

# Development and Implementation of a 3-year Systematic Selective Internet-based Chlamydia Screening Program, the Netherlands 2008-10: rationale and 1st year results

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## Objectives

Available data suggest that screening for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (Ct) in highly urbanized areas and according to risk profiles could be the way forward in Ct control. Here we describe the rationale, design and implementation of the program as well as the results of the first screening year.



## Methods

A Delphi procedure involving different actors and based on best available evidence resulted in embarking on a systematic, selective, internet-based program. During the 1-year preparation phase the design of the program was further refined.



## Results - outcomes

During the first screening-round, 52,347 testing kits were requested of which 78% were sent in for a Ct test. Women were more likely than men to send in a sample than men (21% versus 10%).



Young people under 20 years were less likely to send in a sample than participants 20 years or over (12% versus 17%).

Relatively speaking, indigenous Dutch people participated the most (20%), followed by Antillean / Aruban participants (17%).

Results show a positivity rate of 4.2% (1733 Ct infections) in the first screening-round.

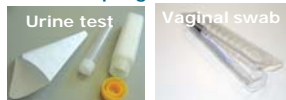
Over two thirds of participants indicated that they wanted to be regularly tested for Ct. 92% of them wanted to do this in a same way with a letter of invitation and participation via internet. When retesting Ct positive participants after 6 months, a reinfection rate of 9.2% was found.

## Results - the screening program

Using population registers, invitational letters with personal login code are sent to all 16-29yr citizens in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and to municipalities of S-Limburg. Sexually active persons are invited to participate twice in three years. In the lower prevalence S-Limburg area, invited persons perform self-selection on-line by filling in a validated risk-score. Internet and sms are instrumental to logistics, communication and data collection.

At the program's website ([www.chlamydiatest.nl](http://www.chlamydiatest.nl)), eligible's find relevant information, can order sampling materials, view instruction video's and get their personal test result. Ct-positives can print a referral letter, and partners can be notified (also) by a email service. Screening is operational since April 2008.

### Sampling materials:



## Conclusions

- This large-scale screening program aims to make a step forward in Ct-control activities in the Netherlands and to demonstrate feasibility, (cost-)effectivity and impact. The outcome of this program will be leading for the decisions about a national roll-out of screening.
- Three local PHS implement the screening; STI AIDS Netherlands coordinates the project that is funded by the Dutch Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw). The Centre of infectious Disease Control , RIVM, performs the evaluation.

For more information about Chlamydia Screening in the Netherlands:

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See also: [www.chlamydiatest.nl](http://www.chlamydiatest.nl)