

Title: REVIEW OF THE ARTICLE: HIV Self-testing Positivity rate and linkage to confirmatory testing and care.

First, I send my sincere thanks for the chance to review this very informative article on HIV self-testing Positivity rate and linkage to confirmatory testing and care. The Article highlighted the use of a very innovative survey methods and channels to reach very important groups within the populations who are considered hard to reach or no suitable tool to maintain their confidentiality. The overall Positivity rate of 2.5% which is higher than reported on conventional methods shows the need to adopt and improve the method used in this study.

Title/abstract/introduction

- The Author provided a clear title and comprehensive abstract that reflects the content of the study. However, in the introduction line 136 about the group of participants targeted with complimentary survey (which I understand as phase 2 of the survey), Author may wish to add other groups involved in complimentary survey and not those with reactive results only.

Materials and Methods

- The data management plan which has been put publicly would be nice to be translated in English and update the link in the line 178.

Results

- Results have been presented in a well categorized manner to answer the study objectives of HIVST results, HIVST Positivity rate and Linkage to Confirmatory test. As the Author decided to discuss the level of positivity rate for age groups it will be very informative to appear In the Positivity rate paragraph before discussing about it.

Discussion

- The Author discussion on age group is very important for demonstrating the positivity rate in respect to certain age, however age categorization differ from that in discussion (line 340) differs from that in appendix Table S1. Please review accordingly.
- Author should provide a clear conclusion on the overall effectiveness of HIVST and the survey method used in this study for other areas to adopt and improve in comparison with convectional testing.
- Author may wish to discuss major reasons for not linking to confirmatory testing and maybe recommending a plausible solution for future studies.

References

- No comment, all are appropriate and accurate

Tables and figures

- Tables and figures are clear and comprehensive as they all contain useful information which were not able to be full displayed in paragraphs.
- All tables have titles and useful caption which help in understanding the content of the respective table