

Appendix 2: Acceptability Survey

An anonymised acceptability user survey (SurveyMonkey®) was emailed once to all users who returned a sample in the first year. Questions included preferred future testing options and whether they would recommend the service to a friend expected to test positive versus negative, in order to assess if perceived risk altered attitudes to home sampling.

1,439 invites were sent to users who returned a sample in the first year. 594 completed the survey (41%). 94% of respondents said they would recommend this service to a friend expected to test negative whilst 60% would recommend it to a friend expected to test positive ($p < 0.0001$, Two-tailed Fisher's exact test). 23% were unsure. When asked how they would prefer to test next, 61% said home sampling, 23% home testing with immediate results, 10% GUM clinic and <1% outreach setting (e.g. sauna). 2.5% of respondents reported their test was positive.

Question	Answers	N	%
<i>Would you recommend this service to a friend expected to test <u>negative</u>?</i>	Yes	<u>556</u>	<u>93.8%</u>
	No	20	3.4%
	Not sure	17	2.9%
<i>Would you recommend this service to a friend expected to test <u>positive</u>?</i>	Yes	354	59.7%
	No	102	17.2%
	Not Sure	137	23.1%
<i>How would you prefer to test next?</i>	Home sampling returned by post	<u>363</u>	<u>61.4%</u>
	Home test, immediate	<u>138</u>	<u>23.4%</u>

	results		
	Sexual Health service	61	10.3%
	Family doctor	10	1.7%
	Community setting (e.g. bar, sauna, gym)	4	0.7%
	My test was positive	15	2.5%

Table 1: Responses to online user survey

A limitation is the response rate to the survey (41%), sent to an already highly self-selected group. Service users and respondents may not be typical, therefore responses cannot be generalised to all UK MSM. Nevertheless, a large majority of respondents would use the service again, which is consistent with the high acceptability of home sampling previously reported.¹¹⁻¹² Most would also recommend this method to a friend they thought would test negative; whilst significantly fewer would recommend it to a friend they thought would test positive. This may reflect concerns that face-to-face support, with immediate linkage into care, is desirable for reactive results. Only 23% of respondents indicated a preference for home HIV point-of-care testing, which was legalized in the UK in 2014.