

A Prevention Program Utilizing Vending Machines In Commercial Sex Venues To Increase HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex With Men: Initial Results.

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Background & objectives

- Early identification of HIV infection and linkage to care is an effective strategy to prevent further transmission of HIV and improve health outcomes.
- **Screening intervention** that combines modern technologies in **HIV testing** with **vending machines** strategically located near a high risk population
- **Program goals:**
 - increase testing uptake
 - identify new cases
 - provide linkage to care.

“Tools” of the intervention



OraQuick In-Home HIV Test kit.

- Self-test kit
- Oral fluid (saliva)
- Results in 20 min

Vending machines

- “...generally *acceptable* due to its novelty and convenience...”; *easy to use*
- *Real-time monitoring* via online platform



Sites of the intervention

Two Commercial Sex Venues in Los Angeles.

- Private facilities, usually membership only
- Spa, pool, jacuzzi, **private rooms**

County regulations require prevention billboards, free condoms/lubricant, **on-site testing**

High proportion of “non-testers”

High-risk sexual behaviors

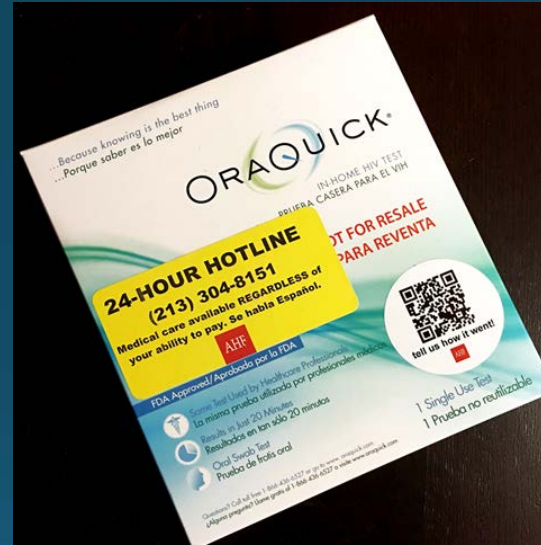
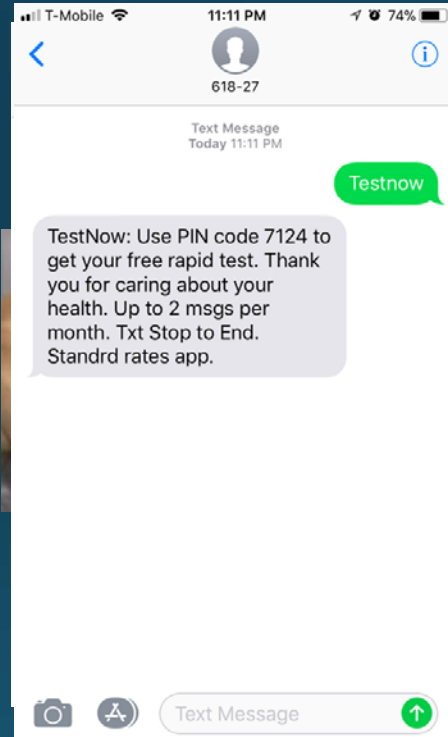
- condomless sex
- multiple partners
- drug & alcohol use



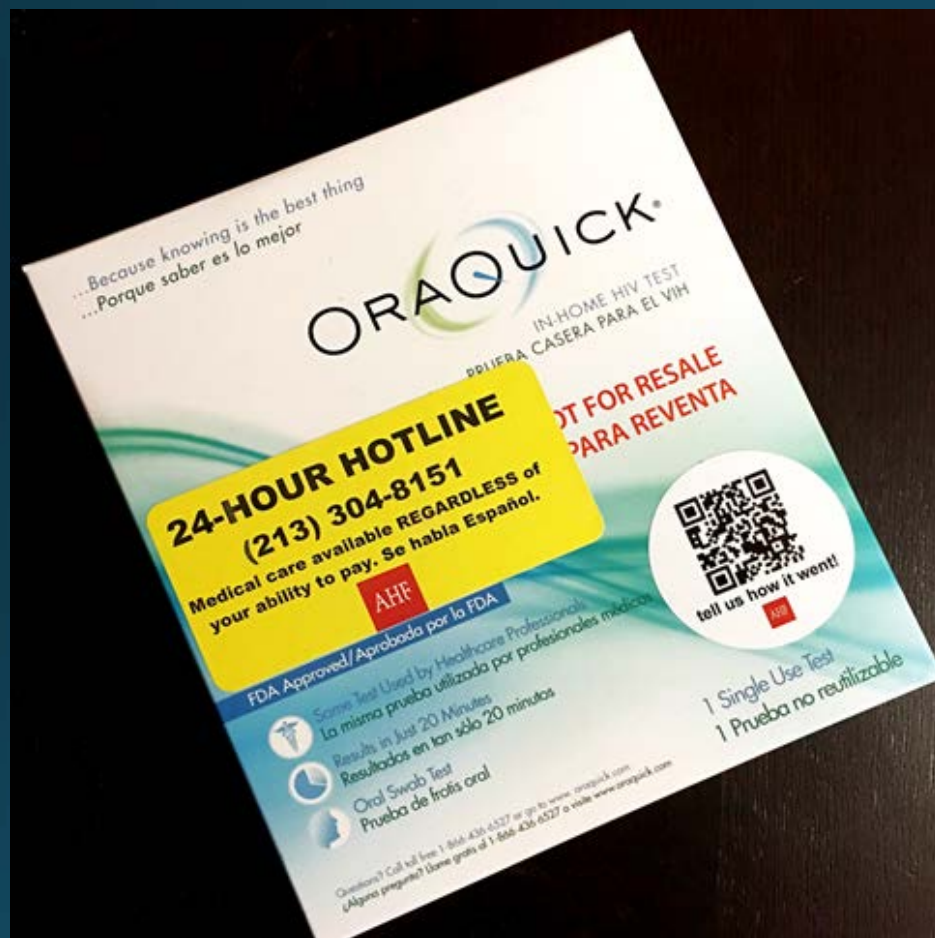
Woods WJ et al., AIDS Care, (2016)

