



GetCheckedOnline can be a cost-effective way to screen HIV among GBMSM in Vancouver, BC

For each HIV test, GetCheckedOnline (GCO) costs almost half as compared to clinics. As GCO increases HIV testing among gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men (GBMSM) in Vancouver, BC, it efficiently diagnoses HIV infections using fewer resources compared to traditional clinics. However, if the increased testing is largely among people with low risk of HIV infection, the program would not see this benefit.

What is this study about?

GCO is an online testing program for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. GCO reduces barriers to testing by allowing people to test without seeing a healthcare provider. Launched in Vancouver in 2014, the program focused on GBMSM in the first few years of implementation.

We used modelling to evaluate if GCO was cost-effective for screening HIV among GBMSM in Vancouver. Being cost-effective means that the resources put in for the GCO program generate good outcomes (e.g., preventing many new infections at a low cost).

Call-to-action

- To maintain cost-effectiveness in screening HIV among GBMSM through GCO, program implementers must consider the evolving user demographic as testing through GCO continues to rise.
- We need more research to understand the cost-effectiveness of GCO:
 - For screening other STIs
 - In other populations and/or regions
 - In a post-COVID-19 pandemic where more testing options are available.

What did we find?

For each HIV test, GCO cost \$29.40 compared to clinic-based services (\$56.92) based on the 2016 value.

In the short term, such as within a 5-year period, GCO proved to be a cost-effective HIV screening program for GBMSM in Vancouver. However, it is unlikely to maintain cost-effectiveness if the program were to run continuously for 30 years without any changes.

