# Lessons learned from the introduction of Multilingual HIV and syphilis testing events for international migrants in Japan

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# **1. Background**

- The number of International migrants exceeded 3.2 million, 2.5% of the total population in Japan in 2023.
- Nearly 50% of them are in their 20s and 30s.
- Of the 304 people who made reservations, 183 (60.2%) took the tests. In total, 188 people from 34 countries/areas took the tests.
- Males: 90%, 20-39 years old: 87%. lacksquare
- One positive case was found and linked to a medical facility for confirmatory tests and treatment. Nearly 50% of them opted for PrEP consultation.



International migrants in Japan by nationality in 2023

## International migrants composed of 17.5% of newly diagnosed HIV cases in 2022.

- About 28% did not know their status until the onset of the symptoms.
  - Local public health centers offer free and anonymous HIV and syphilis testing, but mostly in Japanese.

# 2. Description

We have organized 25 free and anonymous multilingual HIV and syphilis testing events across Japan between November 2021



#### and March 2024

### Locations:

**Tokyo (since 2021) : 13 times** Okinawa (since 2022): 8 times Sendai (since 2023): 2 times Saitama (since 2023): 2 times

Multilingual Advertisement via Facebook, dating apps, foreign communities

Multilingual web reservations (20 persons max.) (easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Nepalis)\*

Venue

#### Examination

- Determine HIV Combo-1/2 AG/AB COMBO
- Determine TPAb
- Determine HBsAG2

WORLD AIDS DAY Special **HIV and Syphilis** same-day testing event in Sendai November 25 Venue: 2nd floor, Aoba Ward Office(1-5-1 Kamisugi Aoba Ward, Sendai) Time: 14:00 to 15:30 Tests will be carried out for 5 people. Free and anonymous Tests You will be notified of the results of HIV and syphilis tests in about 1 hour on the same day. servations on November 11th at the follow om making inquiries to Aoba Ward Office regarding this testing ever

https://hivtestingforall.net/sendai/

**Online** interpretation

services, if necessary

# **3. Lessons learned**

18%

6 times +

- Our HIV/syphilis testing project demonstrated the feasibility of expanding HIV testing among international migrants in Japan.
- We introduced the multilingual HIV testing model at the testing events at Sendai Public Health Center.
- There is a substantial interest in using PrEP as regular HIV prevention among international migrants.
- The high non-attendance rate among those who made online reservations suggests the potential barriers from the intention of testing to actual testing uptake.

# 4. Next Steps

Consultation with social workers (optional) Notification of the results by a medical doctor

\*The first event in Tokyo was a walk-in event, and five people came to take the test.

### The testing events were funded by the Health Labour Sciences **Research Grant.**

The project was approved by the ethics committee of Kyorin University.

### Acknowledgment

We appreciate the cooperation of the staff members of Sendai Public Health Center.

We want to explore the possibilities of

- (1) adding our multilingual testing model to HIV testing services at public health centers and medical facilities,
- (2) engaging international communities in organizing the testing events, and
- (3) providing mail HIV testing in multilingual formats.

For questions and comments, please contact: Tsutomu Kitajima (kitajima@ks.kyorin-u.ac.jp)

Please visit our Facebook page for information about HIV testing for non-Japanese residents.



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Others 8