

In December 2015 during World AIDS Day, U-Report polled 10 countries around HIV/AIDS. One of the main findings was that fear was a key barrier on HIV testing among young people.

Consequently, in June 2016, U-Report conducted a poll on over 16 countries to better determine adolescents' and young people's fears around HIV testing, and their preferences on testing services including self-testing. These results were presented by UNICEF's Executive Director Anthony Lake in Durban on July 18 at the *AIDS 2016 Conference*.

MAIN RESULTS OF U-REPORT POLL

What is it that sparks fear about HIV testing?

Total Responses: 78,225

68% : Positive result
6% : Interacting with a health care provider
6% : Being seen at the clinic
14% : Any of the above
6% : Other – What is it? *Stigmatization, discrimination, rejection; confidentiality; unsafe/unreliable testing; inaccurate results/misdiagnoses*

TESTOPHOBIA. 2 out of 3 young U-Reporters said a positive result was their biggest fear about HIV testing.

If you tested positive for HIV, what would you be most afraid of?

HIV = DEATH. Adolescents and young people still perceive HIV as a death sentence.

When asked what they would be most afraid of if they tested positive, majority of respondents said their biggest fears would be social stigma (48%) and death (34%).

Total Responses: 39,965



34% : Dying (death)
14% : What my parents/family would think
6% : What my friends would think
8% : My boyfriend/girlfriend won't love me anymore
18% : Taking medicine my entire life
20% : Other – What would it be?
Stigmatization, discrimination, rejection

Knowing one's status is one of the most important steps you can take to prevent the spread of HIV. Where would you want to get tested?

NOT AT SCHOOL.

Young U-Reporters would not choose to be HIV tested at school.

Total Responses: 79,491

- 38% : At a nearby health facility
- 22% : At a health facility where no one knows me
- 20% : At a health facility with youth-friendly services
- 2% : With a school nurse
- 15% : I prefer to test myself on my own (self-testing)
- 2% : Other – Where? *Free testing centers, Red Cross*

When it comes to health facilities, **proximity (38%)** and **anonymity (22%)** are important to U-Reporters.

If self-testing for HIV was made available to you, how likely would you take a self-test?

SELF-TESTING = VERY LIKELY

When asked how likely they were to take a *self-test for HIV*, if it was made available to them, nearly **two-thirds (59%)** of respondents said they were “very likely” to do so. Total responses: 70,920

U-REPORTERS' VOICES ARE BEING HEARD

“Hey U-Reporters! U R great. Your responses to the HIV poll will be used in a new global report, and will help UNICEF & governments in our fight to prevent & treat HIV and end stigma. Thank you from all of us at UNICEF.” – Tony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director.

