

Acceptability, usability and performance of lateral flow immunoassay tests for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies: REACT-2 study of self-testing in non-healthcare key workers

Bethan Davies^{1*}, Marzieh Araghi^{1*}, Maya Moshe², He Gao¹, Kimberly Bennet¹, Jordan Jenkins¹, Christina Atchison³, Ara Darzi^{4,5}, Deborah Ashby¹, Steven Riley³, Wendy Barclay², Paul Elliott^{1,5†}, Helen Ward^{3,5†}, Graham Cooke^{2,5†}.

* Author contributed equally to this manuscript

† Author contributed equally to this manuscript

¹ Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, London, UK.

² Department of Infectious Diseases, Imperial College London, London, UK.

³ Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, London, UK.

⁴ Department of Surgery & Cancer, Imperial College London, London, UK.

⁵ National Institute for Health Research Imperial Biomedical Research Centre, London, UK

Keywords: COVID-19 diagnostic testing; SARS-CoV-2, antibody testing; sensitivity and specificity.

© The Author(s) 2021. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of Infectious Diseases Society of America.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), which permits non-commercial reproduction and distribution of the work, in any medium, provided the original work is not altered or transformed in any way, and that the work is properly cited. For commercial re-use, please contact journals.permissions@oup.com

Running title: Lateral flow immunoassay self-testing for SARS-CoV-2 in key workers

Corresponding author: Dr Bethan Davies, bethan.davies06@imperial.ac.uk, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College London, Norfolk Place, London, W2 1PG, UK.

Alternative corresponding author: Professor Helen Ward, h.ward@imperial.ac.uk, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Imperial College London, Norfolk Place, London, W2 1PG, UK.

40-word summary of the article's main point: Self-test lateral flow immunoassays (LFIAs) had a high acceptability and usability and similar performance to nurse-performed LFIAs. Self-test LFIAs are suitable for home-testing in SARS-CoV-2 prevalence studies in non-healthcare worker populations.

Accepted Manuscript

ABSTRACT

Background

Seroprevalence studies are essential to understand the epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2. Various technologies, including laboratory assays and point-of-care self-tests, are available for antibody testing. The interpretation of seroprevalence studies requires comparative data on the performance of antibody tests.

Methods

In June 2020, current and former members of the UK Police forces and Fire service performed a self-test lateral flow immunoassay (LFIA), had a nurse-performed LFIA and provided a venous blood sample for ELISA. We present the prevalence of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2; the acceptability and usability of self-test LFIAs; and determine the sensitivity and specificity of LFIAs compared to laboratory ELISA.

Results

In this cohort of 5189 current and former members of the Police service and 263 members of the Fire service, 7.4% (396/5,348; 95% CI, 6.7-8.1) were antibody positive. Seroprevalence was 8.9% (6.9-11.4) in those under 40 years, 11.5% (8.8-15.0) in those of non-white ethnicity and 7.8% (7.1-8.7) in those currently working. Self-test LFIA had an acceptability of 97.7% and a usability of 90.0%. There was substantial agreement between within-participant LFIA results (kappa 0.80; 0.77-0.83). The LFIAs had a similar performance: compared to ELISA, sensitivity was 82.1% (77.7-86.0) self-test and 76.4% (71.9-80.5) nurse-performed with specificity of 97.8% (97.3-98.2) and 98.5% (98.1-98.8) respectively.

Conclusion

A greater proportion of this non-healthcare key worker cohort showed evidence of previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 than the general population at 6.0% (5.8-6.1) following the first

wave in England. The high acceptability and usability reported by participants and similar performance of self-test and nurse-performed LFIA indicate that the self-test LFIA is fit for purpose for home-testing in occupational and community prevalence studies.

Accepted Manuscript

INTRODUCTION

During the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom (UK), people who, due to the nature of their work, were unable to work from home were known as “key workers” [1]. The UK key worker population is estimated to be 10.6 million people (33% of the total workforce) with the majority (69%) working in industries other than health and social care, including education and childcare, key public services, transport industry and food sector [1, 2]. It is well established that key workers are at increased risk from infection by SARS-CoV-2 and subsequent COVID-19 [3, 4].

