

The HIV/AIDS epidemic among MSM in Japan: Background & gay NGO responses

Tetsuro Onitsuka^{1,2} Jane Koerner^{3,4} Noriyo Kaneko³
Seiichi Ichikawa³

¹MASH Osaka ²Kyoto Sangyo University ³Nagoya City University

⁴Japan Foundation for AIDS Prevention

The Study Group on the Development & Evaluation of Community based HIV Prevention Interventions for MSM is funded by the Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare

**RESEARCH on
SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION
for MSM in JAPAN**

男性同性間のセクシュアルヘルス増進に関する研究

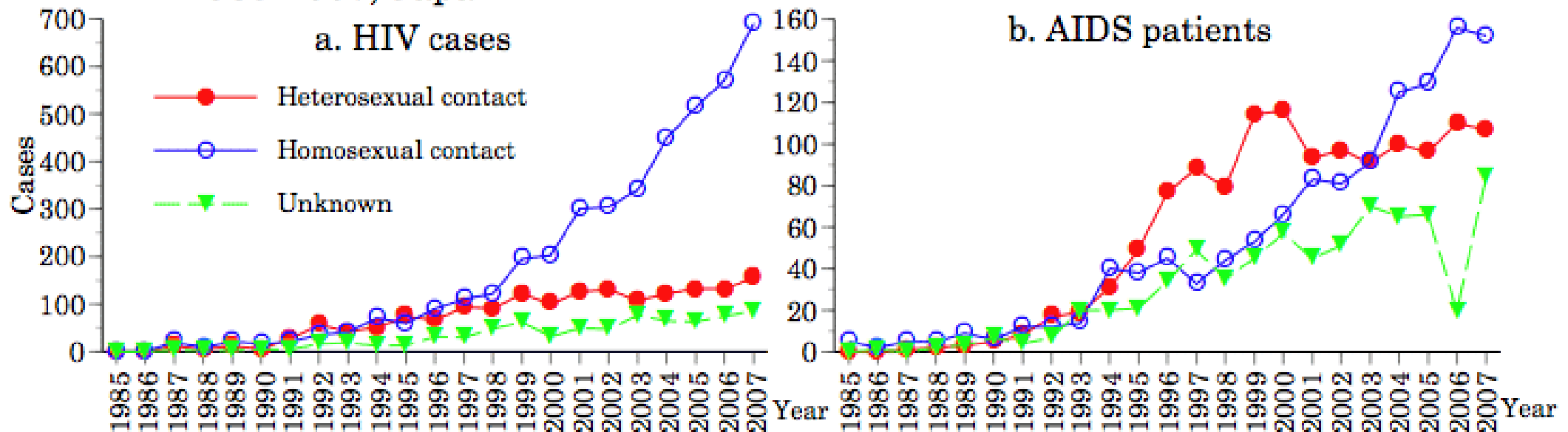


<http://msm-japan.com>
info@msm-japan.com

National Surveillance Data 2007

Mode of transmission by year

Mode of infection of Japanese male HIV cases and AIDS patients, 1985-2007, Japan

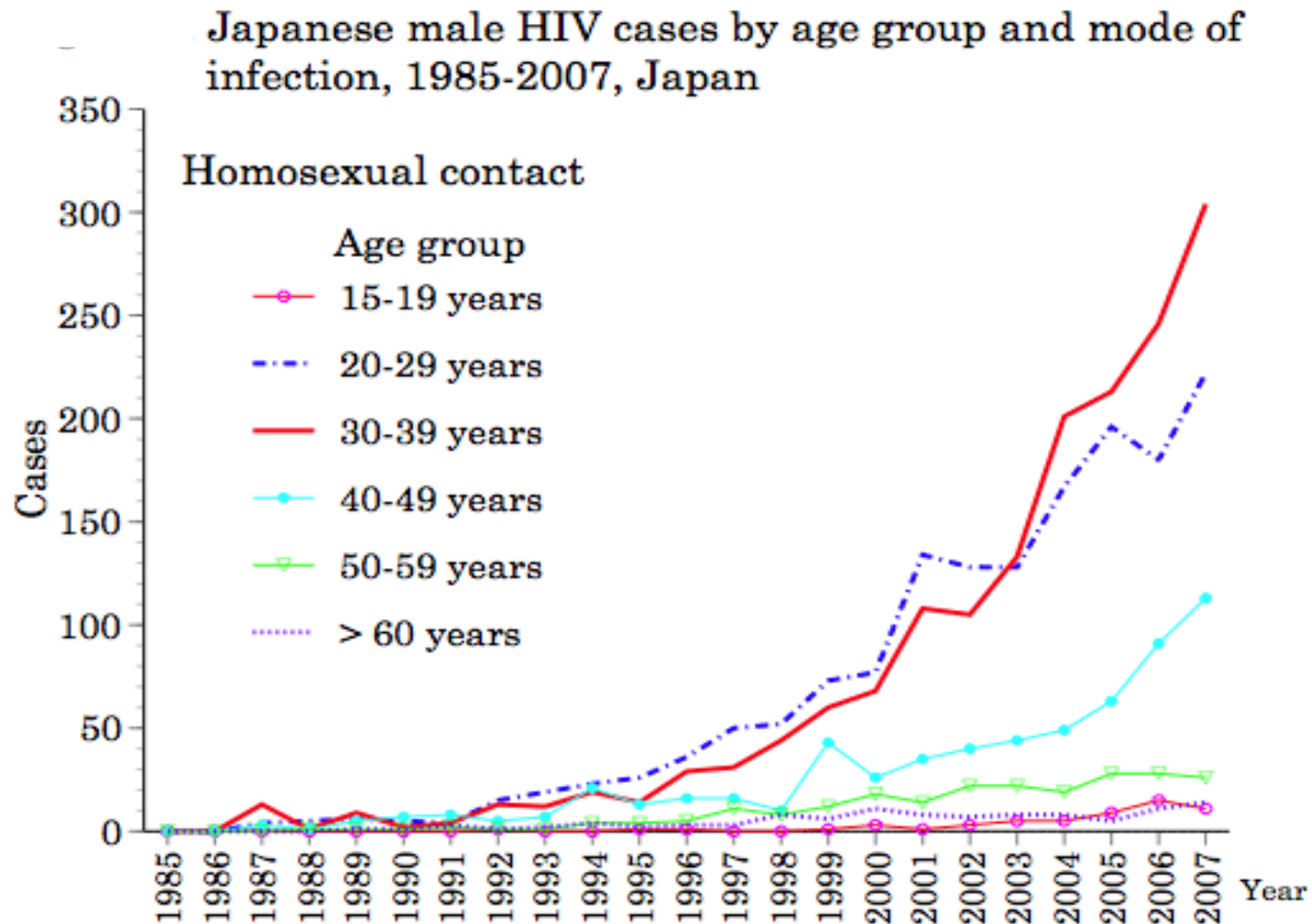


(The 2007 Annual Report on HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Japan, the National AIDS Surveillance Committee, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)



