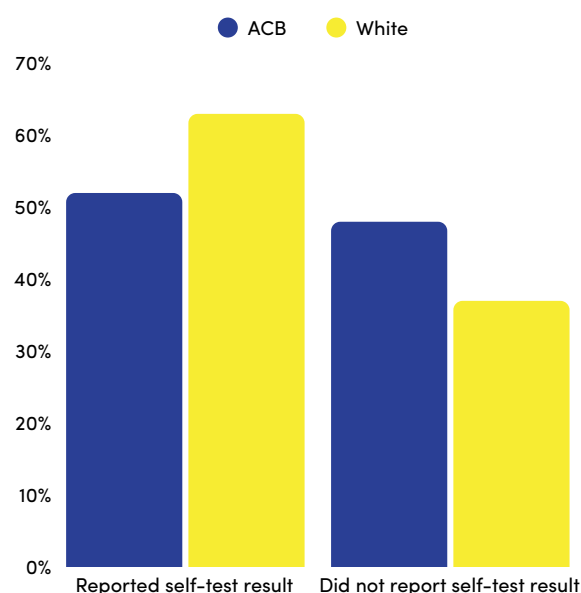


HIV self-testing enabled access to testing for Black persons.

In Ontario, new cases of HIV affect gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) and persons of African, Caribbean, or Black (ACB) ethnicities more than others. Because of this, easily accessible HIV testing is important for these groups. GetaKit aimed to target promotion of HIV self-test distribution towards these communities through social media, connecting with partner agencies, and creating specific GetaKit subsites.

Over the first 10 months of GetaKit (April 1 2021 – January 31 2022), of the 1551 kits distributed, over a quarter of these people were ACB, and 40% were white.

More white than ACB participants reported being tested for HIV in the past. Of the 62% of participants who received kits, the figure to the right shows that more white than ACB people reported their results on GetaKit.ca



What does this tell us?

Through the GetaKit self-assessment, we found that ACB people were less likely to meet the criteria for starting HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication, which prevents people who are HIV negative from being infected with HIV if they are exposed to the virus.

HIV self-testing through GetaKit resulted in more testing among ACB populations, despite lower rates of reporting results. We need to do more work to increase HIV testing among ACB populations. This includes figuring out new strategies for providing HIV care.

We also now know that we need to develop better clinical indicators for identifying ACB people who are good candidates for PrEP, as current guidelines may not be adequate.

We strongly support open access, which is why you can read the full article here.

HIV self-testing enabled access to testing for Black persons: The GetaKit study

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Research in Nursing & Health (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1002/nur.22293>