

GetCheckedOnline improves access to testing for sexually-transmitted and blood-borne infections.



GetCheckedOnline (GCO) reduces the demand on provider-based testing services. Half of people who used GCO regularly only tested through GCO for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs), and some would not have gotten tested elsewhere if GCO had not been available.

About the Study

Our goal was to better understand regular GCO users' experiences. We recruited 789 participants who had used GCO multiple times for testing, with at least one test being between April-October 2022. We sent them a survey in November 2022 to ask about:

- Their current access to STBBI testing through a provider,
- How they used GCO, and
- Their thoughts on GCO in comparison to testing through a provider.

Key Findings

Most people who regularly use GCO for testing do not have easy access to provider-based testing services, and have shifted to testing online. Those who do get tested through providers do so when convenient or necessary for other reasons (e.g., having symptoms or getting HIV PrEP care).

Many participants found it hard to get tested through a provider.

- 11% would not have been tested if GCO had not been available during their last test,
- 32% did not have a usual place they were comfortable going to get tested by a healthcare provider,
- 33% did not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner,
- 52% found it hard to get tested by a healthcare provider when they needed to get tested.

GetCheckedOnline

The BC Centre for Disease Control launched GCO in 2014 to help lower access barriers to STBBI testing. To date, people have gotten tested through GCO more than 22,000 times. More than half of these were from people who used GCO more than once for testing.

Testing practices are shifting online.

- Half of participants only got tested through GCO,
- 86% always or mostly got tested through GCO,
- 87% got tested sooner through GCO compared to a healthcare provider,
- 86% got tested more often through GCO compared to a healthcare provider,
- Participants got tested through healthcare providers because they:
 - ▶ Saw a provider for another reason,
 - ▶ Wanted to talk about their sexual health,
 - ▶ Had symptoms,
 - ▶ Needed routine testing for HIV care,
 - ▶ Needed a test not offered by GCO, and
 - ▶ Their partner had an STI.