

South Carolina Study Examines Sexual and Social Network Correlates of Willingness to Self-Test for HIV Among Ever-Tested and Never-Tested Men

[Donaldson Conserve](#), assistant professor of [health promotion, education, and behavior](#) in the University of South Carolina's [Arnold School of Public Health](#), has published another paper on the implications from his Tanzania STEP Project has published another paper on the implications from his Tanzania STEP Project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award. This paper examined sexual and social network correlates of willingness to self-test for HIV among ever-test and never-tested men and was published in [AIDS Care](#).

In this study, the researchers examined factors associated with HIV self-testing willingness among male ever-testers and never-testers who participated in a midpoint survey of a cluster randomized controlled HIV prevention trial in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Conserve and his team used linear mixed binary logistic regression models to examine factors (demographic, HIV risk behavior, and sexual/social network) associated with willingness to self-test. They found that 67% percent of 301 never-testers were willing to self-test for HIV compared to 72% 577 of ever-testers.

Among never-testers, having discussed testing for HIV with a sexual partner was the only factor associated with HIV self-testing willingness. For ever-testers, younger men were less willing to self-test than older men while men with higher education were more willing to self-test than less educated men.

The authors found that having a moderate/great HIV risk perception decreased the odds of HIV self-testing willingness relative to no risk perception for ever-testers. Further, discussing HIV testing with a sexual partner and having been encouraged to test for HIV by a friend were associated with higher odds of being willing to self-test among ever-testers.

These findings suggest that HIV self-testing willingness is highly acceptable among both male ever-testers and never-testers.

