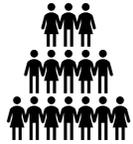


Results from the Autumn European Testing Week 2020



644
organisations



51
countries represented



7.5%
evaluation response rate

Nov ETW 2020 participants



50%
from the Western European region



Ukraine, Lithuania & Portugal had most orgs signed-up



67%
do testing as part of regular services

Most reported conditions tested:
HIV, HCV Syphilis



54%
were NGOs/CSOs

◆ % of survey respondents

77%
of respondents participated in ETW 2020

Top 3 main groups that access services*



72%
MSM



59%
general population



44%
PWID

*Respondents could choose more than one answer

Feedback



84%
were interested in participating in both a Spring and Autumn ETW

ETW online activity



~ 383
total downloads of ETW materials



2 webinars on Integrating testing for HIV and/or viral hepatitis and COVID-19 & HIV ST during COVID



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

European Test Finder



60%
reported awareness of the European Test Finder

Autumn ETW 2020 activities*



84%
did testing activities



73%
did awareness activities

*Respondents could choose more than one answer



50%
did new activities for ETW



68%
collaborated with other organisations

Testing activities for ETW



41%
reported overall decreases in testing volume during ETW compared to pre-pandemic

However...

of those reporting testing increases



67%
reported an increase of **more than 50%** during ETW

Targeted conditions for ETW*



100%
included HIV targeted activities



77%
included HCV targeted activities



80%
did activities targeting more than one condition

Impact of COVID-19

Change in services due to COVID-19*



63%
had fewer appointments/reduced attendance



57%
reported linkage to care was done similarly pre-COVID



38%
did appointment-only testing



32%
reported demand for services were similar to before COVID-19



38%
reported reduced staff onsite

*Respondents could choose more than one answer

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



16%
reported they were considering adopting or expanding ST/SS services in the future



19%
reported they would only consider adopting or expanding ST/SS if they become more available in the future

Summary: 644 organisations from 51 countries in the WHO European Region participated in the 2020 Autumn European Testing Week (ETW). Of those, 7.5% completed the online evaluation survey. The 2020 Autumn ETW primarily focused on the need for continued efforts to adapt in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to ensure continued provision of testing services, however feasible in the local context. Over half of respondents were from NGOs/CSOs and the majority of respondents (67%) reported testing as part of their regular services, with the top three conditions tested including HIV (100%), HCV (77%) and syphilis (53%). When asked which key groups regularly access respondent's services, men who have sex with men (MSM) was the most reported group (72%), followed by the general population (59%) and people who inject drugs (44%). Of those who participated in the Autumn 2020 ETW (77%), the majority reported organising testing activities (84%) followed by awareness raising (72%). Similar to past ETWS, all respondents reported targeting their activities on HIV followed by HCV (77%) and HBV (41%). However, the majority of respondents (80%) reported targeting more than one condition for ETW. Half of respondents reported engaging in new activities and the majority of respondents (68%) reported collaborating with other organisations for ETW. For those reporting organising testing activities, 41% reported a decrease in testing volume during ETW compared to a regular week pre-pandemic. However, of those who reported increases in testing during ETW (19%), 67% reported increases in testing volume of more than 50%. Respondents continued to report impacts on services due to the pandemic, with the majority reporting (63%) experiencing fewer appointments/reduced attendance. However linkage to care protocols were reportedly similar as to before the pandemic. The majority (84%) reported interest in participating in both a Spring and Autumn ETW in the future. Online activity continues to play an important role in ETW with many respondents and the secretariat using social media to promote ETW activities and materials. Additionally, live webinars, videos and other multimedia resources continue to provide an interactive platform for the ETW network to engage.

Methods: An online survey in REDCap was distributed to all registered ETW participants to evaluate European Testing Week. Similarly to the Spring 2020 survey, COVID-19 questions were included to assess the continued impact of the pandemic on services. Feedback from the Spring 2020 survey helped to re-define the questions and improve categorisation of responses.

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: The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to affect the number of participants and activities for ETW. Although initial closures and restrictions were lifted compared to the early start of the pandemic and some respondents reported service levels returning to similar levels, many still report having to adapt to mitigate impact from the pandemic.