

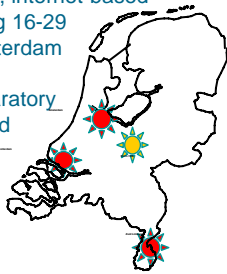
Process Evaluation of the Chlamydia Screening Implementation Netherlands: results from the first operational phase

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Objectives

In April 2008, a selective systematic, internet-based Chlamydia Screening started among 16-29 year old citizens in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and South-Limburg.

The process evaluation of the preparatory and first operational phase examined the extent to which the programme is operating as intended and determined whether the target population has been reached.



Methods

- Performance monitoring, using data from the screening database, was conducted to provide information on key aspects of how the program is operating.

Results (1)

- During the first two months of screening (57.000 invitations), requests for test packages, return of samples, laboratory processes and time processes were monitored.
- Time between invitation and package request varied between 2 and 196 days (median: 16 days).
- The reminder letter (after 4 weeks) responded significantly to the package request (36% responded after the reminder, figure 1).

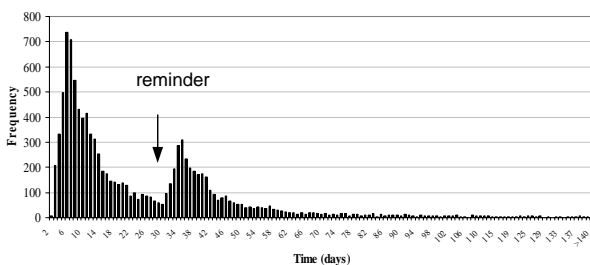


Figure 1. Time (days) from invitation to test package request

- Of persons requesting a package (20%), 79% returned a sample to the laboratory (median time of return: 9 days) of whom 44% returned it after the reminder(s). (figure 2)
- For 96%, test results were available within the agreed target of 10 working days; 0.5% of the tests failed.

Results (2)

- The overall time between the date of invitation and checking of the test result varied between 11 and 233 days (median: 45 days, 77% within 2 months)
- 93% of the participants checked their result online (73% within 2 days, figure 2). 5.7% of the Ct-positives didn't check their result online. They got their test results by postal letter.

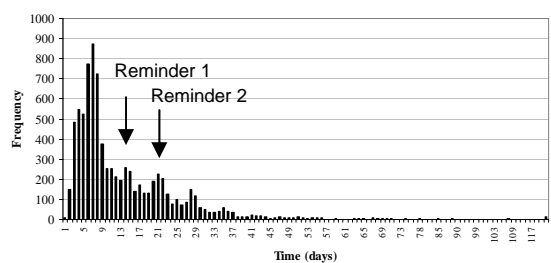


Figure 2. Time (days) from package sending and the returning sample to the laboratory

- 93% of all women requested the vaginal swab (default option). Turkish and Moroccan women (28% and 31%) and women < 20 years (14%) chose the urine package more often than others
- Of the participants, 63% responded to the online questionnaire on sexual risk behaviour, 57% consented to sample storage and 52% for future approach on STI research

Conclusions

- Overall, the results showed that a comprehensive Chlamydia screening - with IT-, logistic-, and laboratory components - has been developed and is operating efficiently.
- Reminders contributed significantly to participation rates. Since more than 20% still did not return a sample after two email reminders, a third reminder by SMS was implemented.
- 23% of the participants needed > 2 months to finish the process from invitation to checking the test result. It will be examined whether a short period between test result and a new test offer could affect participation rates in the second round

For more information about Chlamydia Screening in the Netherlands:

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See also: www.chlamydiaert.nl

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