

INTRODUCTION

- The Southern US experiences the greatest burden of HIV infection and illness
- Benefits of knowing HIV status and starting antiretroviral therapy (ART)
 - Results in viral suppression and can eliminate transmission
- HIV self-testing allows people to take an HIV test and find out their result in privacy
- OraQuick In Home HIV Test uses saliva and delivers results within 20 minutes and is the only FDA approved HIV self-test
- While HIV testing has been implemented in other states with state health department support, this has not been done to any noticeable extent in Southern states, including Texas
- Due to COVID-19, the San Antonio AIDS Foundation (SAAF) implemented an HIV self-testing and telehealth pilot program to facilitate access to HIV testing

OBJECTIVES

Assess the feasibility and uptake of the SAAF Home Testing Program (HTP)

METHODS

- SAAF HTP was piloted from 9/24/20 to 4/23/21
- Clients and community members interested in HIV self testing contacted SAAF
 - Inclusion criteria: Fluent in English or Spanish; age >17; have a testing reason
- Telehealth appointments assessed risk and reviewed testing logistics
- Test kits were picked up curbside at SAAF and contained instructions and education materials on PrEP and PEP
- Participants were asked to complete an anonymous post-self test survey
 - Knowledge questions: ways HIV can be transmitted and prevented, and whether HIV can be cured
 - Understanding and satisfaction with HTP
 - A \$10 gift card incentive was offered for participation
- Descriptive statistics detail participant and study results

RESULTS

- Table 1 details HTP participant demographics and Table 2 details participant risk factors (N=43)
- 21 (48.8%) reported the reason for testing was “routine”
- 17 (39.5%) reported previously testing for HIV
- 20 clients utilized the self-tests
 - 17 clients completed the post-self test survey
 - 16 (94.1%) tested “negative” and one client tested “I am not sure”
 - All answered knowledge questions correctly
 - Table 3 details the HTP understanding and satisfaction among the self-testers
 - 3 clients did not complete a post-self test survey
 - 1 tested negative
 - 2 clients tested positive and began Rapid Start the same week as diagnosis

Table 3: HTP understanding and satisfaction among self-testers (n=17)	Mean (SD)
I understood the written instructions in my test kit	3.4 (1.3)
I was provided with enough information by the test counselor when I picked up my test kit	3.4 (1.3)
The pictures provided in the test kit were helpful	3.4 (1.3)
The HIV home-testing kit was easy to use	3.4 (1.3)
I liked being able to self-test at home	3.4 (1.4)
After COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, I would like to continue with telehealth for my sexual health care	3.2 (1.2)
1 – strongly disagree, 2 – disagree, 3 – Neutral, 4 – agree, 5 – strongly agree	



CONCLUSIONS

- In September 2020, SAAF HTP was the only RWHAP clinic in San Antonio to offer HIV self-testing
- Offering an alternative method for HIV testing to the community proved to be valuable as two clients were able to begin Rapid Start treatment
- The study team plans to share protocols, resources, and lessons learned via the UT Health San Antonio South Central AIDS Education Training Center (SCAETC) so other organizations can easily replicate and implement HTP and augment HIV testing access