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GUAM

- U.S. territory in the western Pacific Ocean
- Population of 159,358 (Source: 2010 Census)
- International travel hub
- Major industry: tourism (Japan, Korea; US Armed Forces)
- Land area: 212 sq. miles
- Approx. 1,597 miles east of Manila, Philippines; 1,558 miles southeast of Tokyo, Japan
Background – HIV

• Low HIV prevalence
• 233 HIV cases (1985-2011)
• 54% of cases were MSM*
• 9 new HIV cases in 2010 (5 are MSM)
• 6 new HIV cases in 2011
• 6 new HIV cases in 2012* (5 are MSM)
MSM defined

• Men who have Sex with Men:
  “…indicates the behaviors that transmit HIV infection, rather than how individuals self-identify in terms of their sexuality. Such individuals may or may not self-identify as gay or bisexual men”  (Source: aids.gov)
Background - MSM

• Limited information and literature on local MSM population
• *A survey was conducted to examine MSM population
METHODS

• Respondent-driven sampling
• Eligibility
  – ≥16 years
  – Either male or transgender person
  – Reported sex with a male in the past 5 years
• Surveys were conducted in-person
• HIV test offered after the survey
• Analysis via Epi Info statistical package
RESULTS

Demographics

- 211 MSM respondents surveyed
  - 89.3% male
  - 5.1% were TG (m->f)

- Age Groups (years):
  - 16-24 (n=85, 40.3%)
  - 25-39 (n=85, 40.3%)
  - ≥ 40 (n=40, 19%)
Demographics, cont’d

- 73.9% (n=156) born on Guam

- Highest educational level completed:
  - 2.4% middle school
  - 53% have a high school diploma
  - 45% more than a high school diploma
RESULTS
Sexual Behavior

- First sexual encounter (M/F) ≤18 yrs of age:
  - 91% (n=194)
  - Mean age of first sex encounter = 15.3 y.o

- In the last six months, have you had any sexual contact with another man or transgender person?
  YES: 91% (n=192)
  - 98% (n=189) reported oral sex*
  - 27% (n=52) reported anal sex
Sexual Behavior, cont’d.

- 43% (n=91) MSM reported EVER having sex with a woman
  - 19% (n=17) had sex with a woman in the past six months

- 38% (n=80) had ≥ 2 concurrent sex partners
- 17% (n=35) had group sex (2 or more)

- 91.9% (n=194) have EVER used condoms
  - 40.2% (n=85) reported using a condom during last sex encounter with male partner
Sexual behavior during off-island travel in the past 12 months

- 48% (n=98) MSM traveled to another country outside of Guam*
- 59% (n=57) had sex with someone other than a sex partner from Guam while they were away
  - # sex partners during travel:
    Mean = 2 partners; Range = 1 – 20 partners
  - 44% (n=25) reported condoms were used with the most recent off-island partner
RESULTS

STD/HIV Knowledge and Testing

- 99% (n=208) had ever heard of STDs
  - 12% (n=25) had ever been dx’d with an STD
  - 3% (n=6) reported having been dx’d with HIV
  - 3% (n=6) Chlamydia
  - 4.2% (n=9) Gonorrhea
RESULTS
HIV Testing

- 71% (n=150) had ever been tested for HIV
  - 39% (n=82) tested in the past 12 months

- 59% (n=125) were offered an HIV test at the end of the survey
  - 37 (30%) agreed to take the test
  - All results were negative
LIMITATIONS

• Sampling didn’t include under 16 years of age
• Survey - Snowball effect*
• Missing data by interviewers (unexpected staff shortage and training issues)
• Length of time from data collection to analysis
• MSM travel: destination not recorded --> travel to areas with high HIV/STD rates --> implications when they return to the island
• Few prior MSM studies to reference*
Conclusions

• Prevalence of HIV-associated risk behaviors is high among MSM in Guam
• High risk behavior during international travel may
  – increase the risk for HIV and other STDs
  – increase the risk for sex partners in Guam
• STD/HIV prevention strategies for MSM in Guam and other Pacific Island nations need to be strengthened
• Guam DPHSS needs to improve its capacity to conduct and evaluate surveys of targeted populations
Future Strategies

- Direct resources to target younger MSM population; social networking sites
- Promote consistent condom use and frequent HIV/STD testing
- Examine and implement appropriate interventions for traveling MSM
- Increase capacity building opportunities for MSM (i.e., via GALA)
- Build Guam’s capacity to conduct HIV/STD behavioral risk surveys
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Thank You!
You’re Invited!

4th PIJAAG Regional Summit on HIV/AIDS

• Date: November 13-15, 2012
• Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel
  Tumon Bay, Guam
• For information: facebook.com/PijaagSummitGuam