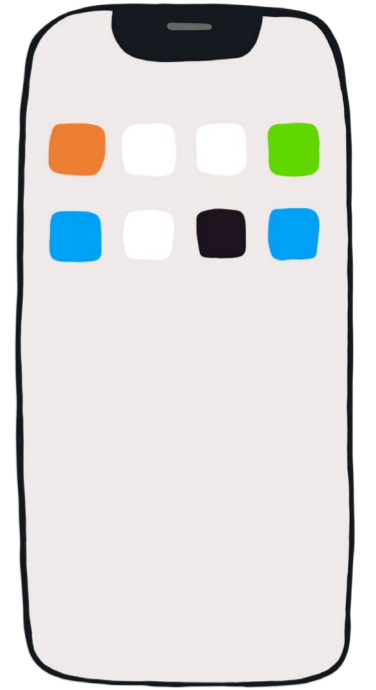


Views on online testing from Two-Spirit, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other queer Black, Indigenous, people of colour (2SGBTQ+ BIPOC) in Ontario



Online testing can help 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC avoid experiences of discrimination when getting tested in-person, but online testing services need to be improved to better serve these diverse communities.

Why this study is important

Many 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC experience discrimination when testing for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) in-person. Online STBBI testing, such as BC's GetCheckedOnline and self-collection and self-testing kits available through community organizations or for purchase, may reduce these experiences. We wanted to know the opinions of 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC in Ontario for these types of services.

What we did

We conducted interviews and focus groups with 21 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC in Ontario. We asked them about their perceived benefits, drawbacks, and recommendations for online testing services.

What we found

- Online testing would reduce discrimination that 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC experience when getting tested for STBBIs in-person.
- 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC have diverse, intersecting identities that should be considered when designing and delivering online testing services.
- Online testing should be adapted to meet the unique cultural needs and living situations of 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC.
- Online testing should be available regardless of the types of identification an individual has.
- Online testing should be offered in multiple languages.
- Online testing is still a barrier for individuals without Internet or devices to use these services.

"I feel like racialized LGBT members could benefit. You know, if they don't feel like they can go to an inclusive clinic, because, speaking from my own experience, sometimes white doctors are not very friendly or inclusive. So, I think bypass that experience altogether."

"As a Black disabled trans person, I don't go to any place unless I know that a black disabled trans person has been there and felt safe there. Because usually places that are supposed to be safe just aren't... So, if I find that other folks in the community feel like this is good for our community, I'm more likely to trust it...". Online testing should be adapted to meet the unique cultural needs and living situations of 2SGBTQ+ BIPOC.

"You know if [name of testing laboratory] is sending a package up to [name of reserve] that's going to be a \$30 package, how do I get it back to them? Is it going to be a pre-paid envelope or box that it gets sent in, and then I just drop in back off at the post office? Or am I expected to pay that \$30 to \$50 just to send an envelope?"

"A lot of online forums specifically don't have a spot for like status card and things like that. I know that's been a barrier for me in the past."

"I think one barrier for some people is the language barrier. Because a lot of people in Toronto, their first language is not English - so they might have some problems understanding the questions or understanding some of the terms there. So, if there's not someone next to them to translate or help them to understand the questions, he might have some problems to fill out the forms or print the pdf and for those instructions."

"If you don't have access to a consistent internet connection that would definitely be a barrier, and especially if it wasn't secure, maybe a shared device"