In April 2020 the UK Government initiated a programme of COVID-19 testing which included mass-testing for the prevalence of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in the community, clinically indicated swab testing to diagnose infection, and population surveillance of the epidemic using swab tests [5]. In order to facilitate widespread community antibody testing, the REal Time Assessment of Community Transmission-2 (REACT-2) study undertook a programme of development work using self-test finger prick lateral flow immunoassays (LFIAs) for the detection of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. The initial laboratory validation and usability of the test was carried out among healthcare professionals [6], and further usability and acceptability studies were conducted among a random sample of adults in the population [7].

Here, as part of the REACT-2 programme [8], we aimed both to quantify the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 (current and past infection) among a subset of public-facing non-healthcare key workers following the first wave of infection in England, and to test at scale the performance of self-test LFIAs versus nurse-administered LFIAs. This was done to determine the acceptability, usability and performance of self-test point-of-care LFIAs in key worker occupations who do not have specialist training in the use of medical devices. Finally, we evaluated the performance of the LFIA against an established ELISA antibody test in sera.

METHODS

Cross-sectional study design

Non-healthcare key worker participants were identified through an established occupational research cohort (Airwave Health Monitoring Study), a longitudinal occupational cohort of over 50,000 people who work, or have worked, for the Police forces in the UK ^[9] and a register of current employees of the West Midlands (UK) Fire Service. Airwave participants (n= 23,634) with a residential address within a reasonable distance (approximately 50 kilometres) of one of six testing sites (Bournemouth, Derby, Keele, London, Manchester and Warwick) and no known medical condition that might increase bleeding risk were sent a letter or email inviting them to take part together with a participant information sheet. Those who did not respond were sent a reminder at 4 weeks. The Fire Service sent email invitations to staff through established mailing lists. Recruitment was capped at 5,500 participants ^[8].

Study procedures

Participants were recruited between 1 June and 10 July 2020. Social distancing (except during finger-prick and venepuncture) and personal protective equipment were implemented at the clinics. Consent was obtained from participants who had been symptom-free for the previous 7-days and they were provided with instructions, a set of study ID stickers (barcode), a self-test LFIA kit, a nasopharyngeal kit and a saliva kit.

Participants were then invited to conduct the LFIA (“self-test”) by following the written/visual instructions provided ^[10]. No direct instruction was provided from staff at the clinic facility.

The LFIA (Fortress, Northern Ireland) used tests antibody against the spike (“S”) protein. It was previously evaluated as having sensitivity 84% (95% CI, 70.5%, 93.5%) and specificity

98.6% (97.1%, 99.4%)^[6]. While participants were waiting the 10-15 minutes to read the LFIA test they performed a self-administered saliva collection (2ml, using Oragene kit [DNA Genotek, Canada] and drool technique) using the instructions provided. After reading the LFIA result, participants uploaded an image of the completed self-test LFIA. Participants then underwent a repeat finger-prick LFIA administered by a health care professional (“nurse-performed”) and provided a set of venous blood samples. After leaving the building, participants completed a self-administered nasopharyngeal swab in an outside shelter area or their private vehicle, following the instructions and video, and then placed the sample in the “drop box” at reception. Participants were also asked to complete a brief questionnaire, which included questions on demographic characteristics, occupation, health status (including COVID-19), usability and acceptability of the LFIA device^[7].

Samples were transported daily via courier to laboratories for processing. The saliva sample and nasopharyngeal swab were analysed by RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 and participants were contacted (email or phone) with the results within three days and, if positive, provided with the latest government instructions on self- and household isolation. Participants had a venous blood sample analysed by ELISA (Abbott, USA) for SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibody. We applied the manufacture recommended diagnostic cut-off (binding ratio of 1.4) to determine a positive result from this quantitative immunoassay^[11]. Participants received the results of the blood tests within 4 weeks via letter.

Outcomes

We define the acceptability of the self-test LFIA as the proportion of participants attending the test centre who consented to, and used, the provided kit^[7]. We define the usability of the self-test LFIA as the proportion of participants that used the kit who achieved a valid result. A positive LFIA test was defined as IgG positive, and a negative test was defined as IgG

negative, regardless of IgM result ^[7]. For those that did not complete the test, we present the reason given.

Data analysis

We excluded people without valid questionnaire responses from relevant analyses and retained tests with a positive or negative result. We estimated the prevalence of RT-PCR positivity from nasopharyngeal swab and saliva samples, and antibody positivity was defined as a positive Abbott ELISA test on serum.

After excluding LFIA with an invalid result, we report the concordance of self-test to nurse-performed LFIA results using the Cohen's kappa statistic: <0 , poor agreement; $0.00-0.20$, slight agreement; $0.21-0.40$, fair agreement; $0.41-0.60$, moderate agreement; $0.61-0.80$, substantial agreement; and >0.8 , almost perfect agreement ^[12]. For participants with a valid LFIA (participant and nurse) and Abbott ELISA result, we determined the positive (sensitivity) and negative (specificity) percent agreement of the LFIA tests compared to the serum Abbott ELISA test.

Finally, we undertook an independent visual inspection of the uploaded images from the discordant LFIA test pairs (self-test and nurse-performed) and a similar-sized sample of concordant pairs, to investigate reasons for any differences. Two reviewers (BD and MA) independently reviewed the images and a third (HW) was consulted to adjudicate on and resolve any differences.

We used logistic regression to quantify associations between demographic and clinical characteristics and i) detected antibody status (positive Abbott ELISA test) and ii) not having a valid self-test LFIA result. 95% confidence intervals were calculated using the Wilson's

method. Analyses were conducted in STATA version 13.1 or higher (StataCorp, College Station, TX, USA).

Participant consent statement

Written consent was obtained from all participants. This study was undertaken as part of the REACT-2 study, with ethical approval from South Central–Berkshire B Research Ethics Committee (REC ref: 20/SC/0206; IRAS 283805). Airwave study participants have given consent to be contacted for other research studies (IRAS project ID: 259978).

RESULTS

Study recruitment was capped at 5,500, 5,554 (23.0%) individuals booked into clinic and of these 5,453 (98.2%) attended (Fig. 1). The majority (88%, n=4,729) of participants were 40 years and older, 65% (n=3,483) were men, 92% (n=4,882) were white British (Table 1). Overall, 5,306 (97.3%) participants provided a saliva sample for RT-PCR, 5,436 (99.7%) performed a nasopharyngeal swab for RT-PCR and 5,348 (98.1%) provided blood for an Abbott ELISA test.

Four (0.07%; 95% CI, 0.03, 0.19) participants were RT-PCR positive from nasopharyngeal swabs; none of 5,306 saliva tests were positive. Due to the low numbers testing positive, no further analysis of prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection is presented.

Antibody prevalence

IgG antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 were found in 396 of 5,348 participants using the Abbott ELISA, a prevalence of 7.4% (6.7, 8.1) (Table 1). Prevalence varied by age, being highest in

people under 40 years of age (8.9%; 6.9, 11.4) and lowest in people over 60 years (5.3%; 3.9, 7.0); by ethnicity, being higher in people of non-white ethnicity (11.5%; 8.8, 15.0) compared to people of white ethnicity (7.0%; 6.3, 7.7) participants; employment status, being higher in people currently working (7.8%; 7.1, 8.7) compared to people not currently working (4.8%; 3.5, 6.5) and region, being higher in London (11.7%; 9.9, 13.8) compared to other regions except North West and lowest in the South West (3.0%; 2.0, 4.5) (Table 1). These associations persisted after controlling for age and sex, with the odds of positivity in London being almost twice those in East Midlands (Adjusted Odds Ratio [AOR] of 1.90 [1.35, 2.68]), and AOR in people of non-white ethnicity of 1.66 (1.20, 2.29) compared to people of white ethnicity (Table 1). Three hundred and ninety-three (8.1%; 7.4, 9.0) participants were antibody positive on the self-test LFIA.

Comparative performance of antibody tests

For participants with a valid result from self-test LFIA, nurse-performed LFIA and Abbott ELISA, 95.2% (4,363/4,582) were concordant (positive or negative) across all three tests (Supplementary Table S1). Compared to Abbott ELISA, self-test LFIAs had a sensitivity of 82.1% (77.7, 86.0) and specificity of 97.8% (97.3, 98.2) and nurse-performed LFIAs a sensitivity of 76.4% (71.9, 80.5) and a specificity of 98.5% (98.1, 98.8) (Table 2a).

There was substantial agreement between the two LFIA results (self-test and nurse-performed) from the same participants, with 4,540/4,670 (97.2%) having the same result, kappa 0.80 (0.77, 0.83) (Table 2b). Overall, there were discordant results between the self-test and nurse-performed tests in 130 cases (2.8%). Uploaded images were available for review from 101 of these discordant pairs, 56 (55%) of which were confirmed as discordant (Supplementary Table S2). The review showed that participants were more likely to report negative tests as positive, and nurses were more likely to miss faint positives, which may explain the lower sensitivity of nurse-tests compared to Abbott ELISA (Supplementary Table

S3). Review of the uploaded images for the sample of 145 concordant self-test and nurse-performed tests found that 129/129 available image pairs were concordant (Supplementary Tables S4 and S5).

