

HIV Self-Testing Utilisation and Considerations among Men who Have Sex with Men in Hong Kong: a Cross-Sectional Study

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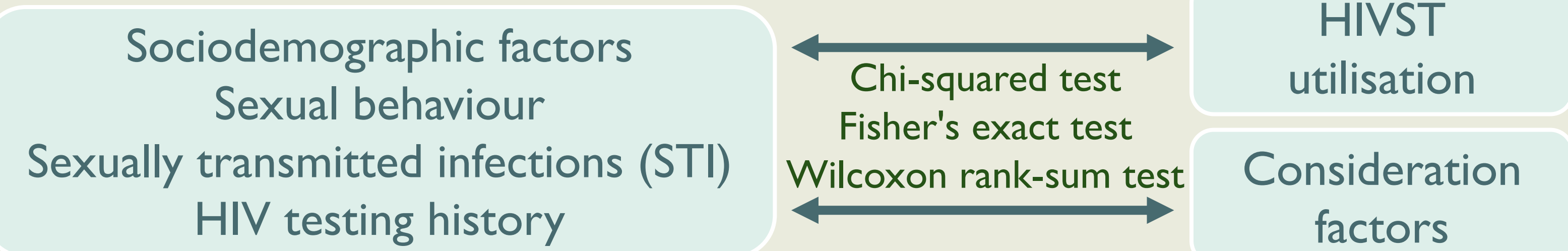


Background

- With its confidentiality and convenience, **HIV self-testing (HIVST)** is a key tool for HIV epidemic control
- To optimize HIV prevention, it is essential to understand the HIVST landscape in Hong Kong
- Study aim:** to assess HIVST **utilisation** and product selection **considerations** among men who have sex with men (MSM), one of the risk groups in HIV infection

Methods

- Study design:** baseline data from the parent trial were used for a cross-sectional analysis
- Participants:** adult MSM in Hong Kong without known HIV infection
- Data collection:** convenience sampling and an online self-administered questionnaire in 2024
- Data analysis:**



Results

306 eligible participants

Median age=32y
(IQR: interquartile range 28-37y)