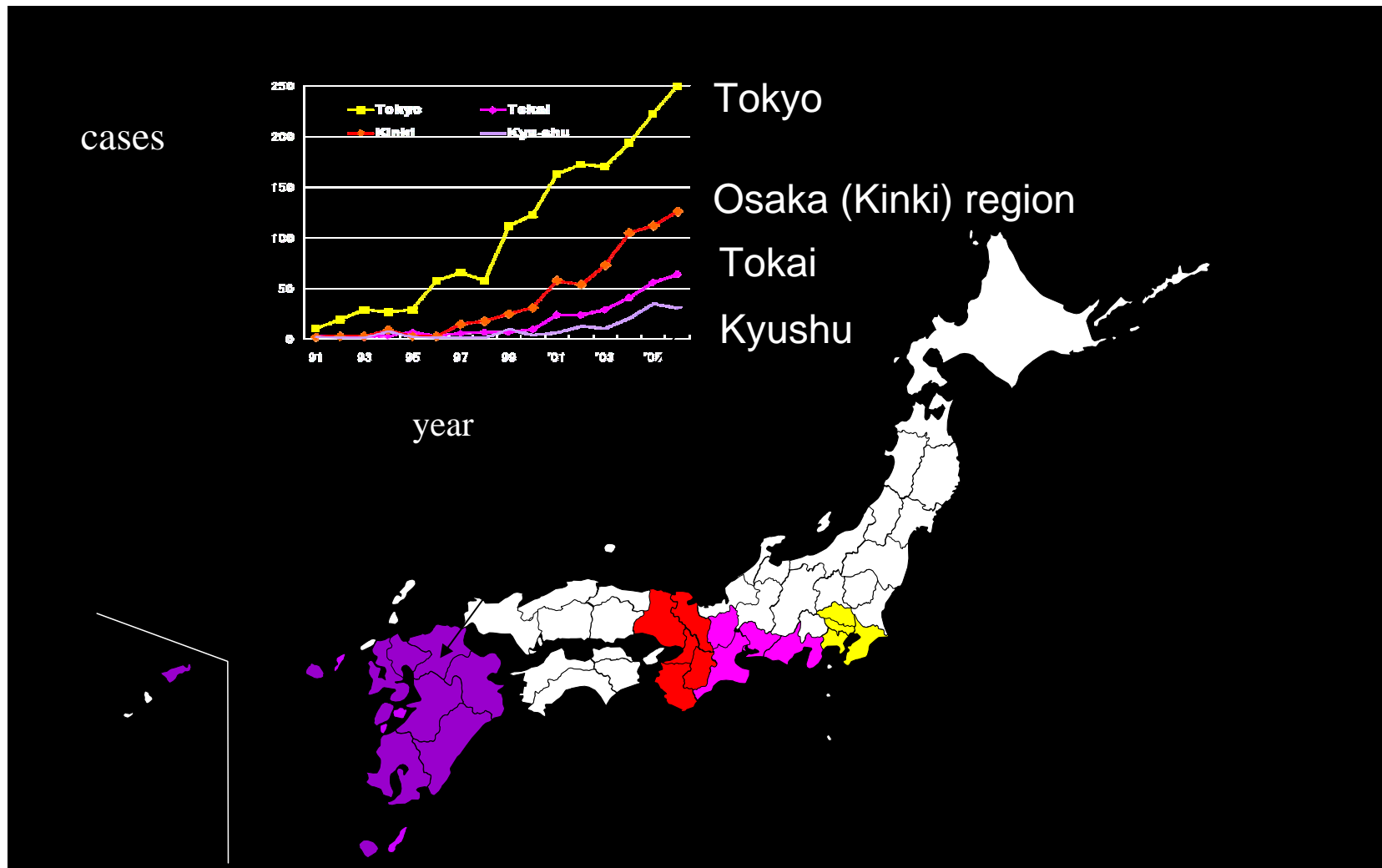
National Surveillance Data 2007

Homosexual transmission by age & year



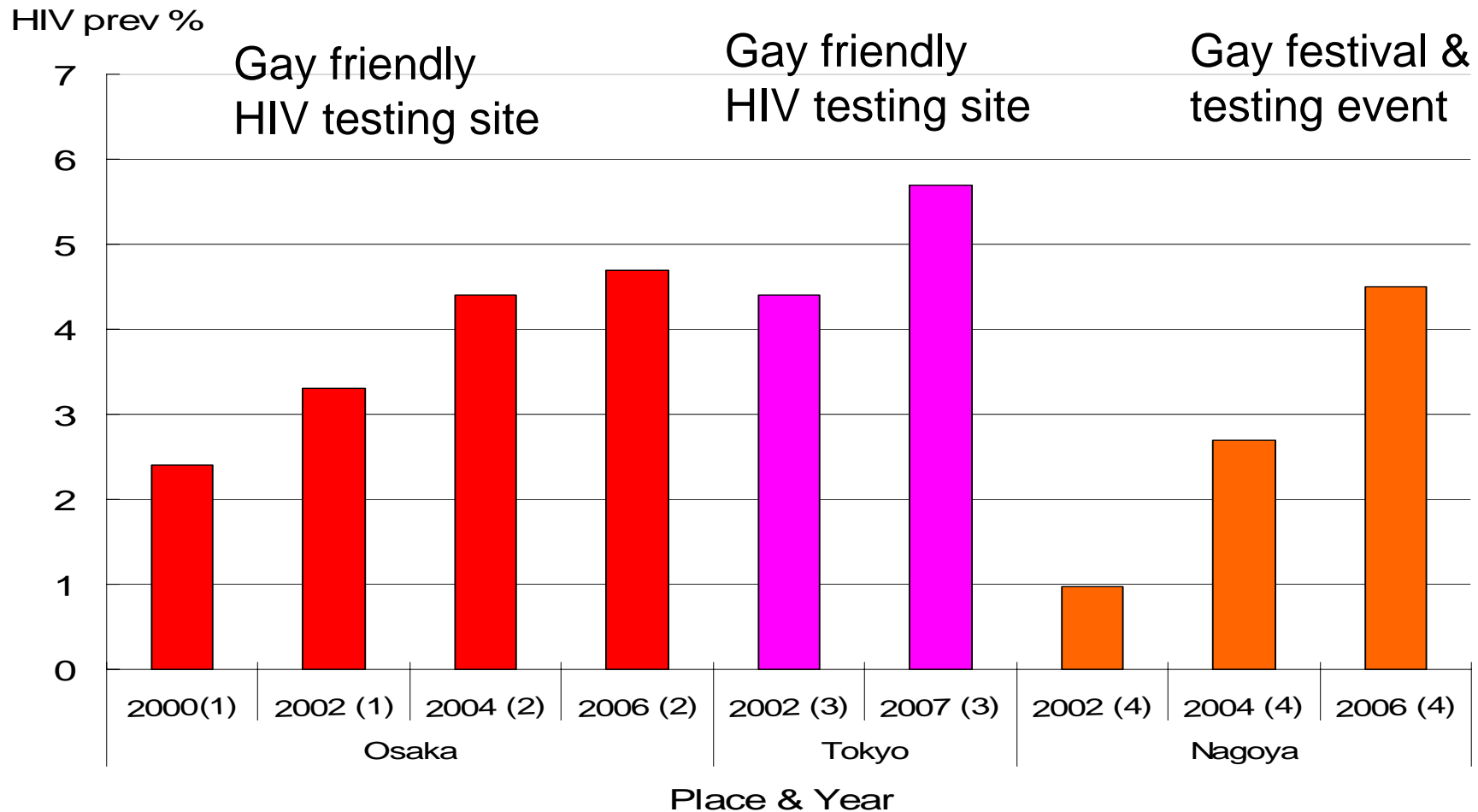
National Surveillance Data 2007

HIV infection among MSM by year & area



Sero- prevalence among MSM samples

Osaka, Tokyo and Nagoya



(1) Onitsuka & Ichikawa 2002, (2) Takenaka & Ichikawa 2006, (3) Kojima 2009, (4) Utsumi 2006

Why the increase in MSM?

