

# HIV self-testing in men who have sex with men in Argentina: High acceptability and the importance of tailored implementation

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## Background

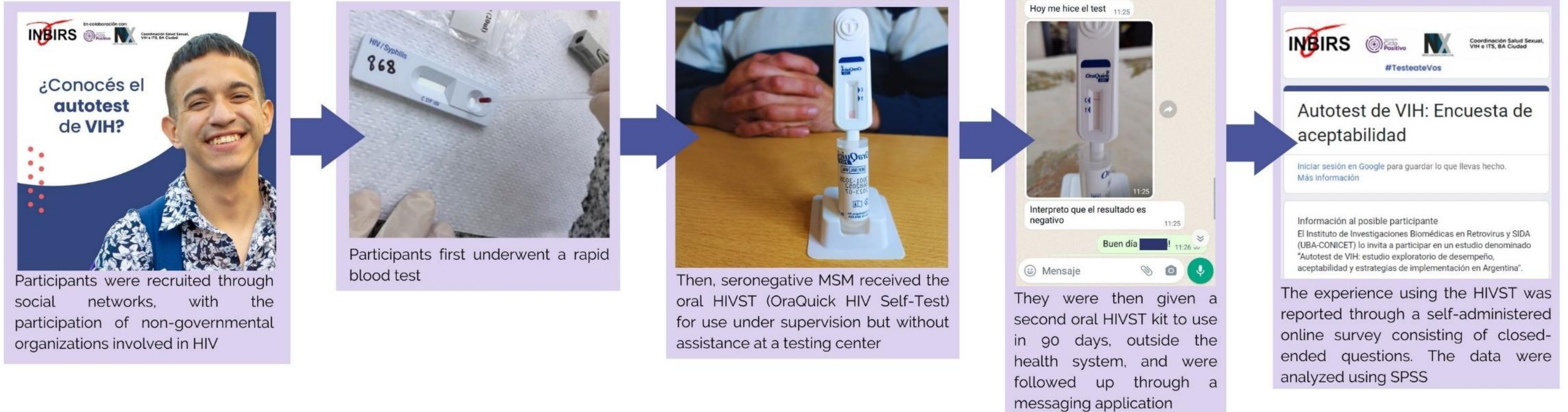
Men who have sex with men (MSM) constitute a key population with a high prevalence of HIV (12-15%) in Argentina. HIV self-testing (HIVST) is recommended as a tool for increasing the access to diagnosis in this population.

## Objective

To evaluate the acceptability and use of an oral-based HIVST in MSM for the first time in Argentina.

## Methods

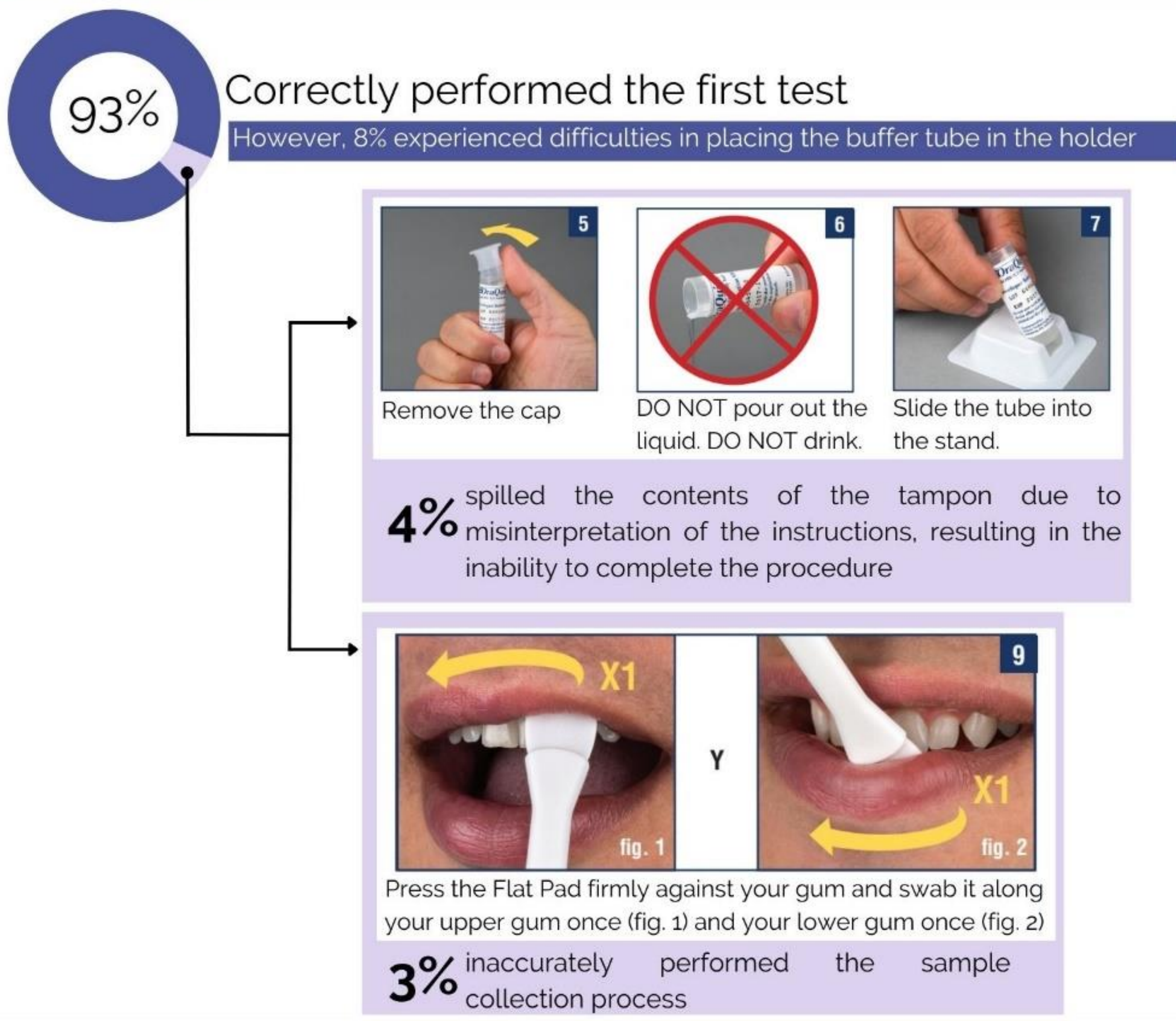
Pilot study conducted from January 2022 to January 2023 to assess the use and acceptability of oral HIVST among MSM in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



