

*Online HIV self-test service in
Almaty, Kazakhstan: key findings
and implications*

Zhanar Tatkeyeva
ICAP at Columbia University

AMSTERDAM

FAST-TRACK CITIES 2023

September 25-27, 2023 | RAI Amsterdam Convention Center

✕ City of
✕ Amsterdam

✕ GGD
✕ Amsterdam

IATAC
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PROVIDERS OF AIDS CARE

FAST-TRACK CITIES
INSTITUTE



ЦЕНТР СПИД
г. Алматы



ФОНД
СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ
ПОМОЩИ
РЕВАНШ



Общественный Фонд
COMMUNITY FRIENDS'



Almaty Model for Epidemic Control (AMEC) is designed and implemented by a consortium of local organizations led by ICAP at Columbia University to create and implement a **cost-effective, inclusive and sustainable** city program that works to achieve HIV epidemic control in Almaty

Elton John AIDS Foundation

June 2020-June 2024

Online HIV self-test service

➤ Launched in Almaty in February 2022, Elton John AIDS Foundation

➤ **Operates from the AIDS Centre**

- ✓ Order processing
- ✓ Packing HIV Self-Test kits
- ✓ Shipping the order to chosen location
- ✓ Client support and invitation to confirmatory testing and ART initiation (if a person reports a reactive test result)






➤ **ICAP support:**

- ✓ Procurement of HIV self-tests
- ✓ Development of online platform
- ✓ Design and provision of print materials
- ✓ Service promotion
- ✓ Coordinator payment and support
- ✓ Covers delivery costs



Online HIV self-test service

Self-test kit delivery locations

-  AIDS Centre
-  Private pharmacies
-  Automated post box (tastamat)
-  Paid courier home delivery
-  Community-based organizations (CBO)

Self-test kit



- ✓ OraQuick self-test
- ✓ Informational materials on PrEP, harm reduction, HIV treatment and ART initiation

