Event Report
HPE Expert Seminar on New HIV Testing Technologies

Part 1: HIV Self Testing

Dr Michael Brady spoke on HIV self testing in the UK, and specifically the first year's experience of the Biosure HIV self test kit

- He discussed the recent THT/Biosure pilot of online offer of HIV self testing
- Future implications of self testing care

Yasmin Dunkely and Philip Bragg from positive East/The GMI partnership discussed self testing models within the CBO setting.

- GMI coaching model: provide coaching on how to use self-testing and self sampling in their current provision of community testing services for MSM
- Positive East began introducing self testing kits as POCT for BME:
  - to inform clients of alternative testing technologies
  - to collect data on user acceptability of self testing among different demographics

Part 2: HIV Self sampling

Luis Guerra presented ont eh national HIV self sampling service, and focused on three points:

- Who uses the service
- If the service reaches the most at-risk populations
- If the service reaches first-time testers

Catherine Dodds and Maureen Seguin presented on the HAUS study. This research was on the feasibility and acceptability of home sampling kits to increase the uptake of HIV testing among black Africans. They spoke about

- Project setup
- The HAUS intervention
- Results, lessons learnt and policy implications

Next sector training event: March 2017

Evaluation findings

Attendance Total: 37
In-person: 22   Online (livestream): 15
                                                 Online views to date: 64

About respondents
Total respondents: 11
Majority of the evaluation respondents were health promoters from sector
organisations. Other respondents included researchers, manufacturer of
diagnostics, and a HIV support service provider.

Overall seminar experience
Overall, 90% of respondents found that the presentations matched or
exceeded their expectations. All agreed that the format and delivery of the
seminar was of a high standard, and of those who attended via livestream all
found it an effective component of the seminar.

The most useful aspects of the seminar
- New information on available technologies
- Statistics on self testing and self sampling
- The national initiative to distribute self sampling kits
- Information on 'low-reactive' and 'high-reactive' test results and
  outcomes (self sampling)
- Discussion about the limits of HIV self-sampling
- Learning about how services engage with communities in spaces that
  pose risks

Proposed future training topics
The most requested topic for future training was on PrEP: four of the eight
respondents who answered this question believe that it should be covered in
future training. Some other individual responses also suggested training on:
- promoting HIV services to communities
- using innovative initiatives to increase testing among hard-to-reach
  groups
- ethnic minorities and sexual health
- testing options and linkage to care, for the general population, and
- Good practice examples and outcomes across the sector

Individual seminar presentations
Majority of the respondents found all the presentations relevant, clear and
easy to understand. A few people were neutral about whether the information
in specific presentation was applicable to their roles.

Livestream
All livestream participants agreed that it was a convenient alternative to attending in person which was easy to access. There were some issues with the feed, particularly the audio: Four out of five people found it unclear and not high quality. In terms of participation in the discussion, one person found it easy to participate and ask questions, but another two found it difficult. One respondent commented that it would have been helpful to turn off the mic during breaks.

Would recommend HPE training to others
All of the respondents said that they would recommend training seminars to others.

How training could be improved in the future
People recommended that more advance notice of the training should be given to the sector and that the trainings should be advertised more widely. It would also be useful for the livestream to be made available on YouTube afterwards.