Self-test LFIA acceptability and usability

The self-test LFIA test was attempted by 5,328 participants, an acceptability of 97.7%. Of the participants who attempted the test, 4,797 obtained a valid result, giving a usability of 90.0%. The most commonly cited reasons for not successfully completing the LFIA were “I could not read the result” (n=78), “It was too fiddly for me to manage” (n=51) and “I did not manage to get the buffer onto the test” (n=37). An invalid self-test LFIA result was 20% less likely for women compared to men (OR 0.78; 0.63, 0.97) and 40% more likely for people who were not currently working compared to people currently working (OR 1.38; 1.03, 1.85) (Supplementary Table S6). The majority of participants (88.5%, n=4,638) were “very confident” that they had interpreted their results correctly. Of the fifty participants who provided a preference for where to perform the test, 82.0% (62.9, 90.2) stated home.

DISCUSSION

One in 13 people (7.4%; 6.7, 8.1) in this non-healthcare key worker cohort had evidence of previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 following the first wave of the epidemic in England, rising to one in nine in London (11.7%; 9.9, 13.8). This prevalence was higher than in a representative sample of the population at the time at 6.0% (5.8, 6.1), but lower than in key workers in healthcare at 11.7% (10.5, 13.1) ^[4]. The participants reported a high acceptability and usability of self-test LFIAs, with 90% of participants obtaining a valid antibody test result. There was no significant difference in the performance of self-test and nurse-performed LFIAs.

The prevalence of infection in the cohort was low at 0.07% (n=4) on RT-PCR from nasopharyngeal swab, and none of the saliva samples tested positive. This finding is in keeping with the national REACT prevalence study (adjusted prevalence of 0.077% (95% CI 0.065%, 0.092%) in England, 19th June - 8th July 2020) and reflects the declining epidemic at the time of the study, during June to July 2020 ^[13, 14].

The Fortress LFIA used in this study was selected following a rigorous evaluation of five commercially available LFIAs^[6]. It has since been compared to seven newer LFIAs and none had a superior diagnostic performance ^[15]. We used the Abbott ELISA as the primary reference standard. An evaluation by Public Health England (PHE), found that it met the manufacturer-reported performance for specificity, although not for sensitivity ^[11].

Our study provides further evidence for the association of occupation, involving key workers in a public-facing role, with risk of infection by SARS-CoV-2. Previous research suggests that in mid-June to mid-July, the crude prevalence in key workers (excluding health and care-home workers) in England was 6.1% (5.7, 6.4) ^[16], over a percentage point lower than the 7.4% (6.7, 8.1) reported here. However, it is possible that the prevalence following the first wave of the pandemic among participants in our study could be under-estimated given uncertainty about antibody waning and the duration of a detectable antibody response ^[17].

We found similar demographic patterns in prevalence to those seen in the national REACT-2 study, where the highest prevalence was also found in the London region, in people of non-white ethnicity and younger adults ^[4].

The sensitivity of self-test LFIAs estimated against Abbott ELISA in this cohort of non-healthcare key workers was 82.1% (77.8, 85.8), similar to previously reported sensitivity of 84% (70.5, 93.5) in a cohort of healthcare workers with PCR-confirmed COVID-19 ^[6]. The

specificity against Abbott ELISA in this study was 97.8% (97.3, 98.2), similar to the 98.6% (97.1, 99.4) using pre-pandemic sera in the laboratory ^[6].

Overall, there was substantial agreement between self-test to nurse-performed LFIAs, with only 2.8% having discrepant results. There was no evidence that nurse-performed tests were better than self-tests, although there was a suggestion that participants were more likely to record a test as positive and healthcare practitioners were more likely to report as negative. This was supported by the visual reinspection of the small number of discordant pairs of LFIAs. The study suggests that there is no gain in accuracy to be had by committing extra resource to obtain healthcare practitioner performed LFIAs in large-scale community surveys and that self-test is a viable and acceptable approach.

