

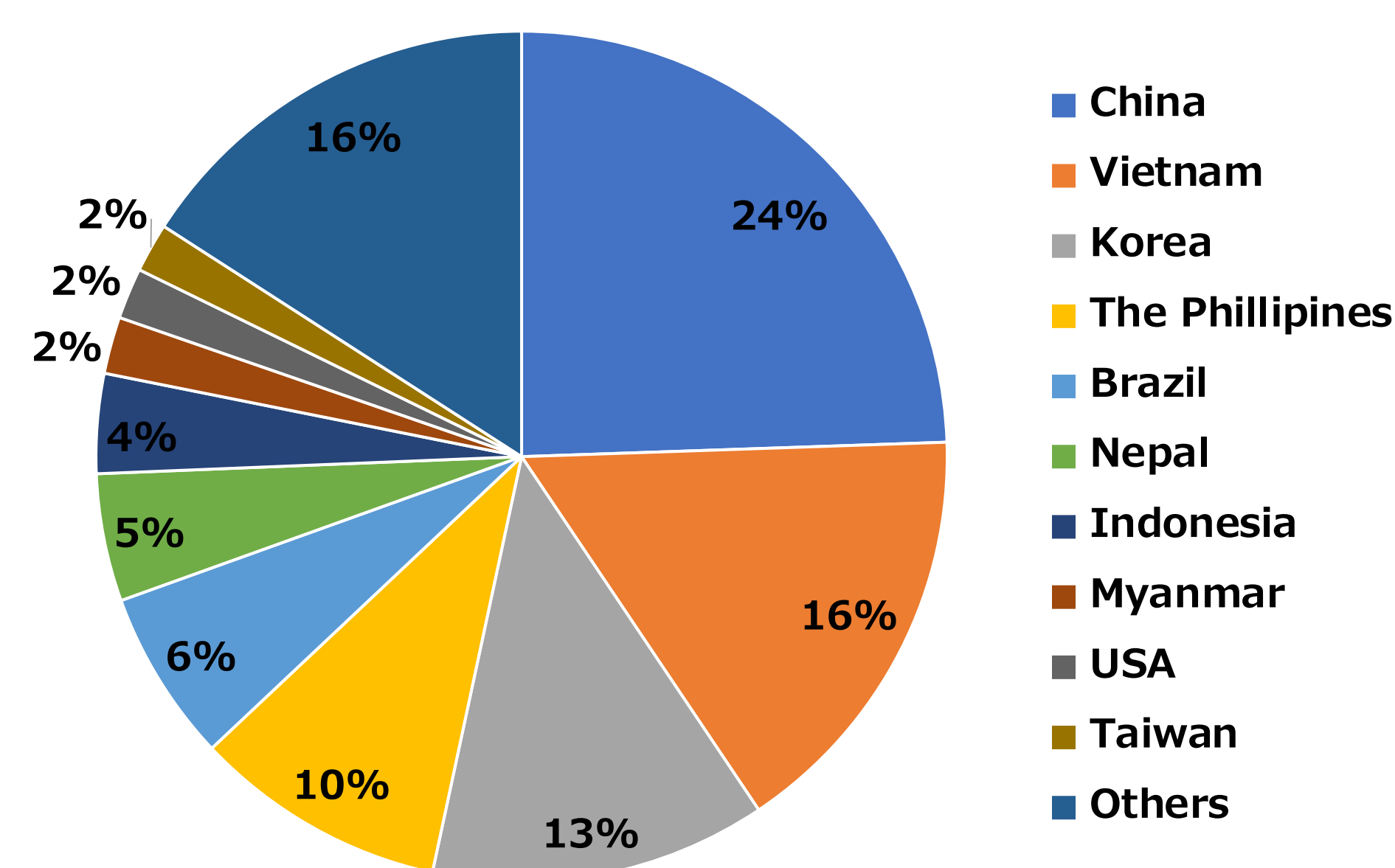
Lessons learned from the introduction of Multilingual HIV and syphilis testing events for international migrants in Japan