Inadequacies in the early response

- Early HIV prevention materials failed to meet the needs of MSM
- Lack of sexuality training for health center staff conducting HIV testing
- Low levels of gay community organizing and HIV researchers willing to work on HIV issues
- Poor partnerships between HIV epidemiologists and gay groups
- Low levels of government support and funding

Japanese HIV Policy

- MSM have been included as a special needs group in national HIV policy since 2000
- Japan Foundation for AIDS Prevention is the government funded NGO for HIV prevention, though it has no targeted MSM position
- Conservativeness of Ministry of Education
Ministry means that discussion of homosexuality in HIV and human rights curriculum continues to be difficult

Gay commercial venues in Osaka

Doyama: All ages

Bars 135
Clubs 5
Saunas 13
Shops 7

Minami: Older

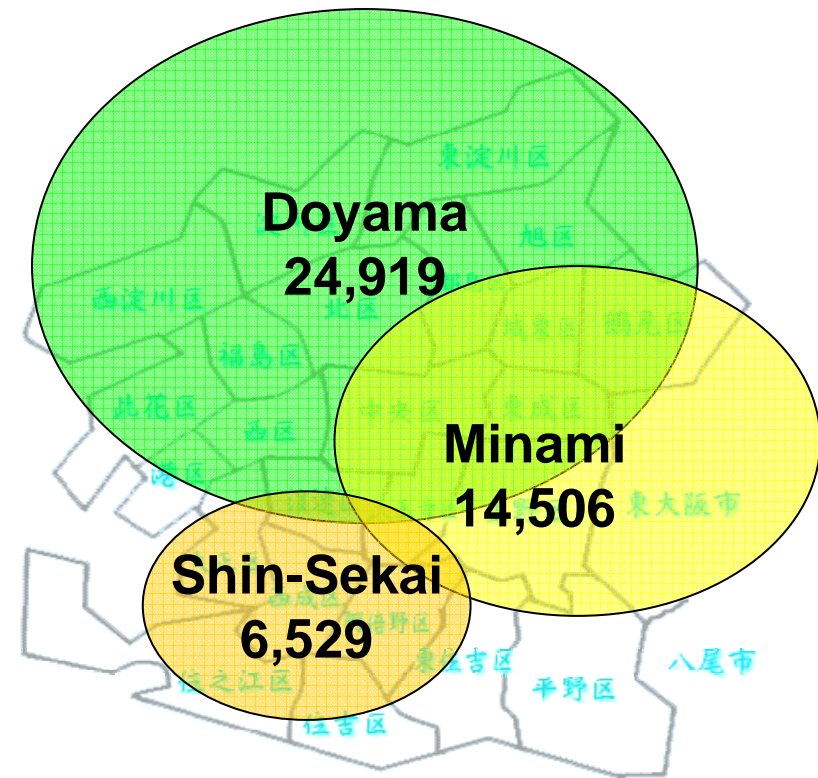
Bars 46
Saunas 3
Shops 4

Shin Sekai: Older

Bar 42(8)
Saunas 3
Shops 1

Osaka Total

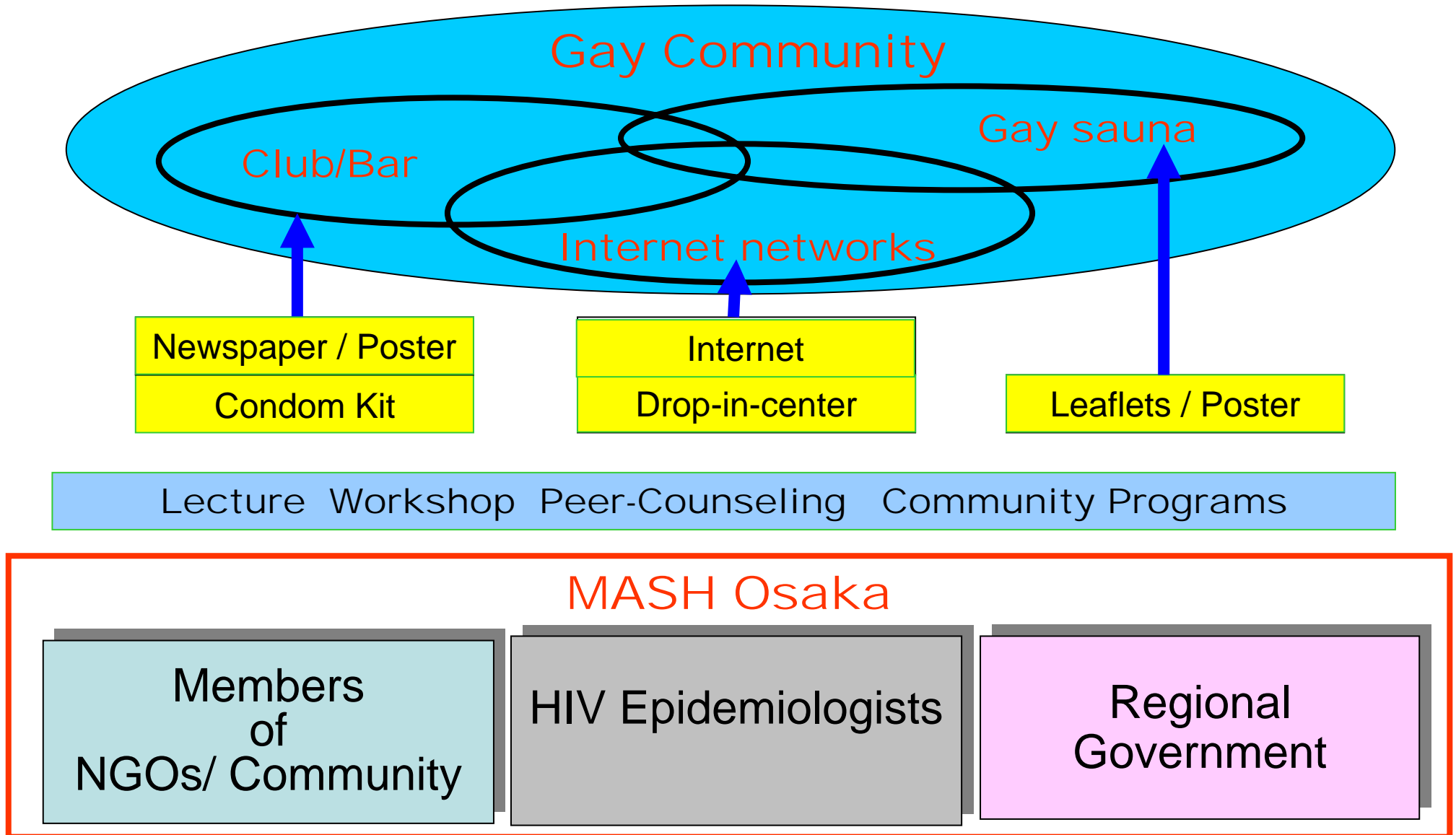
Bars 189
Clubs 5
Saunas 20
Shops 12



MSM population estimates in 2007

33,000 MSM customers come to gay commercial areas (estimation) according to social geographical population counting and interviews (Yamada 2007)

