



# Replication Study: Peer-Led HIV Self-Testing Distribution and Testing Frequency Among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Mombasa, Kenya

James Omondi<sup>1</sup>, Wanjiku Mwangi<sup>2,3</sup>, Samuel Kariuki<sup>4,5</sup>, Fatima Hassan<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Pwani University

<sup>2</sup> Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

<sup>3</sup> Department of Clinical Research, Kenyatta University

<sup>4</sup> Pwani University

<sup>5</sup> Department of Internal Medicine, Maseno University

**Published:** 07 October 2022 | **Received:** 31 May 2022 | **Accepted:** 21 September 2022

**Correspondence:** [jomondi@gmail.com](mailto:jomondi@gmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18531668](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18531668)

## Author notes

*James Omondi is affiliated with Department of Pediatrics, Pwani University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Wanjiku Mwangi is affiliated with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Samuel Kariuki is affiliated with Pwani University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Fatima Hassan is affiliated with Pwani University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

## Abstract

HIV self-testing is a strategic approach to improve testing coverage among key populations, including men who have sex with men. A prior study in another Kenyan context found peer-led distribution of self-testing kits increased testing frequency. This replication study assessed the intervention's effectiveness within the MSM community in Mombasa, a coastal urban centre with distinct socio-cultural dynamics. The purpose was to replicate the evaluation of a peer-led HIV self-testing distribution model and its effect on testing frequency among MSM in Mombasa. The objective was to compare the proportion of participants testing at least twice in a 12-month period between an intervention group receiving peer-distributed self-tests and a control group receiving standard facility-based testing referrals. A quasi-experimental study was conducted. MSM were recruited via peer networks and community-based organisations. Participants were non-randomly allocated to an intervention arm, where trained peer educators provided self-testing kits with demonstration and support, or a control arm receiving enhanced standard care including counselling and clinic referrals. Data on testing behaviour were collected via structured questionnaires at baseline and follow-up. The intervention group reported a significantly higher proportion of participants testing at least twice compared to the control group (68% versus 42%). Peer-led distribution was associated with a reduction in reported barriers related to stigma and clinic access. This replication confirms that peer-led distribution of HIV self-testing kits is an effective strategy for increasing HIV testing frequency among MSM in Mombasa. The findings support the scalability of this community-based model in similar urban Kenyan settings. HIV programmes aiming to increase testing uptake among MSM in coastal Kenya should integrate peer-led HIV self-testing distribution. Policy and funding should support the formal inclusion of this model within

national testing guidelines for key populations. HIV self-testing, men who have sex with men, peer-led distribution, testing frequency, replication study, Kenya. This study provides replicated evidence from a distinct socio-cultural context, strengthening the empirical basis for scaling up peer-led HIV self-testing interventions among MSM in coastal urban Africa.

**Keywords:** *HIV self-testing, peer-led interventions, men who have sex with men, Sub-Saharan Africa, replication study, key populations, HIV testing frequency*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge