

Interest in alternative sexual health service delivery methods during the COVID-19 pandemic in British Columbia

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CAHR Virtual Conference, May 5-7, 2021

Conflict of interest Disclosure: I have no conflicts of interest

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Background & Methods

What we know

- Sexual health services have placed greater emphasis on implementing alternative service delivery methods reducing person-to-person contact during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Implementing alternative service delivery methods could also help address one of the strategic goals of the Pan-Canadian STBBI Framework for Action¹, to improve access to testing, treatment, and ongoing care & support
- We sought to understand the interest in **alternative sexual health service delivery methods** among BC sexual health service clients during the pandemic

"Sex in the Time of COVID" Survey

- Online, anonymous survey conducted Jul 21-Aug 4, 2020
- Eligibility: Clients ≥ 16 years old who had visited the BC Centre for Disease Control's STI clinic and/or GetCheckedOnline (an internet-based testing service) in the year prior to Mar 2020
- Outcomes: Likelihood of using alternative sexual health service delivery methods, if available
- Analysis: Descriptive statistics

¹Public Health Agency of Canada, 2018

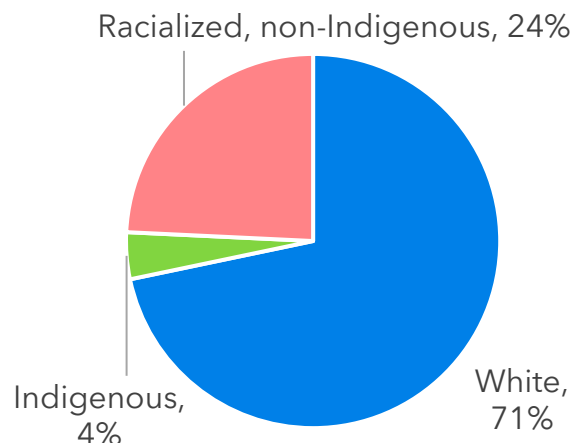


Participants & Results (N=1198)

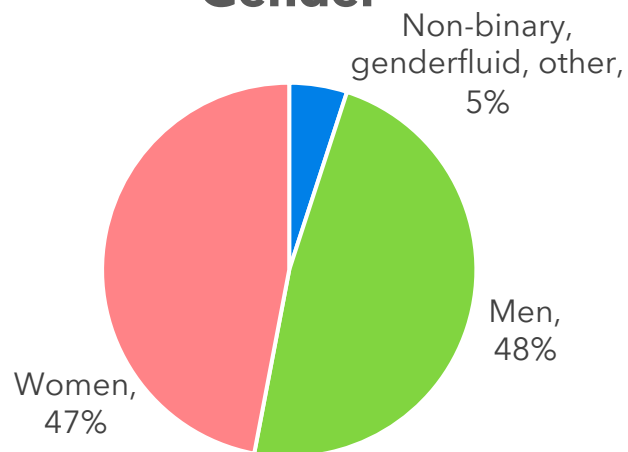
Demographics

- Median age: 32 years
- 52% straight/heterosexual

Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Results

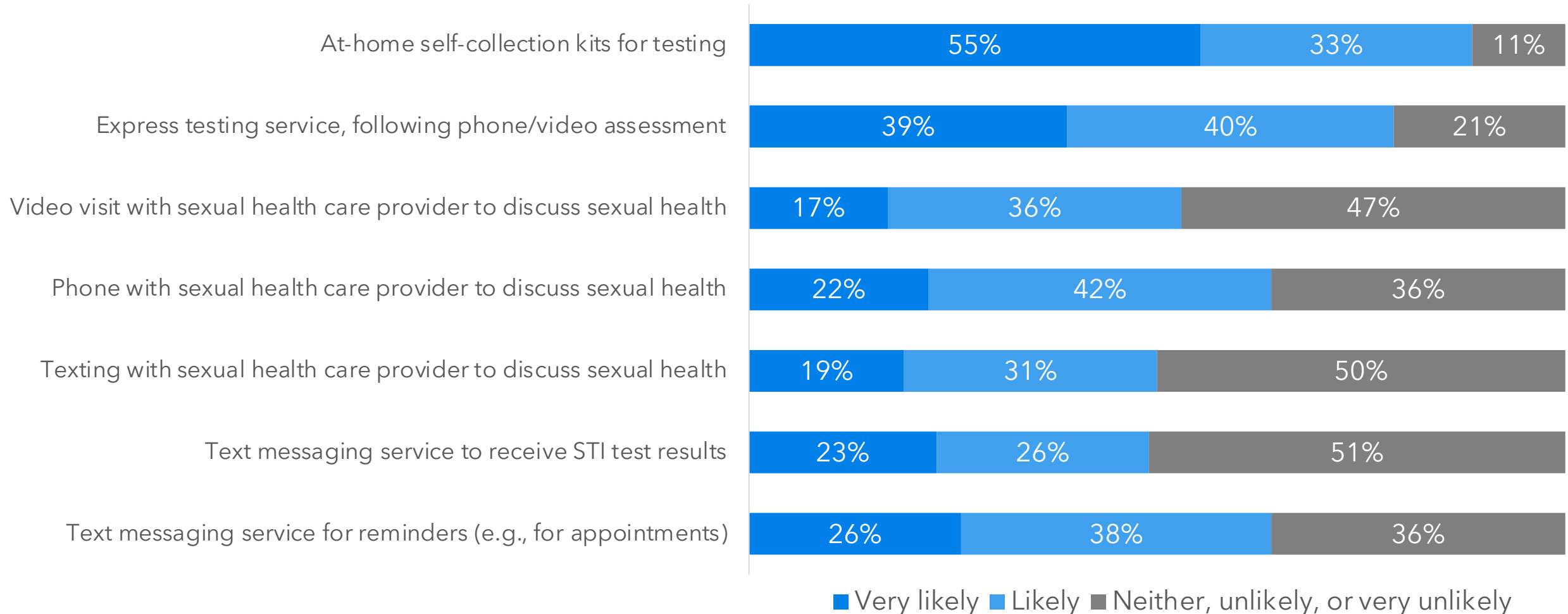
During the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 60% reported being comfortable accessing in-person sexual health services
- 66% avoided/delayed seeking services



Results (cont'd; N=1198)

Likelihood of using service, if available





Discussion

- Likelihood of using alternative methods of sexual health service delivery was high among participants
- Implementation of such services could address COVID-19 related concerns and thus facilitate access to testing, treatment and ongoing care and support during, and beyond, the pandemic