Strengths and limitations

We aimed to replicate the experience of completing a home self-test LFIA as a means of obtaining prevalence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection in non-healthcare occupational settings by providing participants with no additional assistance, beyond the test instruction materials. The idea was that, if successful, this could then be extended to obtain prevalence estimates in the wider population at low cost, without the need for supervision by a healthcare practitioner. We found little difference between the results of LFIAs administered as a self-test or by a nurse, supporting the unsupervised use of the LFIA. However, our results might not be fully generalisable. The majority of participants were recruited from the Airwave occupational cohort ^[9]. The cohort is not demographically (age, sex, ethnicity, geography) representative of the adult population of England, participants had to be able to travel to a test site (mostly in a private vehicle) and, being an occupational cohort, participants were healthier than the general population ('healthy cohort' effect ^[9]). Participants (emergency service staff) may also have been more familiar with medical procedures, which may have had an impact on the generalisability of the usability and

acceptability findings to the general population. Nonetheless, parallel studies carried out in the community at around the same time provided similar results on usability and acceptability (although estimates of prevalence were lower, reflecting greater exposure of public-facing workers to risk of infection) ^[7].

We compared results of the self-test and nurse-performed LFIA with a quantitative ELISA test (Abbott) using an established cut-point to denote positivity. To the extent that the “gold standard” ELISA test itself does not have perfect sensitivity and specificity ^[11], will have introduced some error into those comparisons.

CONCLUSION

In June 2020, following the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in England, approximately one in 13 of this non-healthcare key worker cohort had evidence of past infection with SARS-CoV-2. The epidemiological patterns in prevalence of previous infection were similar to the national picture, with highest prevalence observed in people who were under 40 years, had a non-white ethnicity, were currently in employment and living in London. Participants reported a high acceptability and usability for the LFIAs and there was little difference in performance of self-test compared to a nurse-performed LFIA. Overall, our study suggests that the self-test LFIA is fit for purpose for home-testing for use in occupational and – by extension – community prevalence studies of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank key collaborators on this research: Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Imperial College: Eric Johnson and Rob Elliott; Institute of Global Health Innovation at

Imperial College: Gianluca Fontana, Sutha Satkunarajah and Lenny Naar; Airwave study: Andy Heard, Paul Downey, Antoinette Amuzu.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

AD is Chair of the Health Security initiative at Flagship Pioneering UK Ltd. All other authors declare no competing interests.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Aggregate data from study participants is presented in tables and supplementary information.

FUNDING

This work was supported by the Department of Health and Social Care in England. Authors acknowledge funding from National Institute of Health Research Professorship [to G.C.]; National Institute of Health Research Senior Investigator Award [to A.D., H.W.]; Medical Research Council Centre for Environment and Health [grant number MR/L01341X/1, MR/S019669/1 to P.E.]; National Institute of Health Research Imperial College NHS Trust Biomedical Research Centre [to P.E and H.W.]; National Institute of Health Research Applied Research Collaborative [to H.W.]; National Institute of Health Research Health Protection Research Unit in Chemical and Radiation Threats and Hazards [NIHR-200922 to P.E., and B.D.] National Institute of Health Research Health Protection Research Unit in Environmental Exposures and Health [NIHR-200880 to P.E.]; British Heart Foundation Centre for Research Excellence at Imperial College London [RE/18/4/34215 to P.E.]; Wellcome Trust [200861/Z/16/Z, 200187/Z/15/Z to H.W.]; Health Data Research UK [to

P.E.]; and UK Dementia Research Institute at Imperial [MC_PC_17114 to P.E.]. We thank The Huo Family Foundation for their support of our work on COVID-19. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Department of Health and Social Care or the National Institute for Health Research.

