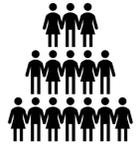


Results from the Spring European Testing Week – Special COVID-19 campaign



70
organisations



13
countries represented



31%
evaluation response rate

SETW 2020 activities*



69%
did appointment-only testing



31%
did awareness activities



13%
did self-testing activities



6%
did online services

Targeted groups for SETW



19%
targeted MSM



38%
targeted online audience/general population

*Respondents could choose more than one answer

SETW 2020 participants



67%
from the Western European region



95%
do testing as part of regular services

77%
of respondents participated in SETW 2020



Portugal, Italy & Spain
had most orgs signed-up

Most reported conditions tested:
HIV, HCV Syphilis



100%
were NGOs/CSOs

◆ % of survey respondents

Top 3 main groups that access services* ◆



91%
targeted general population



59%
targeted MSM



45%
targeted PWID

*Respondents could choose more than one answer

Impact of COVID-19

Change in services due to COVID-19



43%
did online services



76%
reported linkage to care was done similarly pre-COVID



33%
did appointment-only testing



29%
had total suspension of services



43%
reported an increase in demand for services during the pandemic



19%
did self-testing activities

Interest in self-testing/self-sampling (ST/SS)



44%
reported they were considering adopting or expanding ST/SS services during the pandemic



28%
reported they were considering adopting or expanding ST/SS if they become more available in the future

Feedback



90%
were interested in participating in both a Spring and Autumn ETW

Online activity



~ 210
total downloads of ETW materials



1
webinar on INTEGRATE HIV ST pilots



4
country case example videos of adapted services during COVID-19



1
video from an expert point-of-view on impact of COVID-19

Summary: 70 organisations from 13 countries in the WHO European Region participated in the 2020 Spring European Testing Week (SETW). Of those, 31% completed the online evaluation survey. Due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 SETW primarily focussed on virtual-based SETW-related activities with two recommended key focus areas: 1. Sharing experiences from the HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infection fields to work in unison against COVID-19; 2. Continuing to remind the European community that HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, testing, care and support services are essential services and must continue to be supported, especially during times of crisis. All respondents were from NGOs/CSOs and the majority of respondents (95%) reported testing as part of their regular services, with the top three conditions tested including HIV (91%), HCV (64%) and syphilis (55%). New to ETW, when asked which key groups regularly access respondent's services, migrants and mobile populations was the third most reported group. More than 75% of respondents reported participating in SETW, however, of those who didn't, the majority (80%) reported they were unable to due to COVID-19 restrictions. For those who participated, the majority reported doing appointment-only in person testing (69%) followed by awareness raising (31%). Respondents reported being greatly impacted by COVID-19 and shifted services from in-person to more online-based. Interest in expanding self-testing/self-sampling services was also reported but many were unable to do so current inaccessibility. The majority (90%) reported interest in participating in both a Spring and Autumn ETW in the future. Online activity continues to constitute a large portion of ETW activity, including dissemination of ETW materials and awareness raising.

Methods: The typical post-ETW survey was re-developed and simplified to measure six core indicators and include four questions on the impact of COVID-19 on services. Questions that have been typically asked quantitatively (multiple choice or yes/no answers) were asked in free-text form. As a result, all free text answers were reviewed and categorised into the most common answers. Everyone within the ETW network were invited to complete the online survey via REDCap as the evaluation.

Limitations: The evaluation is voluntary with limitations including: service closures due to COVID-19, pre-defined answer categories, language barriers and perceptions of questions asked and survey length.

Conclusions: Despite the COVID-19 pandemic severely affecting the number of participants and activities for the Spring 2020 ETW, it still served as an important reminder for communities, healthcare workers and policy makers that services for HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs are crucial especially during a pandemic. Although many organisations reported limited capacity and/or total service closures, many adapted to find alternatives to provide services while adhering to local health and safety precautions to mitigate service disruption.