Online HIV self-test service: Key results, February 2022- August 2023



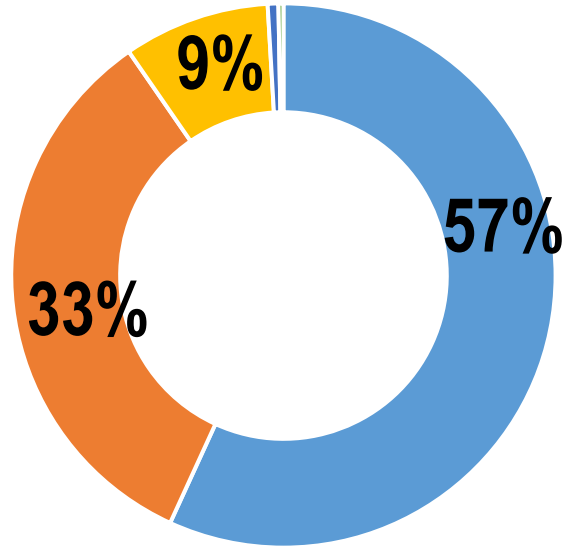
2,370
Tested for HIV



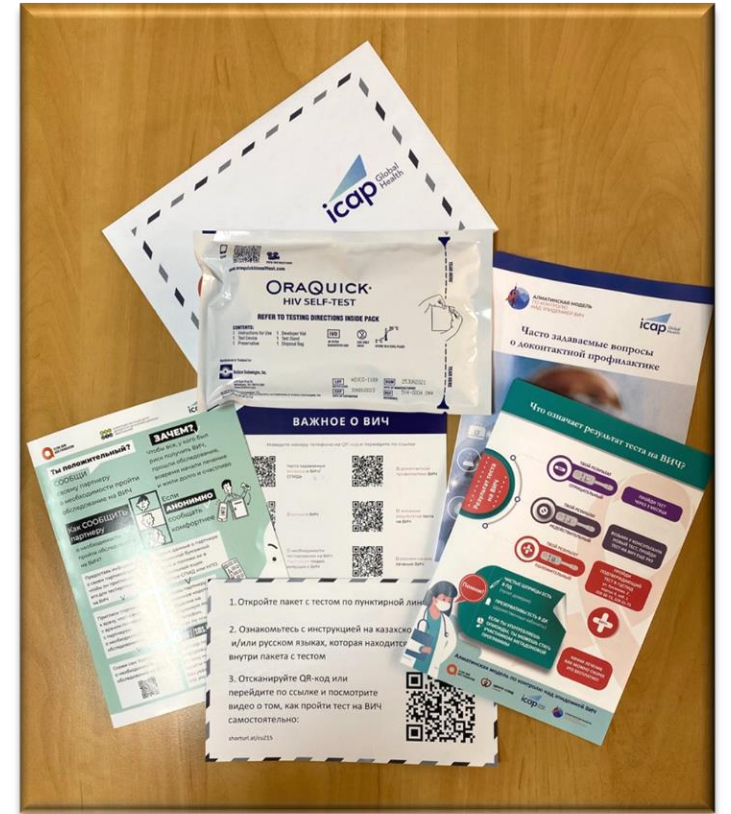
1,161
Reported results



13
Newly diagnosed HIV
100% initiated ART



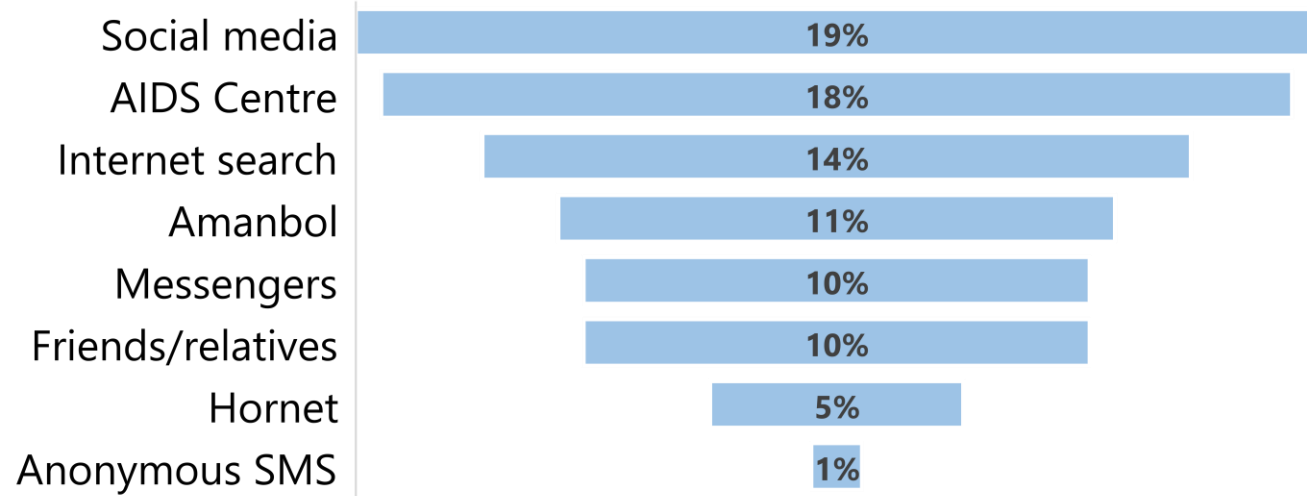
- Tastamats
- Pharmacies
- AIDS Center
- Courier Delivery
- CBO



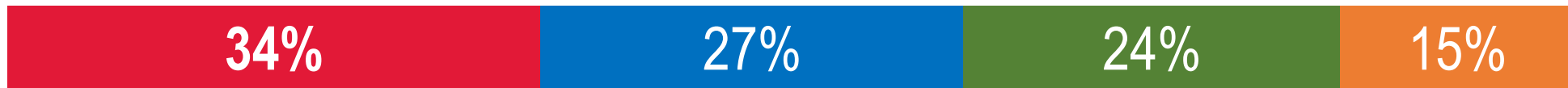
Service users' self-reported characteristics, February 2022- August 2023

GENDER	TESTED	%	MEDIAN AGE
Male	1635	69%	26
Female	719	30%	24
Nonbinary	8	0%	25
Trans-woman	5	0%	24
Unspecified	3	0%	26
TOTAL	2370	100%	25

