



Sexual Risk Behaviors and HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex With Men, Guam 2007 – 2008

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GUAM

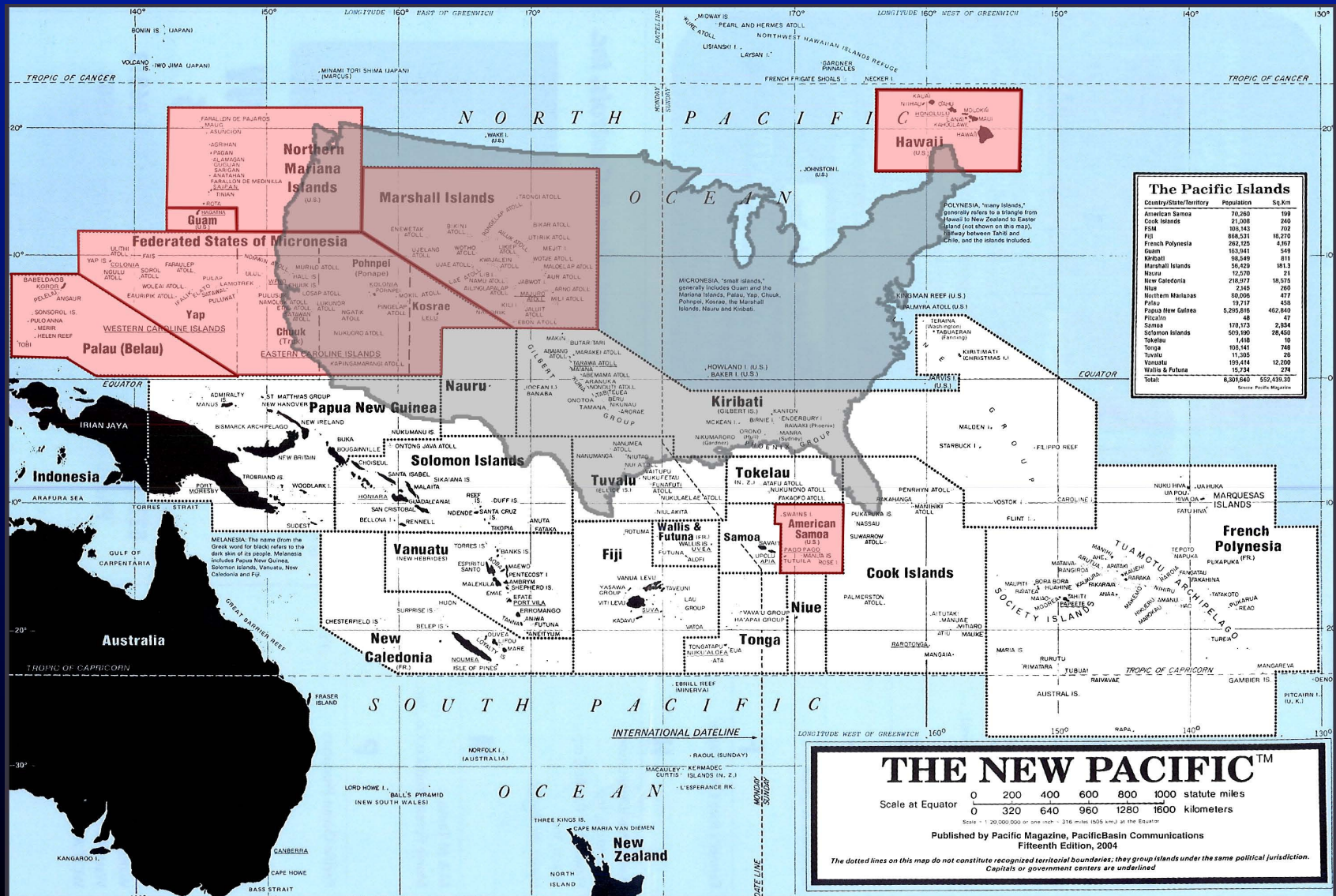


- U.S. territory in the western Pacific Ocean
- Population of 159,358 (Source: 2010 Census)
- International travel hub
- Major industry: tourism (Japan, Korea; US Armed Forces)
- Land area: 212 sq. miles
- Approx. 1,597 miles east of Manila, Philippines; 1,558 miles southeast of Tokyo, Japan





Pacific Map with U.S. Overlay



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](https://www.facebook.com/PijaagSummitGuam)



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Strengthening Our Fight Against HIV/AIDS in the Pacific
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