



Public Health  
England

# A comparison of clients using National on-line HIV self-sampling services with those testing for HIV in STI clinics in England, 2013

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Order online

Kit delivered to postal  
address

Provide self-sample

Post back to lab for  
processing

Dean St at Home service

- Oral fluid (swab)  
or Blood (400µl)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>  
generation test

HPE/THT service

- Dried blood spot
- 4<sup>th</sup> generation  
test

Reactive  
result?

Phone call from  
service

SMS from service

Referral into HIV care





# Study aim and methods

To evaluate the effectiveness of two National self-sampling services for HIV testing in comparison to HIV testing in GUM clinical services

Online orders made over 5 months (01-Nov-2013 to 31-Mar-2014) through two National services were analysed to determine:

- number of kits distributed, proportion returned and reactive
- age
- sexual orientation
- ethnicity
- geography of residence

This information was compared to clinic attendees receiving an HIV test in GUM clinical services, nationwide throughout 2013



# Results orders, returns and reactive tests

| Service              | Population | Sample type                       | Kits distributed (%) | Return rate (n)      | Reactivity rate (n) |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Both Services</b> | <b>All</b> | <b>Either blood or oral fluid</b> | <b>12,485</b>        | <b>52.8% (6,593)</b> | <b>1.4% (92)</b>    |
| HPE/THT              | All        | Dried blood spot                  | 7,833                | 55.0% (4,309)        | 1.4% (56)           |
|                      | MSM        |                                   | 7,000 (89.4)         | 57.0% (3,988)        | 1.2% (45)           |
|                      | BA het     |                                   | 571 (7.3)            | 47.3% (270)          | 3.5% (9)            |
| Dean Street at Home  | All        | Either blood or oral fluid*       | 4,652                | 49.1% (2,284)        | 1.6% (36)           |
|                      | Men        |                                   | 3,967 (85.3)         | 51.3% (2,036)        | 1.7% (34)           |

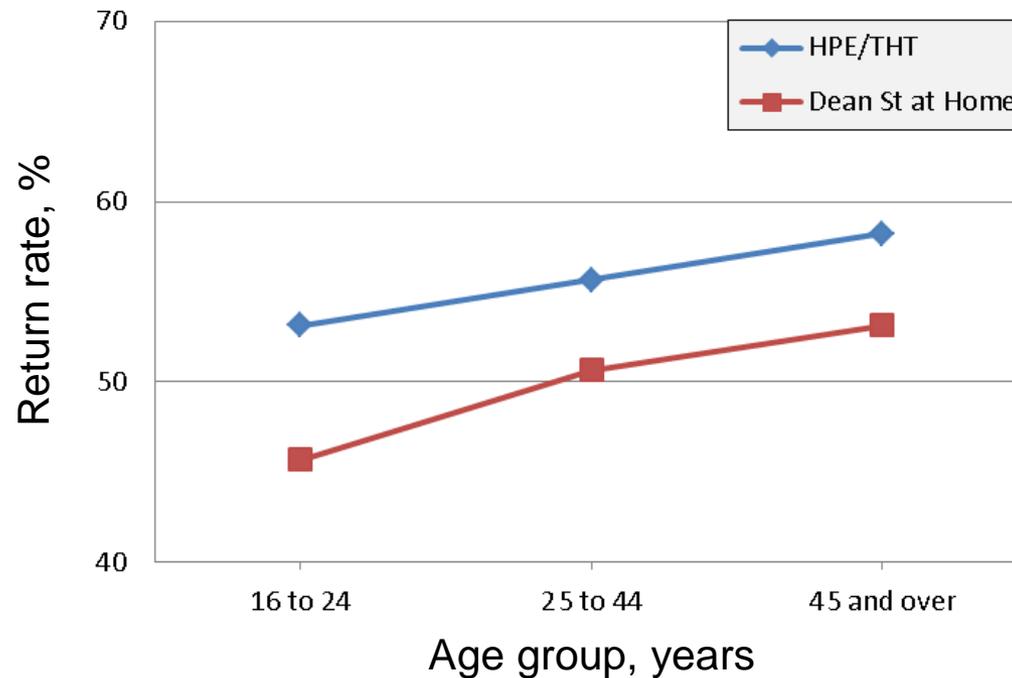


\*The return rate was the same for both blood and oral fluid sample collection kits (49%)