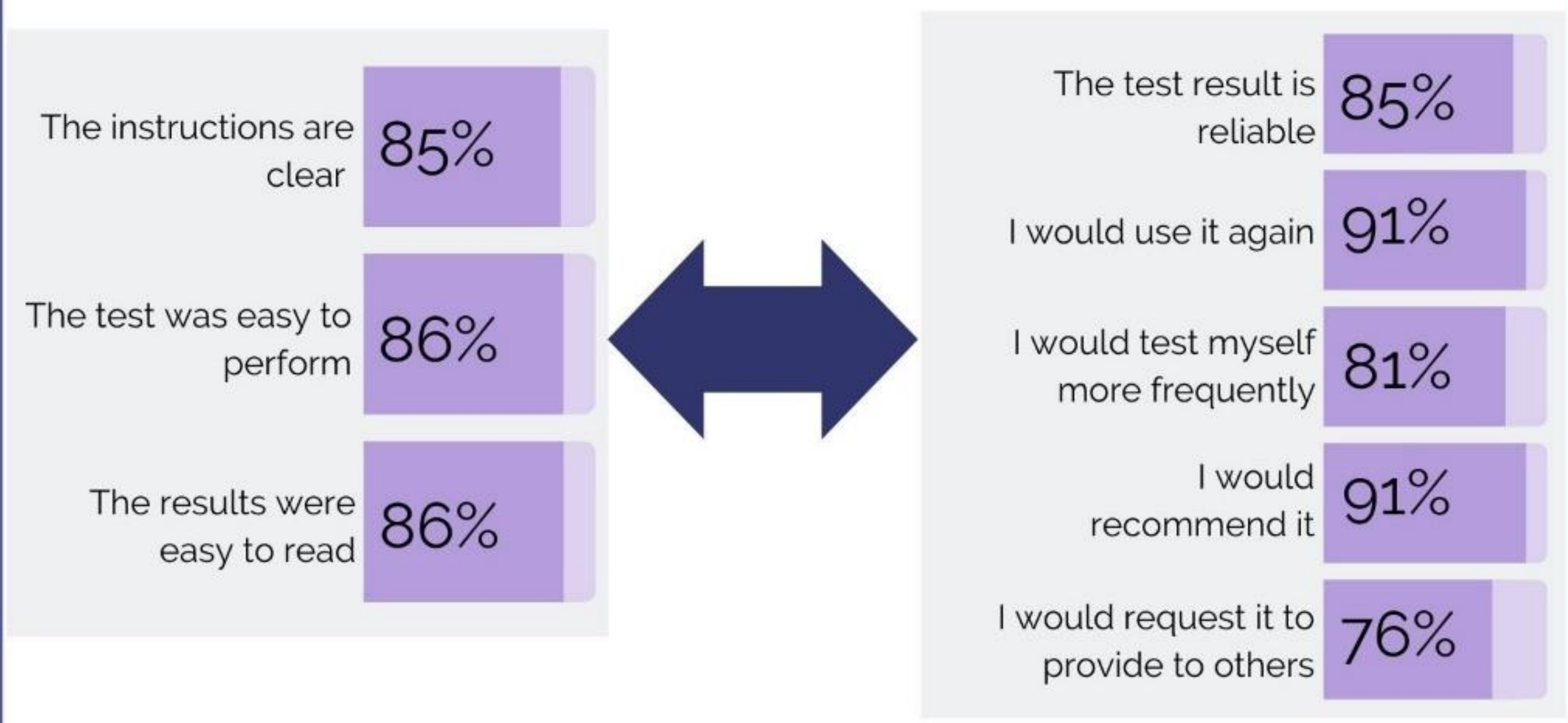
## Results

### HIVST use at the testing center

A total of 100 MSM performed the HIVST at the testing center and received a second kit to use after 90 days.