MASH Osaka: How we work & what we do



MASH Osaka Activities



community center



Autumn festival



STI workshop



Evaluation of MASH Osaka Programs

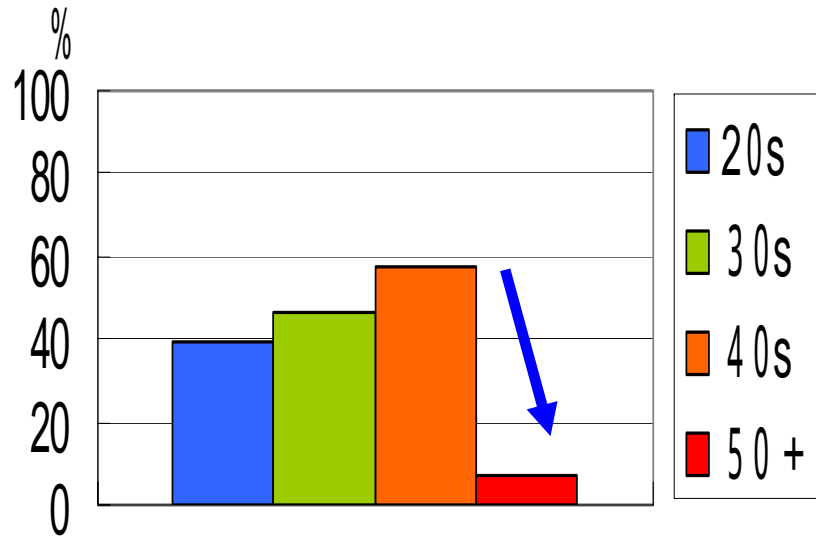
| | 1999 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 |
|--|--------|------|------|------|--------|
| Picked up a MASH Osaka condom kit | - | 69% | 64% | - | - |
| Picked up a MASH Osaka Community Newspaper | - | - | 52% | 34% | 37% |
| Awareness of drop in center | - | - | 45% | 34% | 49% |
| Awareness of Autumn Festival | - | - | - | 53% | 69% |
| AIDS related knowledge | 25-40% | 60% | 72% | 67% | 58-85% |
| HIV testing in past year | 19% | 34% | 36% | 37% | 45% |
| Condom use with regular partner | 37% | 46% | 51% | 61% | 59-64% |
| Condom use with casual partner | 59% | 56% | 62% | 67% | 68-71% |

(Osaka Club Survey Kimura 2008)

Current focus : Older MSM

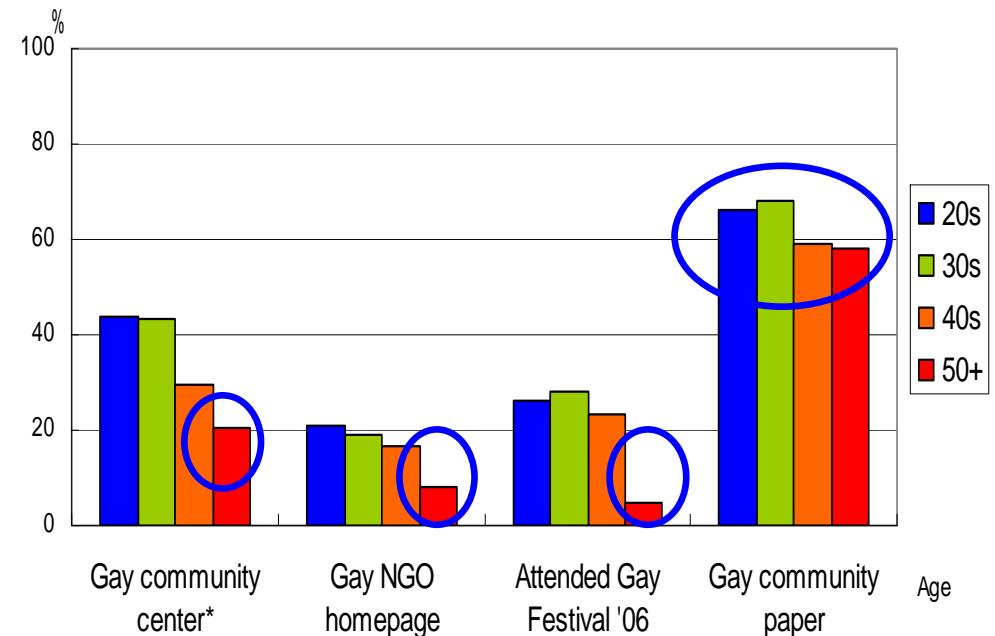
Low condom use & low NGO awareness

Used condoms 'everytime'
(insertive and receptive anal sex
with regular and casual partners in
past 6 months)