INFORMATION CHANNELS



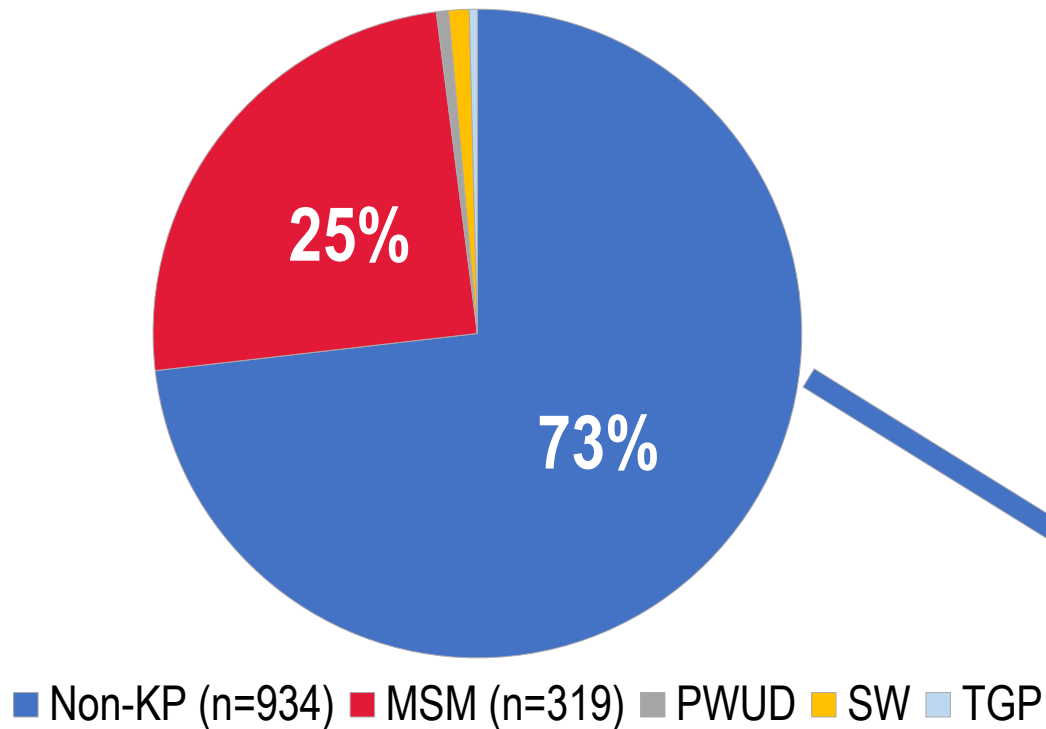
LATEST HIV TEST



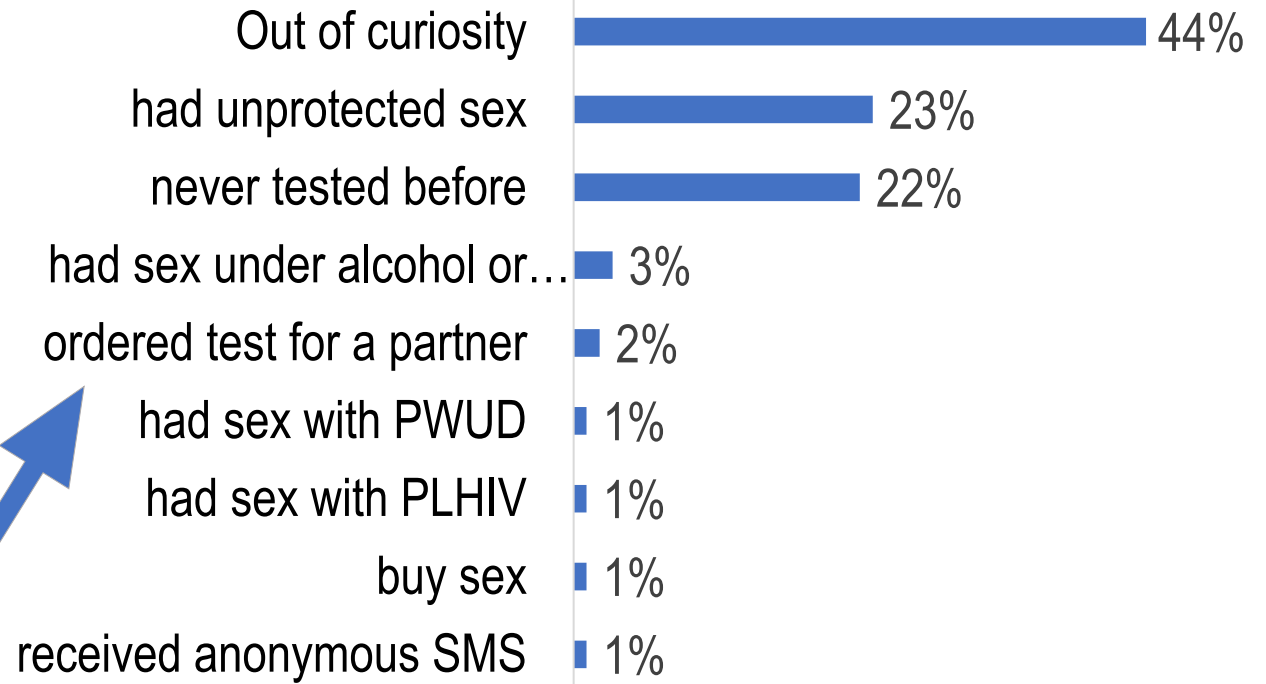
■ never
 ■ last 6-12 months
 ■ over a year ago
 ■ last 6 months