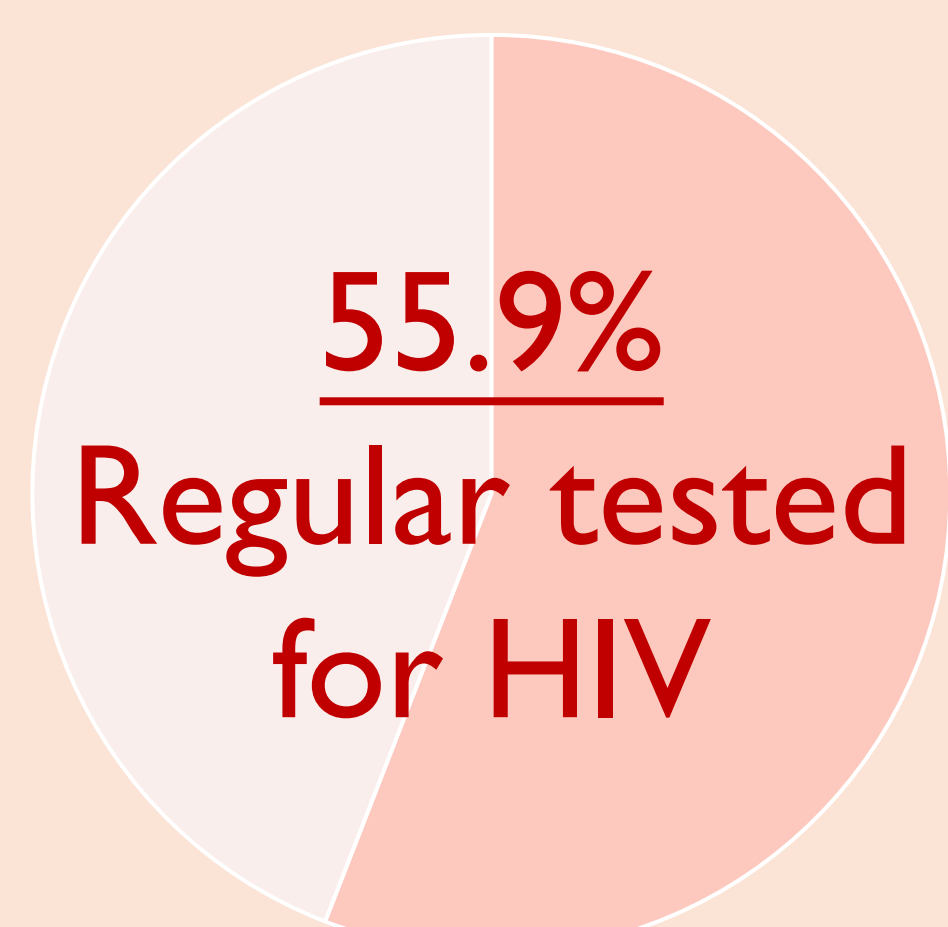
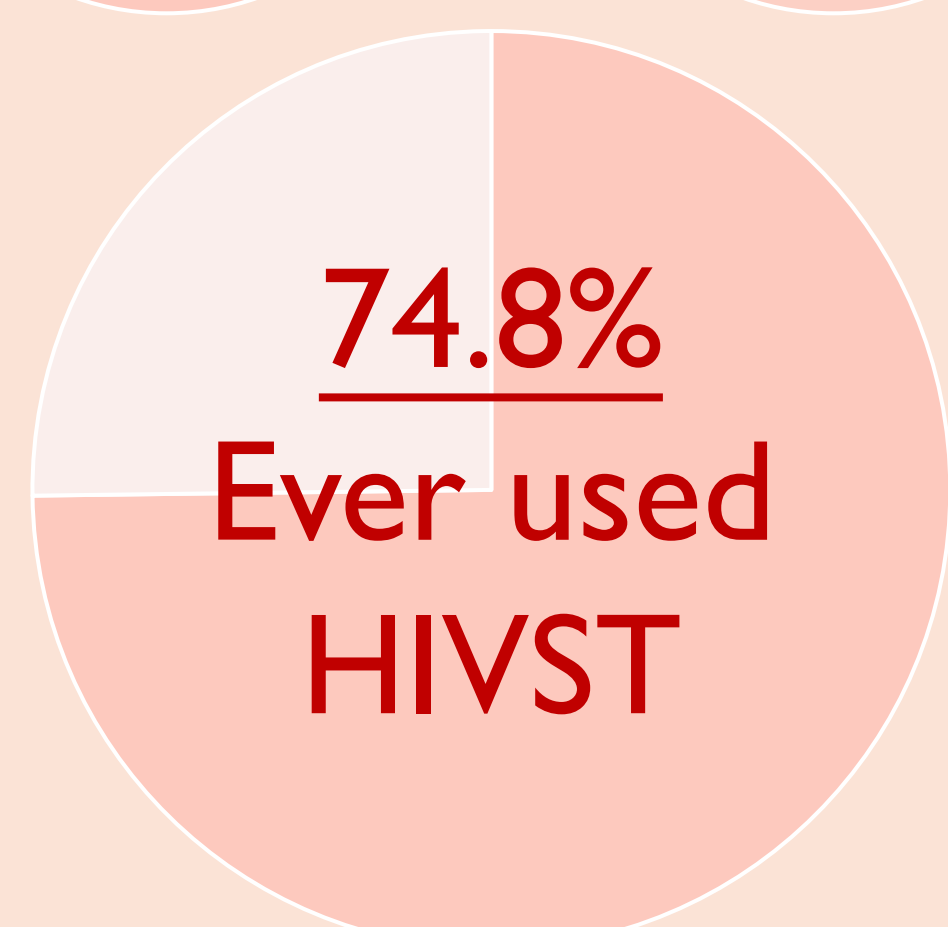
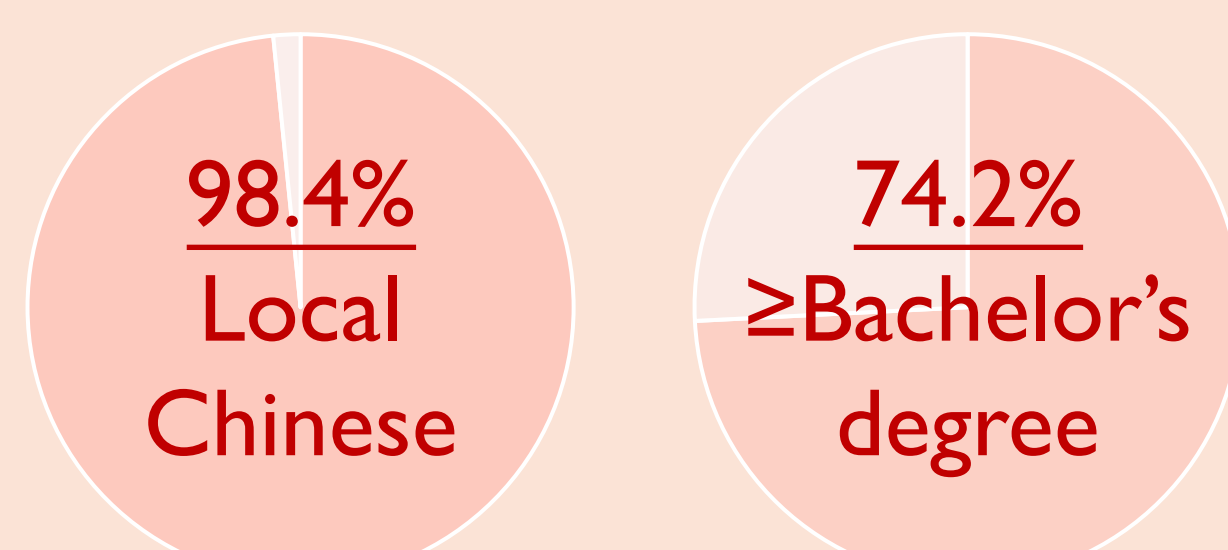