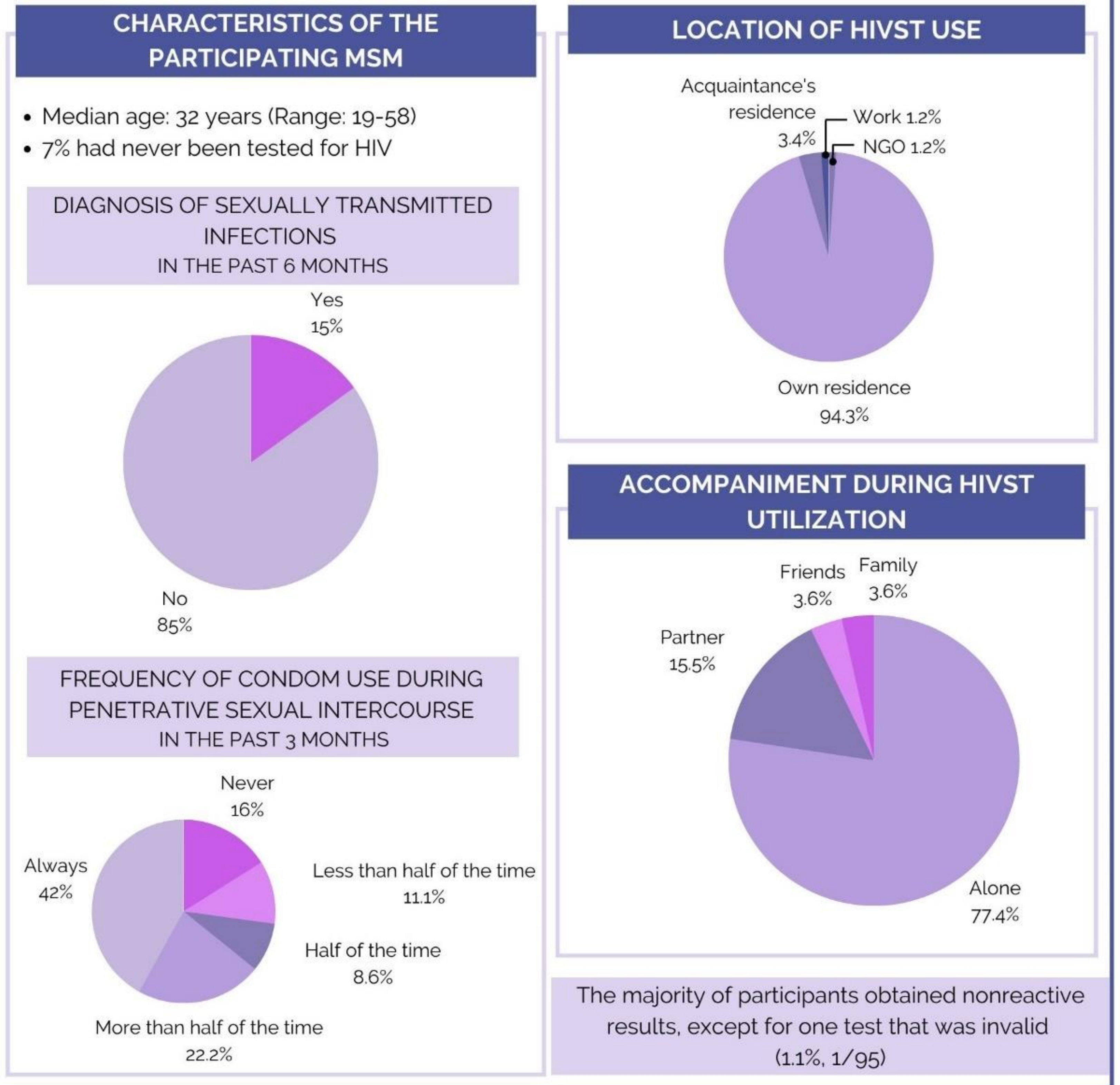
### Post-test acceptability



An overwhelming majority of MSM (83.7%) found the instructions clear, the test easy to perform, and the results easy to read. Compared to those who expressed dissatisfaction in at least one of these aspects, these participants were more willing to use ( $p < 0.001$ ), recommend ( $p < 0.001$ ) and distribute ( $p < 0.01$ ) HIVST. They were also more likely to trust the result ( $p < 0.001$ ) and test themselves more frequently if it were available ( $p = 0.02$ ).

### HIVST use outside the health system

95% reported having performed the second kit



## Conclusion

This study reveals a high acceptability and willingness to use HIVST among MSM, along with a high percentage of reported completion of the provided self-test. However, common errors were identified in the procedure among a significant proportion of participants. This highlights the importance of adapting the original instructions and designing potential support services when establishing implementation strategies, aiming to ensure proper utilization by future users. Therefore, this study reinforces the importance of developing tailored and diverse services to avoid discouraging the use of self-testing.