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1. Background

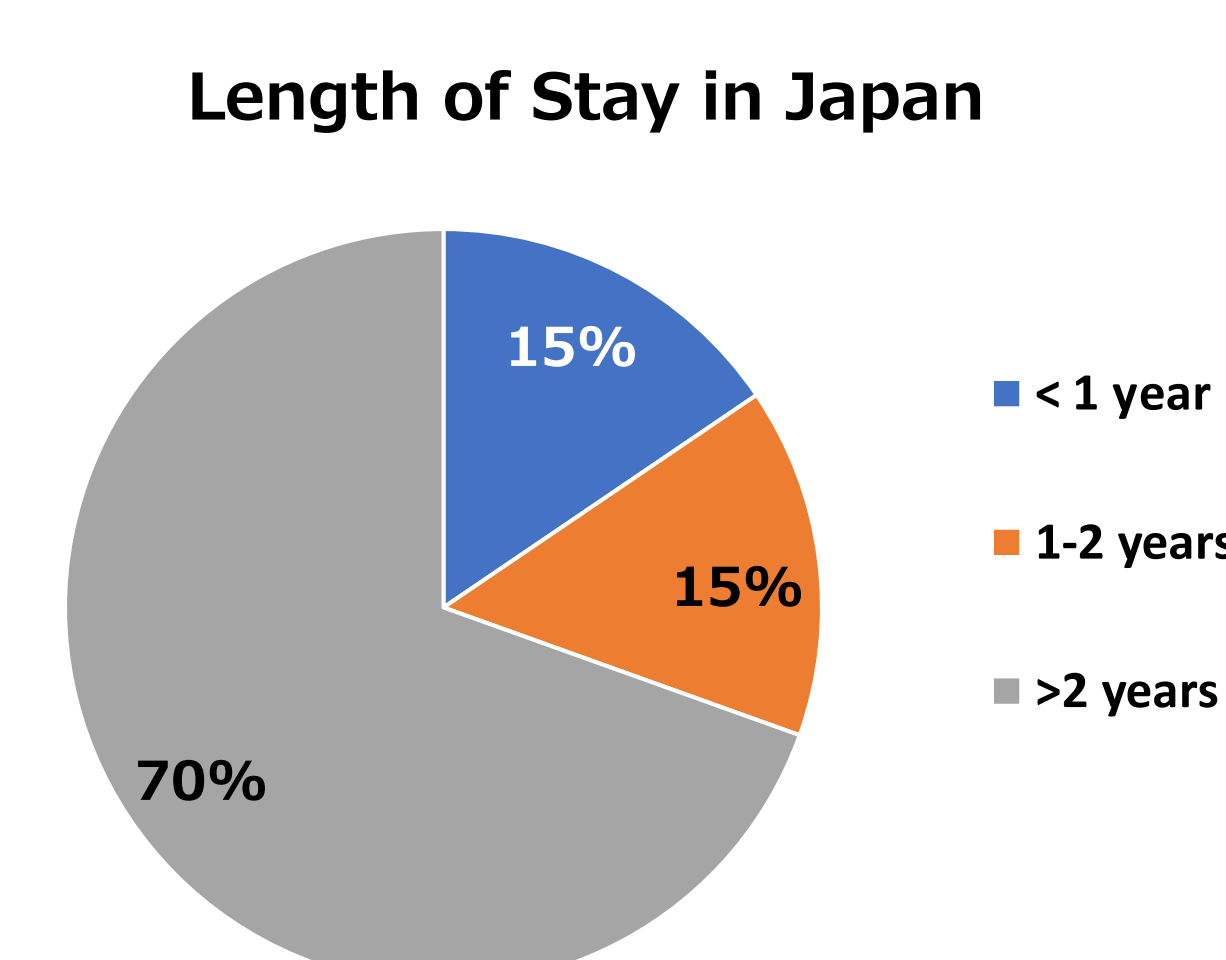
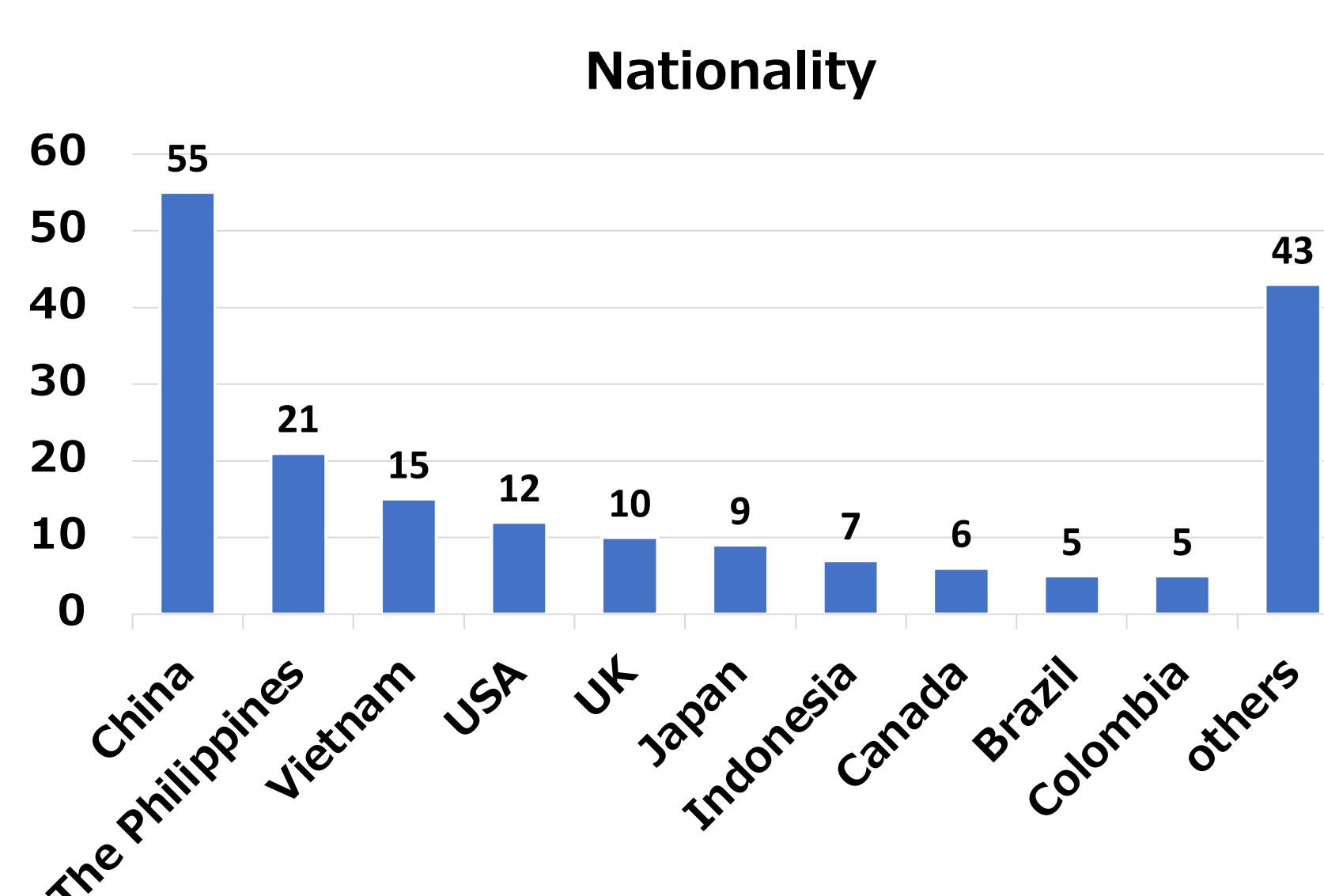
- The number of International migrants exceeded 3.2 million, 2.5% of the total population in Japan in 2023.
- Nearly 50% of them are in their 20s and 30s.



