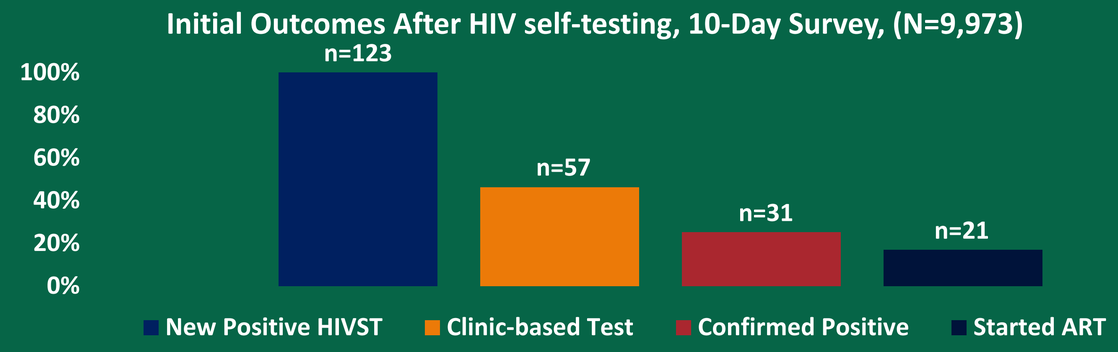
RESULTS: 3/2023 to 9/2024

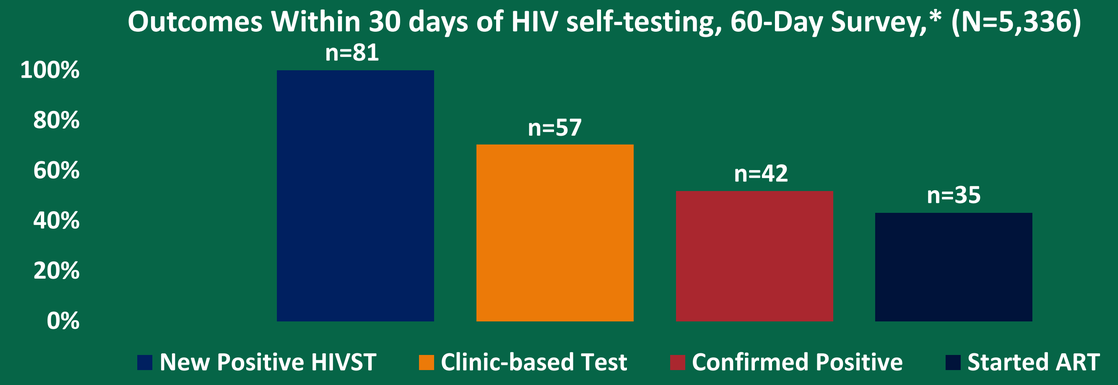
- 297,043 first orders for one (16%) or two (84%) HIVSTs
- Survey response rates: post-order 76% (226,654), 10-day 3.4%; 60-day 1.8%; 0.5% both 10- & 60- day.
- 13,722 answered follow-up survey questions,
- 327 (2.4%) had prior evidence of HIV infection on the post-order survey, of whom 175 later used the HIVST.
- 10,690 (87%) of 12,200 without HIV, used an HIVST
- 228 (2.1%) had a positive HIVST result
- 182 of 228 previously reported no evidence of infection, 46 had missing information
- Of 182 with positive HIVST result, 107 tested by a provider
- Lab results: 67 positive, 13 negative, 7 indeterminate/ unknown, 20 missing
- 50/67 initiated ART.

CONCLUSIONS

- Most learned current HIV status.
- Many with positive HIVSTs sought provider testing within 30 days of HIV self-testing.
- 10-day survey may be too early to assess linkage to care
- 60 days may be more reflective of linkage to testing/ART
- Strengthening messaging on the need for laboratory testing may be required
- Large sample with low follow-up rates may not be representative of all participants

People with a new positive HIVST result seek HIV testing from providers. People with confirmatory results initiate antiretroviral therapy.





* 1,587 participants who responded to the 10-day survey also answered questions on the 60-day survey: including 22 people with a new positive HIVST

Table. Socio-Demographic characteristics of first-time participants in a National HIVST distribution program, United States, 3/2023 – 9/2024 (N= 297,043)*

Characteristic	All participants (n=297,043)	Follow-up Survey (n=13,722)	New positive HIVST (n=182)
Age groups, yrs			
17-24	81,301 (27%)	2,197 (16%)	32 (18%)
25-34	10,6905 (36%)	4,237 (31%)	71 (39%)
35-44	60,624 (20%)	3,539 (26%)	49 (27%)
45-54	27,981 (9%)	1,926 (14%)	19 (10%)
55+	20,219 (7%)	1,822 (13%)	11 (6%)
Missing	13 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Census Region			
Northeast	44,610 (15%)	1,883 (14%)	22 (12%)
Midwest	48,378 (16%)	2,231 (16%)	26 (14%)
South	136,293 (46%)	6,525 (48%)	89 (49%)
West	60,197 (20%)	2,665 (19%)	45 (25%)
US Independent	7,565 (3%)	418 (3%)	0 (0%)
Post-order survey variables	**All participants (n=226,654)**	**Follow-up Survey (n=12,511)**	**New positive HIVST (n=182)**
Race and ethnicity‡			
Black NH	57,737 (25%)	2,898 (23%)	38 (21%)
Hispanic	68,299 (30%)	3,683 (29%)	78 (43%)
Caucasian NH	76,491 (34%)	4,852 (39%)	50 (27%)
Other/multiracial	22,995 (10%)	1,059 (8%)	16 (9%)
Missing	1,132 (0%)	19 (0%)	0 (0%)
HIV Test Experience			
Never	56,532 (25%)	2,142 (17%)	38 (21%)
> 12 months	56,190 (25%)	3,554 (28%)	56 (31%)
≤ 12 months	100,526 (44%)	6,237 (50%)	88 (48%)
Missing	13,406 (6%)	578 (5%)	0 (0%)

*Age and census region were obtained from the initial order information. Additional data were obtained from the post-order, 10- and 60-day surveys.
‡ Persons who identify as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. NH is Non-Hispanic.

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Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.