Accepted Manuscript

REFERENCES

1. Office for National Statistics. Official Statistics: Key workers: population and characteristics, 2019. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-workers-population-and-characteristics-2019>. Accessed 29 November 2020.
2. UK Cabinet Office and Department for Education. Guidance: Critical workers who can access schools or educational settings. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. Accessed 21/11/2020.
3. Office for National Statistics. Coronavirus and key workers in the UK. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/articles/coronavirusandkeyworkersintheuk/2020-05-15>. Accessed 29 November 2020.
4. Ward H, Atchison C, Whitaker M, et al. SARS-CoV-2 antibody prevalence in England following the first peak of the pandemic. *Nature Communications* **2021**; 12(1): 905.
5. Department of Health and Social Care. Policy paper: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scaling up our testing programmes. UK, **2020** 04/04/2020.
6. Flower B, Brown JC, Simmons B, et al. Clinical and laboratory evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 lateral flow assays for use in a national COVID-19 seroprevalence survey. *Thorax* **2020**; 75(12): 1082-8.
7. Atchison C, Pristera P, Cooper E, et al. Usability and acceptability of home-based self-testing for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies for population surveillance. *Clin Infect Dis* **2020**.
8. Riley S AC, Ashby D et al. . REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission (REACT) of SARS-CoV-2 virus: Study protocol [version 2; peer review: 2 approved]. *Wellcome Open Res* **2021**; 5: 200.
9. Elliott P, Vergnaud A-C, Singh D, Neasham D, Spear J, Heard A. The Airwave Health Monitoring Study of police officers and staff in Great Britain: Rationale, design and methods. *Environmental Research* **2014**; 134: 280-5.
10. Helix Centre. Your at-home antibody test for coronavirus. Imperial College London and IPSOS MORI. , **2020**:<https://vimeo.com/423592077/ed946fe3f6>.
11. Public Health England. Evaluation of the Abbott SARS-CoV-2 IgG for the detection of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. London, UK: PHE, **2020** 8 June 2020.
12. Landis JR, Koch GG. The Measurement of Observer Agreement for Categorical Data. *Biometrics* **1977**; 33(1): 159-74.
13. Riley S, Ainslie KEC, Eales O, et al. Community prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 virus in England during May 2020: REACT study. *medRxiv* **2020**: 2020.07.10.20150524.
14. Riley S, Ainslie KEC, Eales O, et al. Transient dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 as England exited national lockdown. *medRxiv* **2020**: 2020.08.05.20169078.
15. Moshe M, Daunt A, Flower B, et al. SARS-CoV-2 lateral flow assays for possible use in national covid-19 seroprevalence surveys (React 2): diagnostic accuracy study. *BMJ* **2021**; 372: n423-n.
16. Lumley SF, Wei J, O'Donnell D, et al. The duration, dynamics and determinants of SARS-CoV-2 antibody responses in individual healthcare workers. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* **2021**; ciab004.
17. Ward H, Cooke GS, Atchison C, et al. Prevalence of antibody positivity to SARS-CoV-2 following the first peak of infection in England: Serial cross-sectional studies of 365,000 adults. *Lancet Reg Health Eur* **2021**; 4: 100098.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of participants by antibody status (Abbott ELISA or LFIA) and logistic regression in relation to Abbott ELISA

Characteristic	Participants N (% of total)	Abbott ELISA					LFIA self-test		
		No. positive ELISA/ No. valid ELISA ¹	Crude prevalence ELISA positive % (95% CI)	p value ²	Adjusted OR ³ (95% CI)	p value	No. positive LFIA/ No. valid LFIA	Crude prevalence LFIA positive % (95% CI)	p value
Overall		396/5348	7.4 (6.7- 8.1)				393/4404	8.1 (7.4-9.0)	
Age (years)	<40	626 (11.6)	56/626	8.9 (6.9-11.4)	0.045	-	62/545	11.3 (8.9-14.3)	0.013
	40-49	1686 (31.4)	125/1684	7.4 (6.2-8.7)		0.81 (0.58-1.13)	0.233	122/1497	8.1 (6.8-9.6)
	50-59	2192 (40.9)	170/2189	7.7 (6.7-8.9)		0.85 (0.62-1.16)	0.317	152/1935	7.8 (6.7-9.1)
	60 and over	851 (15.8)	45/849	5.3 (3.9-7.0)		0.56 (0.37-0.84)	0.006	47/734	6.4 (4.8-8.4)
Gender	Male	3483 (65.0)	266/3478	7.6 (6.8-8.5)	0.354	-	244/3054	7.9 (7.0-9.0)	0.632
	Female	1872 (34.9)	130/1870	6.9 (5.8-8.1)		0.88 (0.71-1.10)	0.279	139/1657	8.3 (7.1-9.8)
Ethnicity	White	4882 (92.0)	336/4789	7.0 (6.3-7.7)	0.001	-	337/4343	7.7 (7.0-8.5)	0.000
	Non-white	424 (7.9)	48/415	11.5 (8.8-15.0)		1.66 (1.20-2.29)	0.002	52/388	13.4 (10.3-17.1)