Table 1: Factors associated with HIVST utilisation

HIVST utilisation		Ever user N=229	Never user N=77	OR (95% CI)	P value
Related factors					
Sociodemographic factors	Median age (IQR)	33 (28-38)	31 (26.5-35)	-	0.015
	Paid work (full-time, part-time or self-employed)	213 (93.0%)	64 (83.1%)	2.70 (1.24-5.92)	0.010
	Monthly salary > HKD 5,000	219 (95.6%)	67 (87.0%)	3.27 (1.31-8.19)	0.008
Sexual behaviour	Group sex in the past 3 months	61 (26.6%)	10 (13.0%)	2.43 (1.18-5.03)	0.014
	Median number of sex partners in past 3 months (IQR)	3 (1-5)	2 (1-3)	-	0.001
STI	Any STI	61 (26.6%)	10 (13.0%)	2.43 (1.18-5.03)	0.014
	Syphilis	33 (14.4%)	4 (5.2%)	3.07 (1.05-8.98)	0.032
	Gonorrhea	25 (10.9%)	1 (1.3%)	9.31 (1.24-69.93)	0.009
HIV testing	Had a regular HIV screening habit	142 (62.0%)	29 (37.7%)	2.70 (1.59-4.60)	<0.001
	Median confidence in following HIVST procedures (IQR)	10 (9-10) [#]	10 (8.5-10) [#]	-	0.010
	Median confidence in interpreting HIVST results (IQR)	10 (9-10) [#]	10 (8-10) [#]	-	<0.001

[#]1-10 scale (10 = most confident)

Table 2: HIV self-testing product considerations among regular HIV testers

HIV screening habit	N (%)	Regular HIV tester N=171	Irregular HIV tester N=135	OR (95% CI)	P value
HIVST product consideration factors					
Accuracy	242 (79.1%)	135 (78.9%)	107 (79.3%)	0.98 (0.56-1.71)	0.947
Price	207 (67.6%)	125 (73.1%)	82 (60.7%)	1.76 (1.08-2.85)	0.022
Delivery method	113 (36.9%)	72 (42.1%)	41 (30.4%)	1.67 (1.04-2.68)	0.035
Window period	110 (35.9%)	71 (41.5%)	39 (28.9%)	1.75 (1.08-2.83)	0.022
Specimen type	108 (35.3%)	73 (42.7%)	35 (25.9%)	2.13 (1.30-3.47)	0.002
Place of manufacture	55 (18.0%)	41 (24.0%)	14 (10.4%)	2.73 (1.42-5.25)	0.002

Conclusions

- HIVST was widely adopted among higher-risk, economically stable, and older MSM in Hong Kong
- These users had stronger testing habits and confidence in self-testing
- Supporting regular users' specific concerns could help sustain their testing practices and leverage them as role models for peer-informed promotion
- HIVST can effectively help expand HIV screening coverage and support long-term HIV elimination strategies