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.

- 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%.
- One positive case was found and linked to a medical facility for confirmatory tests and treatment.
- Nearly 50% of them opted for PrEP consultation.

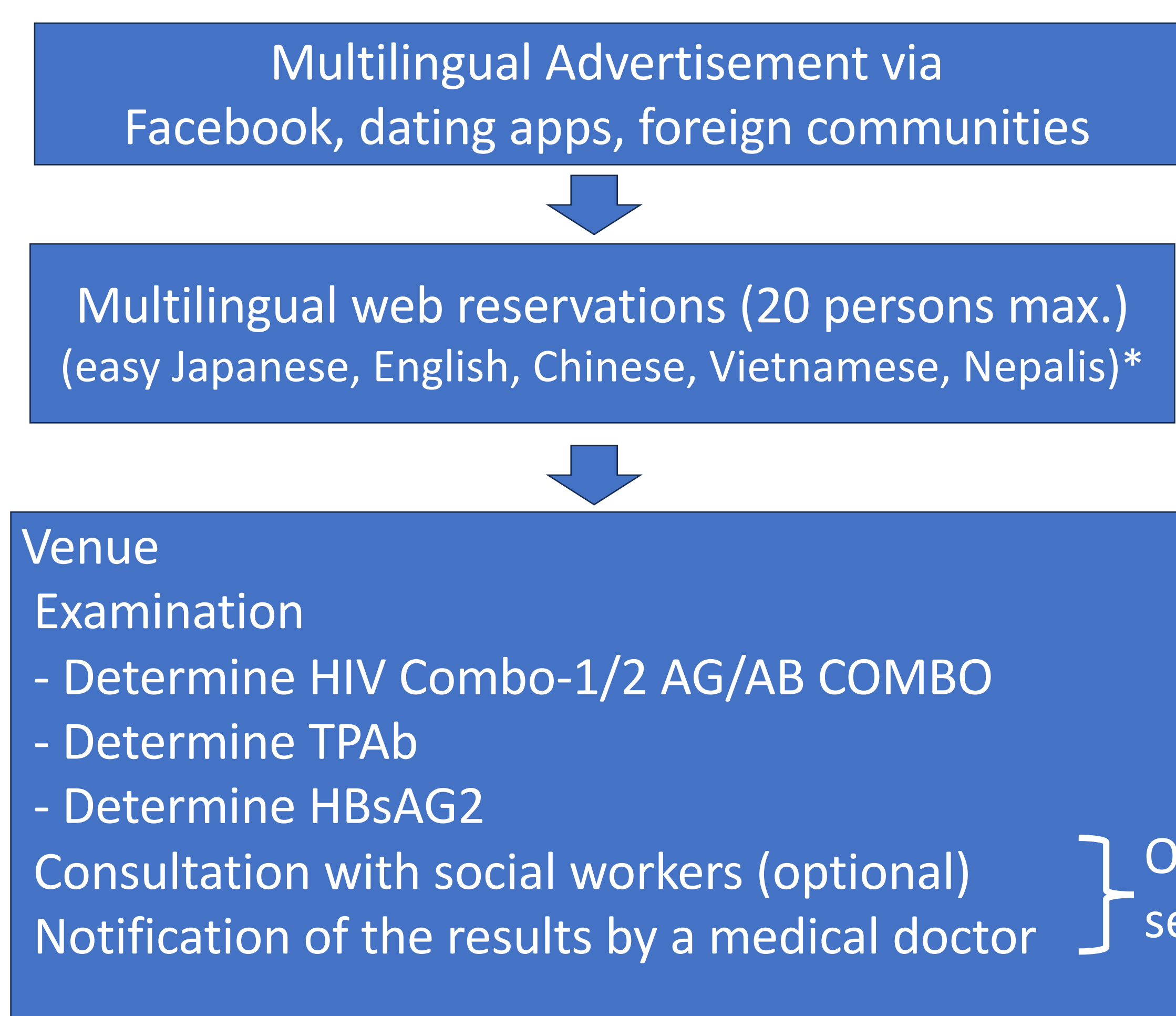


2. Description

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



3. Lessons learned

- 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

- 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:
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Acknowledgment

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

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



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

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