Currently working	Yes	4459 (84.2)	344/4372	7.8 (7.1-8.7)	0.003	-	346/3992	8.6 (7.8-9.5)	0.012
	No ⁴	836 (15.7)	40/821	4.8 (3.5-6.5)		0.65 (0.45-0.94)	0.024	43/731	5.8 (4.3-7.8)
Education	Degree	1629 (30.7)	109/1600	6.8 (5.6-8.1)	0.299	-	122/1448	8.4 (7.0-9.9)	0.733
	No degree	3678 (69.3)	275/3605	7.6 (6.8-8.5)		1.16 (0.91-1.46)	0.208	267/3284	8.1 (7.2-9.1)
Region	East Midlands	789 (14.7)	50/789	6.3 (4.8-8.2)	0.000	-	46/699	6.5 (4.9-8.6)	0.000
	London	1068 (19.9)	125/1066	11.7 (9.9-13.8)		1.90 (1.35-2.68)	0.000	128/956	13.4 (11.2-15.6)
	North West	800 (14.9)	70/799	8.7 (6.9-10.9)		1.42 (0.97-2.07)	0.069	58/704	8.2 (6.4-10.5)
	South West	764 (14.2)	23/761	3.0 (2.0-4.5)		0.46 (0.27-0.76)	0.003	28/663	4.2 (2.9-6.0)
	West Midlands	1934 (36.1)	128/1933	6.6 (5.5-7.8)		1.06 (0.75-1.48)	0.732	123/1689	7.2 (6.1-8.6)
Self-report	No	3747 (70.3)	74/3679	2.0 (1.6-2.5)	0.000	-	86/3353	2.5 (2.0-3.1)	0.000
COVID-19⁵	Yes	1582 (29.6)	312/1547	20.1 (18.2-22.2)		12.6 (9.6-16.4)	0.000	303/1396	21.7 (19.6-23.9)
Co-morbidity⁶	No	3081 (57.8)	233/3021	7.3 (6.5-8.3)	0.899	-	233/2748	8.4 (7.4-9.5)	0.701
	1-2	2017 (37.8)	148/1978	7.4 (6.4-8.7)		1.05 (0.84-1.30)	0.658	140/1793	7.8 (6.6-9.1)
	≥3	229 (4.3)	15/226	6.6 (4.0-10.7)		0.96 (0.56-1.66)	0.906	16/207	7.7 (4.7-12.2)

¹Participants with a valid questionnaire and valid Abbott ELISA result; ² p-value from Chi squared test; ³Adjusted for age and sex; ⁴ includes people in government supported training, unemployed and available for work, wholly retired from work, full-time education at school, college, or University, looking after home/ family, permanently sick / disabled, and “doing something else”; ⁵ Self-reported COVID-19 infection, “yes” includes confirmed by a positive test, suspected by a doctor but not tested and my own suspicions; ⁶ Number of self-reported co-morbidities

from the following list: Organ transplant recipient, Diabetes (type I or II), Heart disease or heart problems, Hypertension, Overweight, Stroke, Kidney disease, Liver disease, Anemia, Asthma, Other lung condition (such as COPD, bronchitis or emphysema), Cancer, Condition affecting the brain and nerves (e.g. Dementia, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis), A weakened immune system/reduced ability to deal with infections (as a result of a disease or treatment), Depression, Anxiety, Psychiatric disorder.

Table 2. Comparison of results from (a) LFIAs and Abbott ELISA, and (b) self-test LFIA and nurse-performed LFIA

(a)

		ELISA			
		Positive	Negative	Total	Performance (95% CI)
Self-test LFIA	Positive	285	98	383	Sensitivity: 82.1% (77.7, 86.0)
	Negative	62	4260	4322	Specificity: 97.8% (97.3, 98.2)
	Total	347	4358	4705	
Nurse-performed LFIA	Positive	298	72	370	Sensitivity: 76.4% (71.9, 80.5)
	Negative	92	4744	4836	Specificity: 98.5% (98.1, 98.8)
	Total	390	4816	5206	

(b)

Nurse-performed LFIA					
		Positive	Negative	Total	% agreement (95% CI)
Self-test LFIA	Positive	294	93	387	Positive: 88.8% (84.9, 92.0)
	Negative	37	4246	4283	Negative: 97.9% (97.4, 98.3)
	Total	331	4339	4670	Kappa: 0.80 (0.77, 0.83)

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. STARD flow diagram.

Accepted Manuscript

Figure 1

