

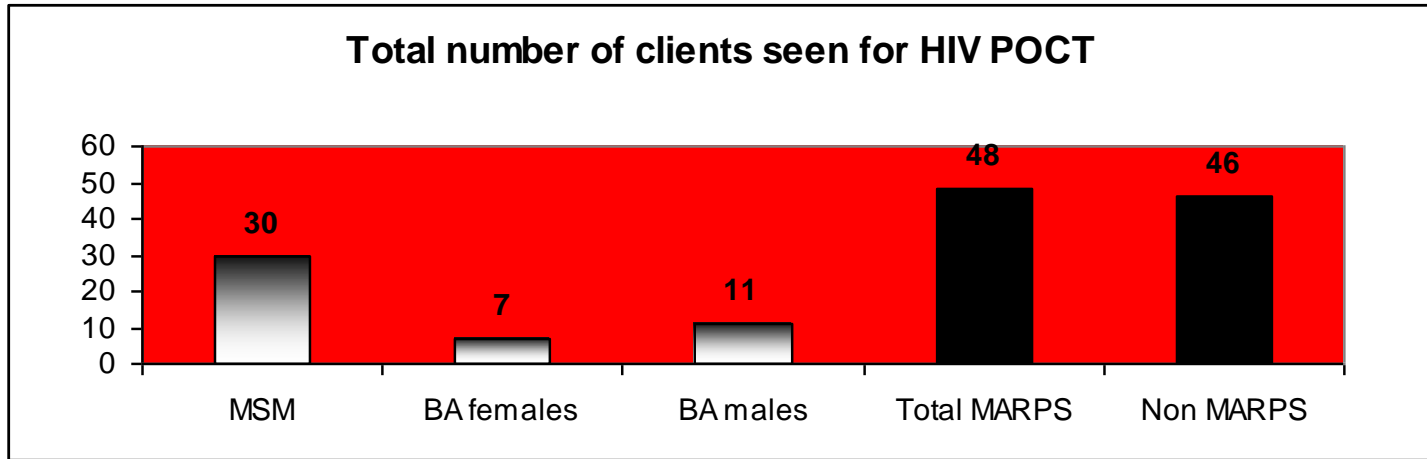
# T'HIV'K goes North: outcomes and experience of UK HIV Testing week in a northern UK city

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2. Leeds PCT
3. Yorkshire MESMAC
4. BHA Skyline, Leeds

- The first UK HIV Testing week took place in November 2012 coordinated by HIV Prevention England
- The aim was to increase numbers of people testing in clinics & community venues from these most at risk populations (MARPS)
- During Testing Week, volunteers from Yorkshire MESMAC, BHA Skyline Leeds, the GUM clinic and Contraception & Sexual Health service offered HIV point of care tests
- We provided 14 sessions in a city centre community venue
- Advertising was via a locally adapted national poster campaign
- Online outreach was conducted using Facebook, Twitter, Squirt and Gaydar
- We developed a local text number with a short code (THINK to 60777) which was used on visual adverts, online and on local radio
- Outreach to local gay bars and street outreach provided by voluntary sector organisations was increased

# Results



- 94 people tested for HIV; 24 females and 71 males.
- This was the largest testing effort in Northern England.
- During the same period in the previous year, 5 HIV POCT were delivered by the community organisation.
- Ages ranged from 17 to 65 years.

# Discussion

- Positive outcomes included increased communication between GUM and community organisations, better understanding of CO and PCT roles; HIV POCT attracting clients into full sexual health screening & Hep B vaccination
- Using a dedicated text number on promotional materials enabled people to confidentially ask for testing and us to send directions, opening times & support information
- We had an ethical & safety issue; one woman who had a reactive POCT refused immediate referral to HIV clinic; she also has a child. This situation is still being resolved. Dealing with this challenged both the HIV clinic and CO involved resulting in improved communication and referral pathways
- This year, data collection will be improved to determine whether testing in this way accesses people not already attending mainstream healthcare