



HELLO AND WELCOME to the first edition of the ASSIST newsletter. We aim for these to go out every three months, to keep you up-to-date with our latest news. Please contact project manager, Alison Howarth, for any queries or further information: alison.howarth@ucl.ac.uk

About ASSIST

A 39-month project (Jan 2021 – Mar 2024) funded by NIHR.

QUESTIONS

Do online postal self-sampling services for STIs & HIV improve access to sexual health care and benefit those most in need?

How do people who use and provide these services feel about them?

What is the economic impact of introducing these services?

What is the overall societal benefit, or otherwise, of this approach to sexual health care?

METHODS

A mixed-methods realist evaluation, including three case study areas (Birmingham, London, Sheffield), collecting quantitative data (national, clinic-based and online datasets) and qualitative data (interviews with service users, healthcare professionals and key stakeholders, contextual observations and documentary analysis).

Meet the chief investigators



Professor Fiona Burns is interested in the social and behavioural dimensions of HIV/STI epidemiology, particularly health care access and social inequalities. She believes robust evaluation of online delivery of health services is critical to ensure they reach their true potential and don't inadvertently widen existing health inequalities.

Dr Jo Gibbs has spent over 10 years focusing on developing and evaluating online clinical care pathways from diagnostics to online management of STIs/HIV, understanding the legislation and regulation, and the impact of remote delivery on health inequalities to inform inclusive service provision.



News and events

INTERVIEWS

Service user recruitment is well underway in two of our case study areas. We have already interviewed 60 service users. In Birmingham, participants are recruited in clinic and online from the Umbrella service. In London, participants are recruited from clinics in two trusts (Barts Health & CNWL), and online from Sexual Health London.

Ten staff and stakeholder interviews have been conducted so far in London and two have been conducted in Birmingham.

www.assist-study.org

 ASSIST_OPSS

BASHH Conference 2022

Join us for the Joint SEQUENCE digital – ASSIST Interactive Session on Wednesday 22 June, 11.:45 – 13.15 – have your say!

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