



## PO9/10 Taking an HIV test in Slovenia: the situation for men who have sex with men

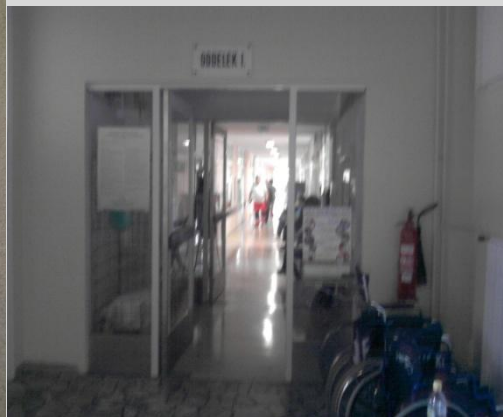
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### Introduction

This study collected in-depth information on health-seeking behaviour and assessed men who have sex with men's perception of the service offered by public HIV testing centres in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in September 2009.

### Methods

We used a convenience sample of 20 MSM who participated in face-to-face, semi-structured in-depth interviews to gather information on their health-seeking behaviour. The analysis focused on MSM's perception of testing services.



### Results

The data gathered revealed respondents testing history (previous experience in HIV testing or previous STIs), socio-demographic information and knowledge about the screening centre procedures. The interviews focused on existing testing procedures (prescription, appointment or drop-in, anonymity, free-of-charge tests), procedures while having a test (pre-test counselling, result collecting, post-test counselling), legislation and rights at the moment of the disclosure of the result (either positive or negative), and awareness of PEP and HAART. The research also addressed reasons to go (or not to go) for an HIV test, personal barriers affecting testing as well as the experience and perception of having an HIV test.

### Conclusions

The results indicated that the respondents were well informed about testing possibilities. Some MSM reported using alternative testing locations in order to avoid public services. The data also revealed the respondents' lack of knowledge on legislation and rights and show that heteronormativity still represents a major barrier when counselling MSM. These findings can help improve the accessibility of HIV testing by encouraging the sensitization of the health system to the needs of men who have sex with men.

