



WELCOME to the fifth edition of the ASSIST quarterly newsletter. For any queries or further information, please contact project manager, Alison: alison.howarth@ucl.ac.uk

BASHH Spring Conference 2023



We presented three papers at BASHH:

1. [“Differences in who accesses online STI testing services in Britain”](#)

Survey participants who had accessed STI testing online (36% of all STI testers) during the first year of COVID-19 were more often white and in good health. They were less likely than users of other STI testing services to report anxiety or depression.

2. [“Service user perspectives on OPSS for STI testing”](#)

Overall, service users were satisfied with OPSS. They also wanted access to clinic-based services for particular circumstances, such as when they thought they had an STI.

3. [“The implementation of OPSS for STI testing in England”](#)

Implementation of OPSS is a continuous process which needs to respond to changes in context, even years after services have launched.

Forthcoming presentations

We are delighted to be presenting **“Factors associated with the uptake of online postal self-sampling for chlamydia testing in England”** at the [36th IUSTI Europe Congress](#) Valletta – Malta, 26-28 October 2023

We will present our analysis of chlamydia testing using GUMCAD and CTAD - two pseudonymised national STI surveillance systems in England – including 17 million tests between January 2015 and December 2019.

MSc student dissertations

This year, four MSc students have been working on ASSIST projects. Three quantitative studies are looking at the characteristics of:

1. Users of OPSS and clinic-based testing for Hepatitis C in London
2. GBMSM accessing online and clinic-based STI/HIV testing in the UK
3. Hybrid users of OPSS and clinic-based STI/HIV testing in Birmingham

A qualitative study is examining trauma-informed care using interview data from ASSIST and SEQUENCE digital.