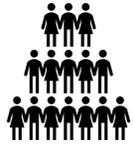


Results from the Autumn European Testing Week 2021



665
organisations



50
countries represented



4.2%
evaluation response rate

Nov ETW 2021 participants



50%
from the Western European region



Ukraine, Italy & Spain
had most orgs signed-up



93%
do testing as part of regular services

Most reported conditions tested:
HIV, HCV Syphilis



75%
were NGOs/CSOs

◆ % of survey respondents

100%
of respondents participated in ETW 2021

Top 3 main groups that access services*



82%
MSM



59%
general population



59%
migrants & mobile populations

*Respondents could choose more than one answer

Feedback



79%
were interested in participating in both a Spring and Autumn ETW

Online activity



~ 355
total downloads of ETW materials



1 webinar on self-testing for Hepatitis C

European Test Finder



77%
reported awareness of the European Test Finder



66%
reported their site was already signed-up

Autumn ETW 2021 activities*



89%
did testing activities



71%
did awareness activities

*Respondents could choose more than one answer



27%
did new activities for ETW



57%
collaborated with other organisations

Testing activities for ETW



45%
reported overall increases in testing volume during ETW compared to pre-pandemic



Of those reporting testing increases
44%
reported an increase of more than 50% during ETW

Targeted conditions for ETW*



96%
included HIV targeted activities



68%
included HCV targeted activities



71%
did activities targeting more than one condition

Impact of COVID-19

Change in services due to COVID-19*



57%
had fewer appointments/reduced attendance



52%
reported linkage to care was done similarly pre-COVID



57%
had site closures



38%
reported the demand for services were similar to before COVID-19



48%
reported reduced staff onsite

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



42%
reported they were considering adopting or expanding ST/SS services in the future



17%
reported they could only consider adopting or expanding ST/SS if they become more available in the future

*Respondents could choose more than one answer

Summary: 665 organisations from 17 countries in the WHO European Region participated in the 2021 Autumn European Testing Week (ETW). Of those, 4.2% completed the online evaluation survey. The 2021 Autumn ETW primarily focused on the need “to catch up on testing” and regain focus on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI priorities. The majority of respondents were from NGOs/CSOs (75%) and reported testing as part of their regular services (93%), with the top three conditions tested including HIV (100%), HCV (73%) and syphilis (65%). When asked which key groups regularly access respondent’s services, men who have sex with men (MSM) was the most reported group (82%), followed by the general population (59%) and migrants and mobile populations (59%). The majority of respondents reported organising testing activities (89%) followed by awareness raising (71%). Similar to past ETWS, the majority of respondents reported targeting their activities on HIV (96%) followed by HCV (68%) and syphilis (57%). However, the majority of respondents (71%) reported targeting more than one condition for ETW. A portion of respondents reported engaging in new activities (27%) and more than half (56%) reported collaborating with other organisations for ETW. For those reporting organising testing activities, 45% reported an increase in testing volume during ETW compared to a regular week pre-pandemic. Additionally, of those who reported increases in testing during ETW, 44% reported increases in testing volume of more than 50%. Respondents continued to report impacts on services due to the pandemic, with more than half citing site closures and few appointments scheduled/reduce attendance as having the biggest impact. Despite this, most respondents (38%) reported that requests for services and linkage to care protocols (52%) were similar to before the pandemic . The majority (79%) reported interest in participating in both a Spring and Autumn ETW in the future. As with past ETWs, the ETW secretariat and network utilises the various online platforms to engage and share local activities. Furthermore, online events, e.g. live webinars, videos and other multimedia resources, continue to serve as useful outlets to exchange information and provide interaction between participating organisations and experts.

Methods: An online survey in REDCap was distributed to all registered ETW participants to evaluate European Testing Week. COVID-19 questions were included to assess the continued impact of the pandemic on services.

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

Conclusions: Although there have been calls for the prioritization for HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect testing service provision with many reporting that service levels have not returned to levels before the pandemic. With the pandemic response varying throughout Europe, there will continue to be uncertainty in the capacity for participation and different levels of engagement for ETW.