Aynalem G et al., Sexually Transmitted Infections, (2006)

Participation in the intervention



Participation in the intervention



Use the OraQuick in-home HIV test,
then take our survey at:
surveymonkey.com/r/UTesting
using the code:

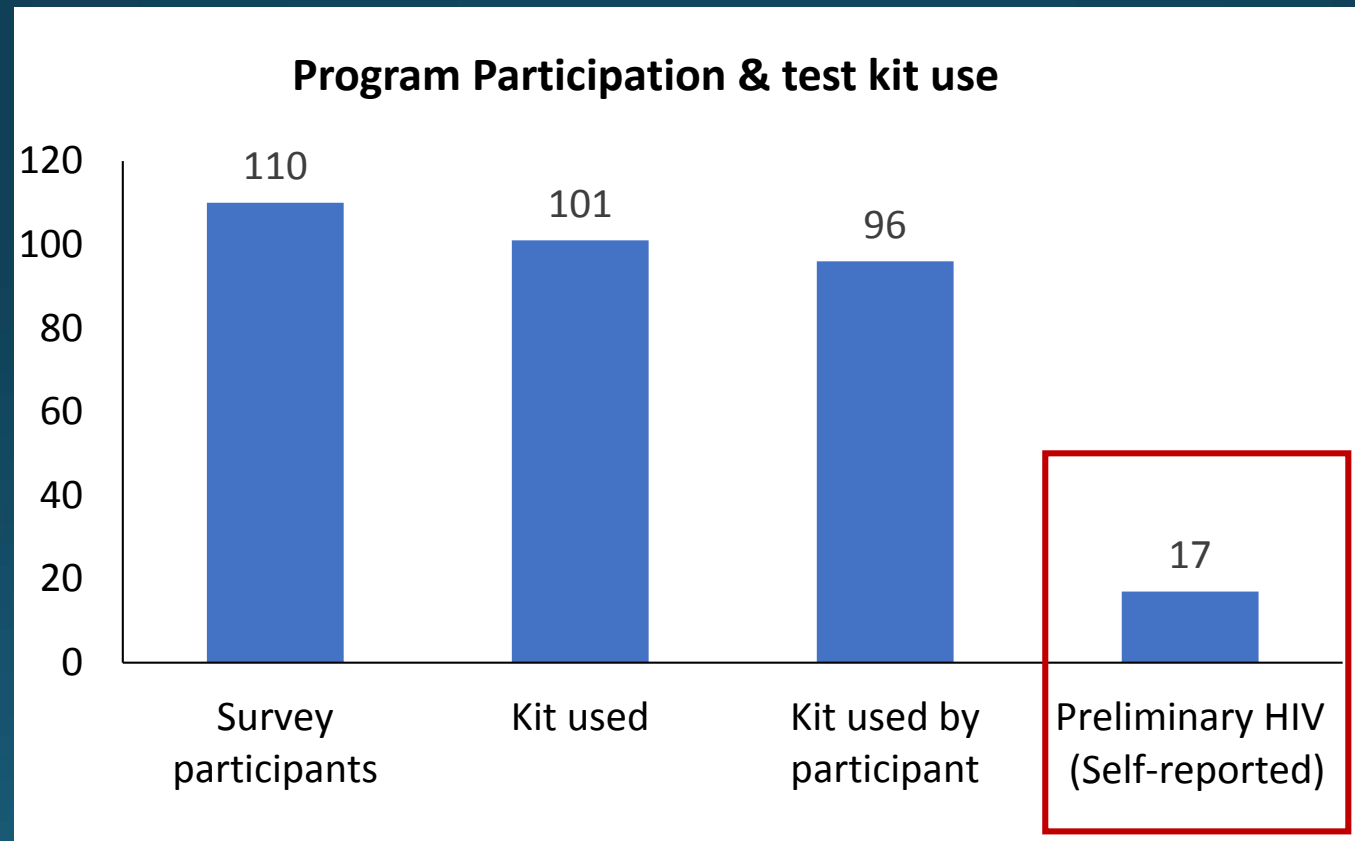
to receive your \$15 Target gift card!

