

A very happy new year to you! And a warm welcome to the sixth edition of the ASSIST newsletter. For any queries or further information, please contact our project manager: alison.howarth@ucl.ac.uk

Extension to 30 Sept 2024

We are grateful to our funders, the NIHR Health & Social Care Delivery Research Programme, for extending our project by six months. This will enable us to complete the original planned work by 30 September 2024. Like many other studies, ASSIST was severely hampered by COVID-19 and Mpox, which disrupted service delivery and reduced staff capacity to support research. Many thanks indeed to all our sites for their continued and much valued support.

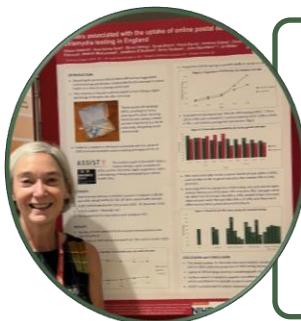
Health economics

Work is about to begin on our economic evaluation, using routinely collected data from our case study areas (Birmingham, London and Sheffield). We are delighted to welcome Femi Aworinde who will join the team soon to work with Dr Louise Jackson, the workstream lead.

Qualitative Health Research Network (QHRN) Conference 2024

Dr Tommer Spence is presenting, ***“Understanding disruption in sexual health through the implementation of online postal self-sampling”*** at the [QHRN virtual conference](#), 28-29 February 2024.

36th IUSTI Europe Congress



Dr Alison Howarth presented, ***“Factors associated with the uptake of online postal self-sampling for chlamydia testing in England”*** at the 36th IUSTI Europe Congress, in Valletta – Malta, 26-28 October 2023. Have a look at [our poster!](#)

MSc dissertation distinctions

Hearty congratulations to Analisa Conway and Georgia Davidson and who were awarded distinctions for their MSc dissertations.

Analisa included qualitative interview data from ASSIST and SEQUENCE digital in her exploration of the evidence base for using trauma-informed care in online sexual and reproductive health services. She found trauma-informed care approaches vary in and between clinic-based and online services.

Georgia analysed the demographic characteristics of people testing for Hepatitis C in central and northwest London. She found differences between those who tested in clinic and using OPSS, and is currently writing up her findings for publication.

Update on analyses

We are analysing our extensive qualitative dataset, incorporating over 150 interviews, detailed observation field notes and a range of documents. We are liaising with sites to make final adjustments to our quantitative datasets and developing our analyses. Details to follow!