# Results age

- Return rate of self-sampling kits increased with increasing age





# Results geography of residence

Resident in London:

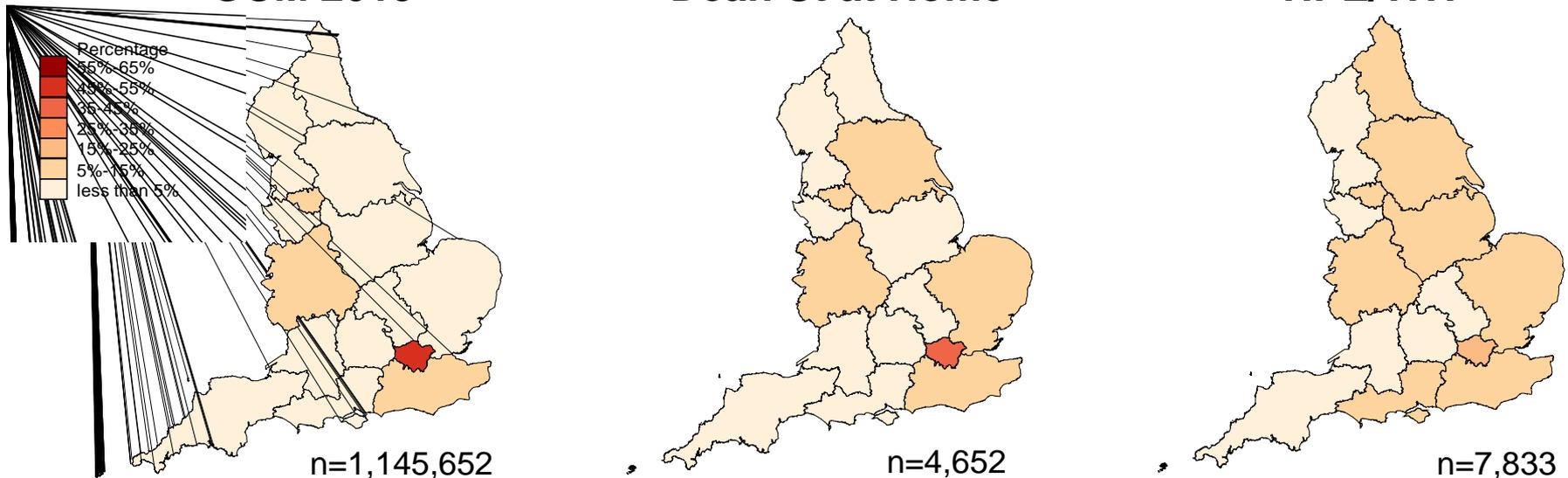
- 50% of GUM clinic users testing for HIV, 39% of Dean St at Home clients and 18% of HPE/THT service users

Self-sampling users were more evenly distributed nationwide

**GUM 2013**

**Dean St at Home**

**HPE/THT**





# Conclusion

The two self-sampling services successfully:

- **recruited** MSM and black African heterosexuals specifically; with distinct geographic distribution of clients compared to GUM services
- **diagnosed** MSM in a comparable proportion, and black African heterosexuals in a higher proportion than GUM services

A novel, effective, potentially cost-saving method of expanding HIV testing to individuals at high-risk of infection, who otherwise may not test in existing clinic-based settings

**Self-sampling facilitates the required expansion of HIV testing  
necessary for HIV prevention in England**



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## Service users

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