Age breakdown

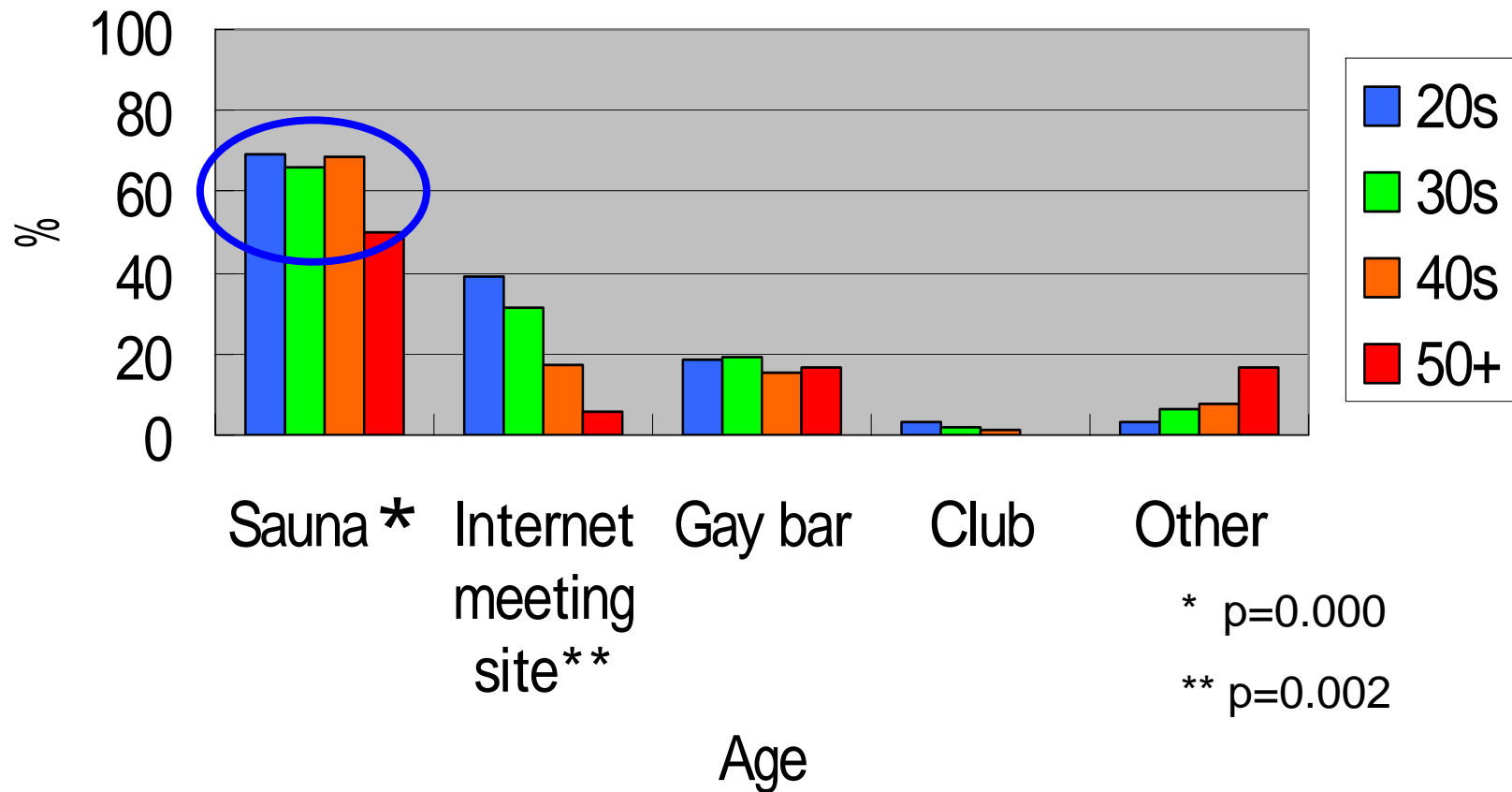
Awareness of Gay NGO Activities
(by age breakdown)



(Osaka Bar survey Ichikawa 2007)

Current focus : Sauna users

Past 6 months casual sex partners meeting place



(Osaka Bar survey Ichikawa 2007)

Issues for the future

- Reliance on research funding which is short-term and directed by research goals
- Funding - Extension of activities beyond 6 cities
- A national body for national co-ordination of Ministries, research and NGOs
- Better co-ordination at the local level between local health departments, health centers, and NGOs