Service users' self-reported characteristics and reasons for ordering tests

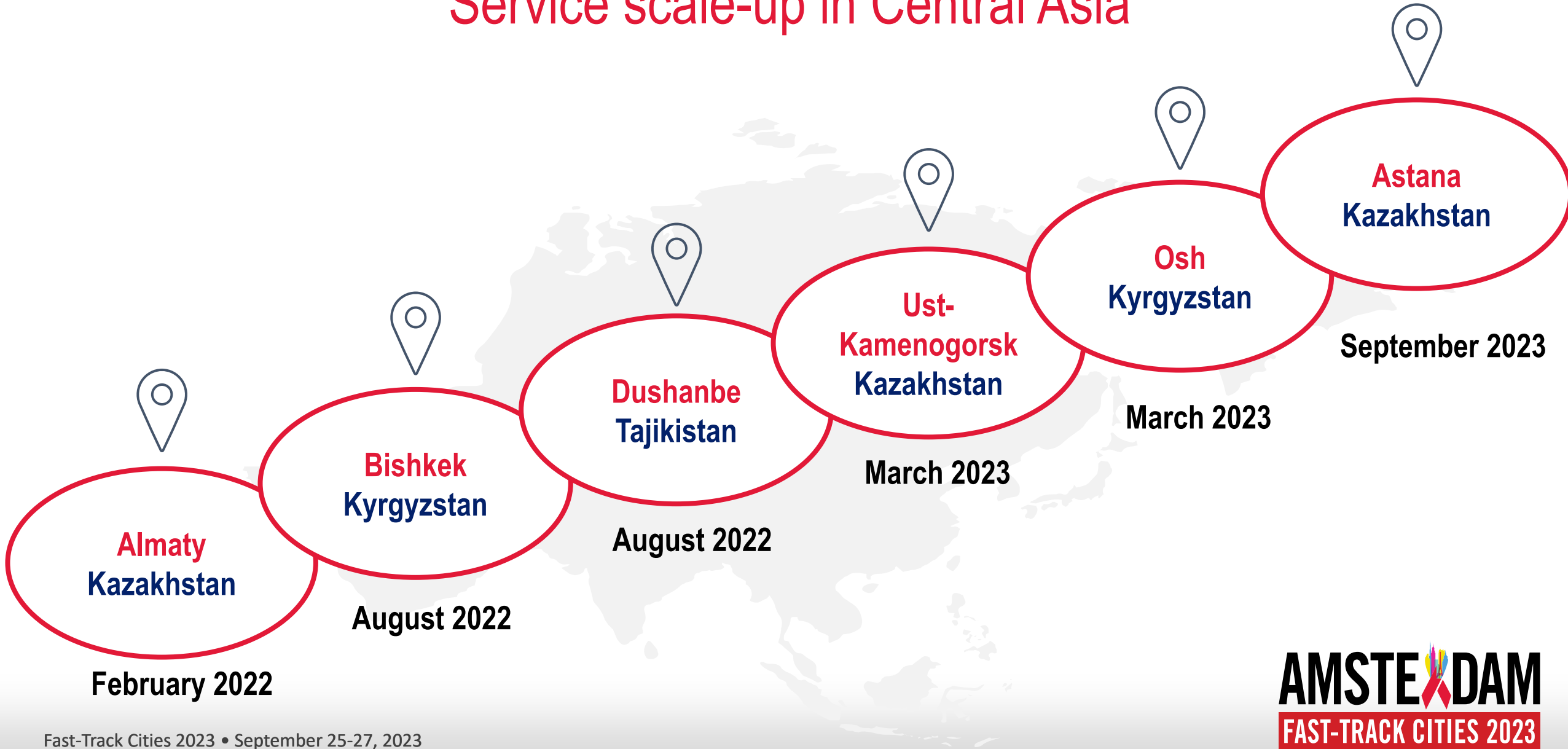
KEY POPULATION (N=1276)



KEY REASONS



Service scale-up in Central Asia



Lessons Learned

- Online HIV self-testing is an **effective tool to expand HIV testing**, especially among young people and first-time testers
- **Routine targeted promotion** of the service among healthcare employees, CBO staff, closed messenger groups and social media is the key to service growth
- **Regular person-centered service quality improvement** is important to ensure demand and sustainability of the service

Thank you!

We acknowledge the invaluable support of the Elton John AIDS Foundation

We are also sincerely grateful for the strong partnership with the ministry of health of Kazakhstan, the health care facilities and community-based organizations in Almaty