

# Community-based rapid HIV testing events for MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) in Nagoya, Japan: Comparison of MSM attending a MSM targeted health center HIV testing event with those attending a gay festival

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**[BACKGROUND]** Gay NGOs, medical staff, local government health officials and researchers have collaborated to provide HIV testing events for MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) in Nagoya, Japan since 2001.

**[AIM]** Demographic, HIV testing and sexual behaviors of MSM attending a spring gay festival **NLGR (Nagoya Lesbian and Gay Revolution)** in 2009 were compared with those attending a **HIV Testing Event for MSM held at a health center in Nagoya after office hours** in September and December 2009 in order to evaluate the HIV testing, prevention and support needs of MSM in Nagoya.



**HIV Testing Events (M検):** MSM targeted HIV testing events have been held in city run community health centers since 2008. Average rate of HIV+ among HIV testing event participants since 2008 is **3.4%**. **NLGR:** A festival held annual at a public park in central Nagoya since 2001. Sexual minorities attend and are exposed to HIV information in a festival like atmosphere which includes NGO booths, talk shows, and drag & gay entertainers.



**[METHOD]** Voluntary self-administered questionnaires were conducted among MSM attending the gay festival (n=284) and MSM targeted HIV testing events at health centers (n=152). Demographic, experience of HIV testing, and HIV risk behaviors were analyzed to compared to discern differences between the 2 groups. Statistically significant results are presented.

## [RESULTS]

1) **Demographic:** MSM targeted HIV testing events participants were more likely to be older ( $p < 0.001$ ) and to state bisexual identity ( $p = 0.040$ ) than gay festival participants (Graph 1 & 2).

2) **Experience of life time HIV testing:** MSM targeted HIV testing events participants reported higher rates of life time HIV testing ( $p < 0.001$ ) than those participating in the gay festival (Graph 3).

3) **Gay venue access in previous 6 months:** Gay festival participants were more likely to go to gay bars ( $p = 0.001$ ) & internet dating sites ( $p = 0.001$ ) than MSM targeted HIV testing events participants (Graph 4).

4) **Sexual behavior:** The rate of unprotected anal intercourse was the same between the two groups (Graph 5).

5) **HIV risk perception:** Gay festival respondents had lower risk perception than MSM targeted HIV testing events participants (Graph 6).

**[CONCLUSION]** Although the rate of 100% condom use during anal sex showed no significant difference between two groups, risk perception was significantly lower among gay festival participants. This means that risk reception in relation to HIV infection is different in spite of similar sexual behaviors. In order to increase HIV testing among festival participants, interventions which promote HIV testing are needed. To improve HIV testing accessibility for gay festival participants, it is necessary to implement targeted gay-friendly HIV testing for MSM; advertising these events using gay bars and internet dating sites may be effective.

