

Recognising The Unrecognised: HIV Risk Among Internet-using Young Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)

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Background:

About 10-15% of HIV infections among MSM in Hong Kong were young MSM (aged 15-24 years). As MSM remained the priority community for HIV prevention, we examined the HIV-related risk behaviours of young MSM among internet-recruited sample of MSM in Hong Kong.

Method:

We compared the HIV-related risk behaviours in young MSM (n=207) with those elder respondents (n=702), using data from a large-scale internet survey for MSM, Asia Internet MSM Sex Survey, in 2010.

Result:

Young MSM, compared with elder MSM, were less likely (p<0.01) to have multiple sex partnership (69% vs 80%); drug abuse

before/during sex (9% vs 19%); and non-regular sex partner (67% vs 79%) for the last 6 months. However, they were more likely (p<0.01) to have regular sex partners (RSP) (26% vs 16%) and source their sex partners via the internet (79% vs 53%) instead of gay premises (14% vs 41%). Young MSM also appeared to expose to more unprotected anal sex with their RSP (35% vs 31%), but less HIV test (37% vs 43%), or HIV preventive messages (50% vs 54%) for the last one year.

Conclusion:

Our findings suggest the need to improve access to HIV prevention among young MSM and internet could be a viable channel.

Key words: young MSM, internet survey, risk behaviour.