Participation in the intervention

- Linkage to care (*AIDS Healthcare Foundation*):
 - 24/7 AHF Linkage to care Hotline
 - Project team [*survey*]
- Evaluation Data:
 - Baseline survey (*demographics, test result, linkage to care*)
 - Follow-up survey (*experience, opinions*)
 - Test kit dispensing rate
- UCLA IRB approval for the study protocols and tools

Main Outcomes – Baseline survey

- Between January 2016 - June 2017
- 1,398 kits were dispensed, 19 kits/week.



Preliminary HIV+ self-reported cases

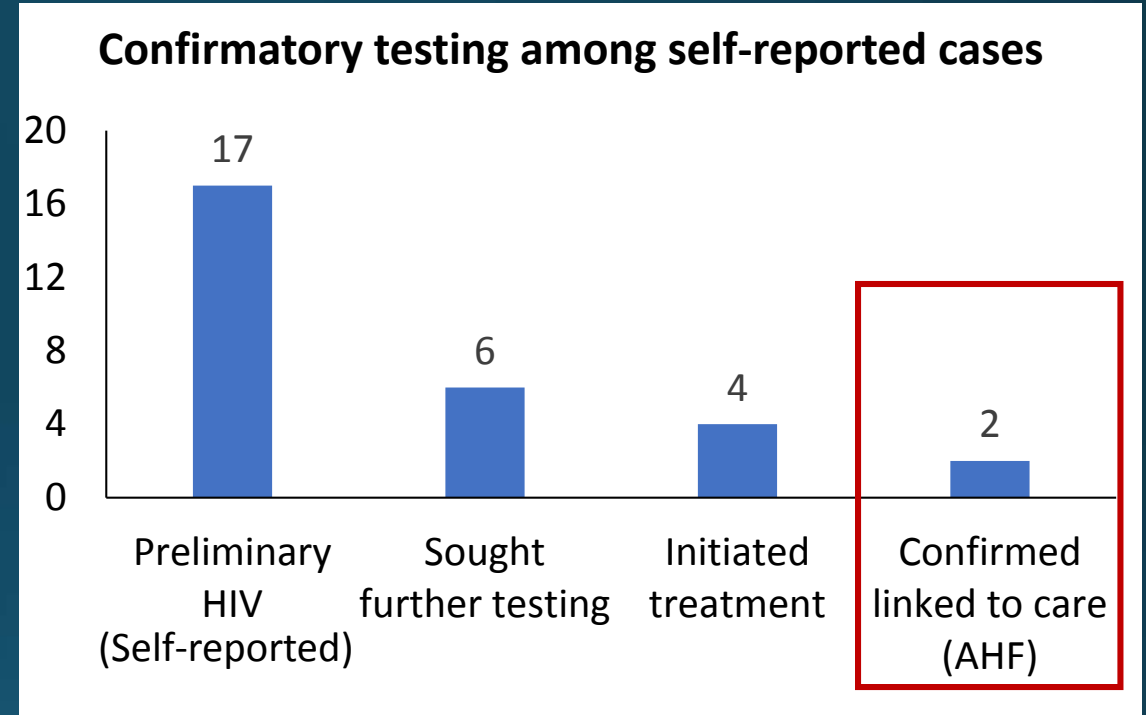
Demographics (n=17):

Men

Average age 33.5 years

Race/Ethnicity

- 4/17 Latinos,
- 6/17 multiracial (≥ 2 races)



One participant requested linkage to care *via the survey*

One participant contacted *directly AHF linkage to care* services

Follow-up survey

13/110 men participated (response rate= 12%)

User experience:

- Positive overall experience
- Highly recommend the HIV test kit vending machine to a friend

Testing Behavior:

9/13 would prefer self-testing than testing in a clinic.
3/13 tested at least once at the bathhouse

Follow up survey participants...

Valued most

Convenience

Ease of use
(Vending machine,
test kit)

Privacy

Confidentiality

Skeptical

Accuracy of test
result

Testing behavior of follow up survey participants



Program impact – initial evaluation

Point of care HIV testing/new cases of HIV vs test kit distribution/self-reported positive cases at the program sites , 2016

	On Site testing		Vending machines	
Study Site	Tests performed	New positive cases n(%)	Test kits distributed	Self-reported preliminary positive n(%)
Total	1,024	10 (1%)	945	11 (1.16%)
Site A	317	5 (1.6%)	488	9* (1.8%)
Site B	707	5 (0.7%)	457	2 (0.4%)

(*2 confirmed)

Discussion

Vending machines in commercial sex venues:

- Acceptable by the target population
- Can identify new cases of HIV infection
- Linkage to care for 4 people/2 AHF
- increase testing uptake

Limitations: self-reported results, low response rate affects generalizability

Future steps:

- Further evaluation of the cost-effectiveness and impact
- Expand the program
 - for STI testing
 - in public spaces (Grocery stores, train stations...)

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