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**Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) :  
a “Bridge” Group for HIV Transmission in Latvia**

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Unprotected anal sex is the highest risk behaviour for HIV transmission among MSM. In many societies, MSM also have sex with women. Bisexual men may represent an important “bridge” group between a subpopulation at high risk for infection and the general population at lower risk for infection. Investigation of sexual risk behaviour of MSM is of great importance in order to prevent HIV transmission. In 2008, an anonymous cross-sectional study was conducted in Latvia. Using time and venue based sampling 252 MSM have been recruited and questioned. Results 75.4% of respondents have had more than one sex partner during last 12 months. 19.7% of MSM have had sex also with females and 70.9% with only male partners. Out of respondents having two or more sex partners of both genders in last year, only 30.8% had always used condom in anal sex and 36.8% in vaginal sex. MSM having sex partners of both genders are using condoms more often with female comparing to male partners however the difference is not statistically significant (6.0%; 95% Confidence Interval -14.6; 26.1). Conclusion: A large part of MSM in Latvia has sex both with male and female partners thus promoting the risk of HIV bridging between men who have sex with men and the general population.

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