

Background

- Alternative healthcare delivery methods that reduce in-person contact have been implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., virtual health)
- **Objective:** to describe levels of acceptability for alternative sexual health delivery models among existing sexual health clients in BC, Canada

Methods

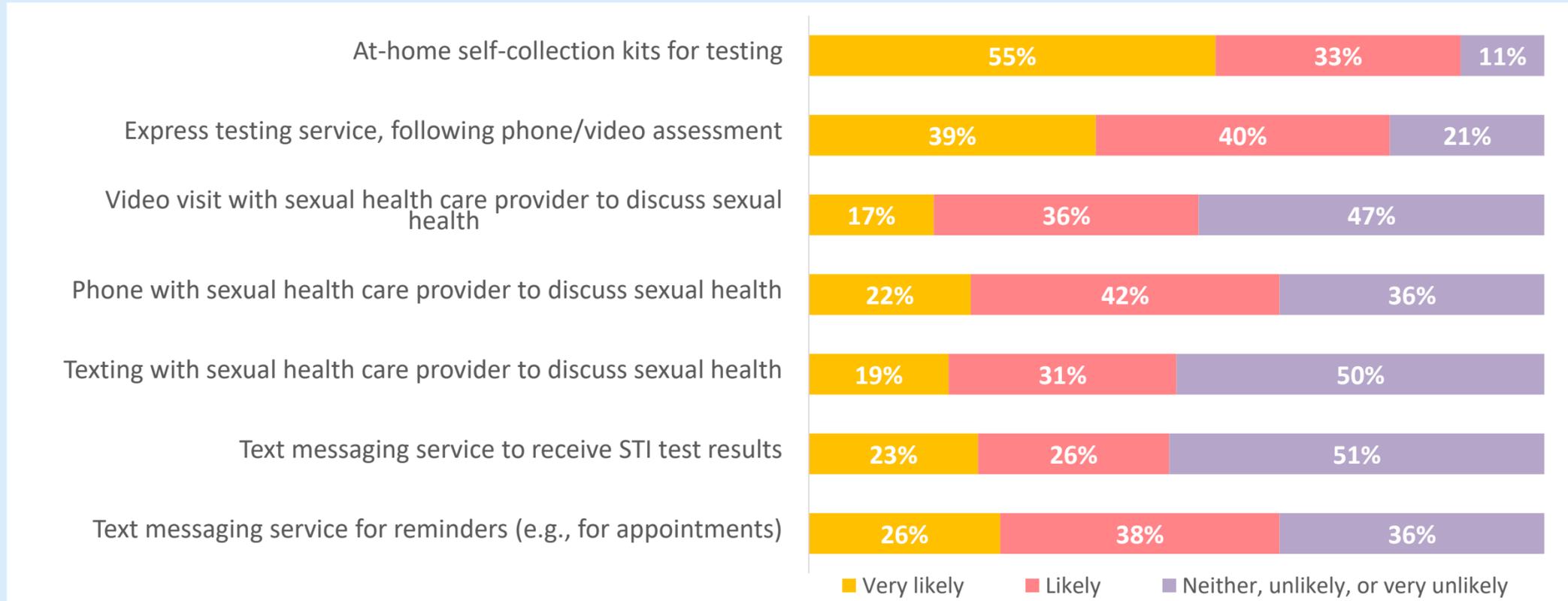
- **Data source:**
 - Anonymous, online survey: "Sex in the Time of COVID"
 - Administered Jul 21-Aug 4, 2020
- **Eligibility:**
 - Tested for STIs at the BC Centre for Disease Control's STI clinic and/or GetCheckedOnline, BC's online STI testing service, in year prior to March 2020
 - Consented to be contacted for research
 - Aged 16 years or older
- **Analysis:**
 - Bivariate χ -square analysis between those who did and did not experience any testing barriers since March 2020

Participants

- Of the 1198 participants (response rate: 28%):
 - Age range 17-76 years
 - 48% men, 47% women, 5% another gender
 - 71% White, 4% Indigenous, 24% racialized

Results

Likelihood of using service, if available (N=1198):



- Of N=706 needing a sexual health service during the pandemic, 65% experienced testing barriers
 - Likelihood of using most alternative services did not differ between those experiencing barriers vs. not, except for text messaging for receiving STI test results (79% vs. 69%, respectively; $p < 0.05$)

Discussion

- High acceptability for alternative service delivery models, particularly for at-home self-collection and express testing, suggest that investment in these services may be warranted, as these may facilitate access during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, including for those facing testing barriers

Acknowledgements & Conflict of Interest:

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