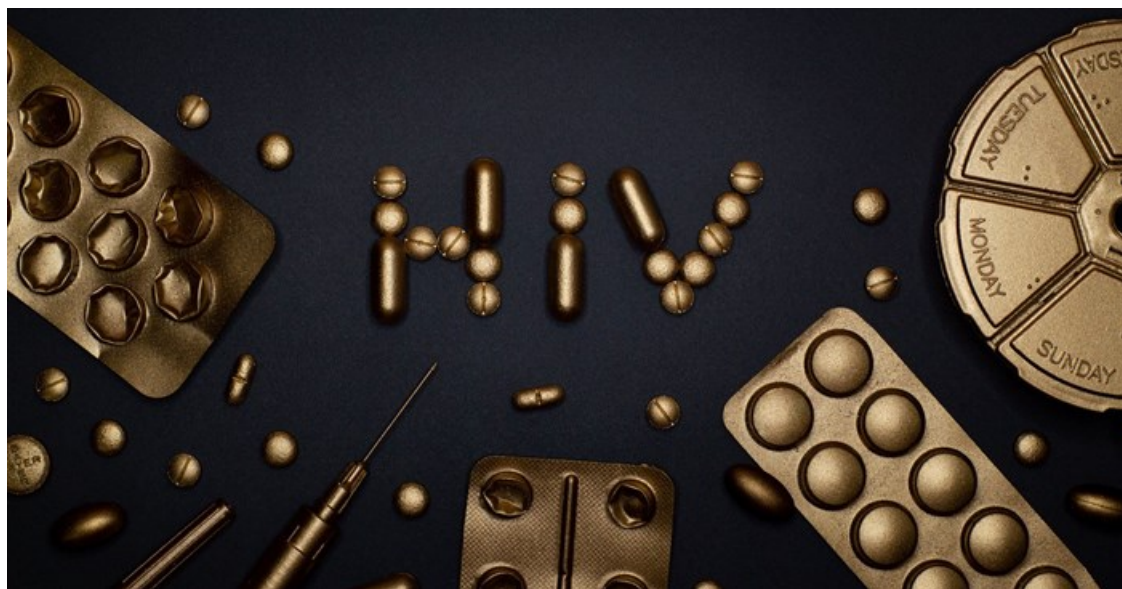


Urgent action needed for high incidence among MSM

By [Hans Croukamp](#)

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A comprehensive [study](#) published in *The Lancet HIV* has shed new light on the critical need for rapid testing to address the persistently high HIV incidence among men who have sex with men (MSM).



Source: [Pexels](#)

The study, which analysed 152 independent studies from 31 countries in Africa over a span of nearly two decades, reveals a concerning disparity between improved HIV testing rates and the alarmingly high HIV incidence rates among MSM. The findings again raise the question about the importance of rapid disease testing

The study's findings indicate significant progress in HIV testing and the current use of antiretroviral treatment (Art) among MSM in Africa. However, despite these advancements, viral suppression rates remain low, and the incidence of HIV among MSM remains unacceptably high.

Urgent action is required to strengthen community-led prevention efforts and tailored interventions to effectively address the persistent vulnerabilities faced by MSM, ultimately achieving the UNAids 95-95-95 targets and reducing HIV incidence.

Rapid testing in South Africa is important to combat the HIV epidemic among MSM.

The findings of this study underscore the urgent need for enhanced testing strategies, particularly rapid testing, to detect

HIV infections early and facilitate timely interventions.

Rapid testing allows for the early detection of various medical conditions, including infectious diseases, chronic illnesses, and genetic disorders. By identifying these conditions at an early stage, healthcare professionals can initiate prompt interventions and treatments, potentially preventing disease progression and improving patient prognosis.



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Accelerating diagnoses

Rapid test results provide healthcare providers with immediate information, enabling them to make timely and informed decisions about patient management. This is particularly important in critical situations where rapid diagnosis is vital, such as in emergency departments or during outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Rapid testing expedites the decision-making process, ensuring that patients receive appropriate care promptly and significantly improves the patient experience by reducing wait times and minimising the need for multiple appointments.

With faster results, patients can receive a diagnosis and treatment plan in a single visit, eliminating the anxiety and inconvenience associated with prolonged waiting periods. This streamlines the healthcare process, enhances patient satisfaction, and promotes better engagement in their own care.

Harnessing rapid testing

Rapid testing plays a crucial role in public health initiatives, particularly in the early identification and containment of infectious diseases. By quickly identifying individuals with contagious conditions, healthcare systems can implement targeted interventions, such as contact tracing and quarantine measures, to prevent the spread of the disease within communities.



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bioLytical is committed to combating the HIV epidemic through its Insti® HIV-1/HIV-2 rapid tests. The Insti® test provides highly accurate results in as little as one minute, enabling immediate linkage to care and support for those diagnosed with HIV.

Its user-friendly design and portability make it an ideal solution for use in various settings, including clinics, community centres, and outreach programmes.

The company's partnership with healthcare providers, community organisations, and policymakers in South Africa aims to improve access to rapid testing and enable early diagnosis and intervention for individuals at risk.

By empowering healthcare professionals and communities with effective testing tools, bioLytical strives to make a substantial impact in curbing the HIV epidemic, particularly among MSM in South Africa.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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