Home HIV Testing and Medical Care: Doing the Right Thing
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Background
- HIV testing is the initial, critical step for people with HIV into the continuum of care.
- Approval of the home HIV test in July 2012 expanded the accessibility of HIV testing to groups who do not test in traditional venues.
- However, concerns have been raised over the home HIV test's cost (39.99USD), uptake, and users' willingness to seek confirmatory testing and linkage to care.

Study Objectives
- Assess the home HIV test's acceptability, uptake, and user willingness to seek confirmatory testing and linkage to care among New York City men who have sex with men (MSM).

Methods
- New York City health department offers partner services and linkage to care to all persons newly diagnosed with HIV city-wide.
- Since 2013, home HIV test use has been systematically collected for all persons assigned to receive partner services.
- Demographic and behavioral characteristics were compared among newly HIV diagnosed MSM who reported home test use to MSM who did not, January 2013 - July 2014.

Home Test Use NYC Among MSM Assigned for Partner Services, January 2013 – July 2014
- Total MSM Assigned N= 2,084
- Home Test Users N = 53
- Home Test Non-Users N = 2,031

Demographic Characteristics of Newly HIV Diagnosed NYC MSM Who Were Home Test Users vs. Non-Users

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Home Testing Users</th>
<th>Home Testing Non-Users</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Age (years)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0.818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>White, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Unknown</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended College/Graduate School</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tested HIV negative within 12 months</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Incarcerated</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute HIV Diagnosis</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0.175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Home HIV Test Results Among Home Test Users (N=53)
- Preliminary Positive: 51%
- Negative: 49%

Timely (Within 3 Months of Diagnosis) Linkage to Care Among Home Test Users vs. Non-Users
- Home Test Users: 63%
- Non-Users: 69%

Conclusions
- Many high-risk MSM in NYC who reported home HIV test use are routine testers as opposed to infrequent or never testers.
- MSM who home-tested preliminary positive sought medical attention for confirmatory testing and linkage to care.
- The lower uptake among MSM of color compared to white MSM requires further investigation but may reflect socioeconomic differences.
- The NYC health department is addressing the issue of cost by offering home HIV test kits to HIV exposed partners who decline testing in traditional settings.
- Wider home testing for some risk groups may require free or lower cost kits.