



On Public Awareness of HIV Risk Factors

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ABSTRACT	<p>AIDS is a chronic infectious disease affecting the human immune system, blood-borne and sexually transmitted. AIDS began to spread in South and South-East Asia in the early 1990s. More than 1 million people have already been infected with HIV in 2004, and more than 8 million people in South and South-East Asia are now infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), 30 per cent of the world’s population. Every day, some 15,000 people in the world are infected with HIV. The majority of those infected live in developing countries.</p>
Keywords:	HIV-infection, behavioral risks, awareness, lifestyle, risk of infection.

In view of the rather high degree of social significance of this problem, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been since 1998. Numerous legal instruments have been adopted, such as the Act of 14 June 1991. 298-XII "On prevention of AIDS disease", Cabinet of Ministers Resolution of 26.06.1992. 298 "On measures to strengthen the prevention of the morbidity of AIDS", Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 816-I "On the prevention of the disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection)", Presidential Resolution 1541 of 30 May 2011. "On additional measures to further strengthen the social protection of elderly persons living alone, drug addicts and persons living with HIV for the period 2011 - 2015" and other documents have laid the foundation for the "State intersectoral programme to combat AIDS".

Within the framework of this programme, great attention is paid to the prevention of this disease, which is based, inter alia, on a high level of awareness of the population regarding the epidemiological characteristics of the pathology and the rules of family and personal hygiene, That is what determined the purpose of this study.

Research objective

Study public awareness of risk factors for the emergence and spread of HIV infection

Research Materials and Methods

We conducted a sociological study on the basis of personal formalized interviewing on the basis of a specially developed questionnaire of 100 respondents (50 adults mahali "Honobod-tepa" and 50 students of Zangiata Medical College). The data were statistically processed

using the statistical analysis software package on the Pentium-4 computer.

Outcome discussion

Of the respondents we interviewed, 40 per cent were men and 60 per cent were women. In the 15-18 age group, we interviewed 50 people (50 per cent), aged 30-44,35 (35 per cent), aged 45-59 (5 per cent) and aged 60-74,10 per cent. The average age of the group is 31.

The ethnic composition of the respondents is 80 per cent Uzbek, 8 per cent Russian and 12 per cent Kazakh.

The general distribution by level of education showed that with primary school

education there were - 2 (2%), with lower secondary - 2 (2%), secondary - 65 (65%), secondary - 13 (13%), with incomplete higher education - 2 (2%) and with higher education - 16 (16%)

A study of the knowledge of the population of the Zangiata district showed that 40 per cent of the respondents had no knowledge of the characteristics of HIV infection, 65 per cent did not know the extent of the infection, 65% had a poor understanding of the latency period and 75% were unaware of what initial signs are when HIV-positive. Age-based awareness is shown in table 1

**Table 1.
Research on HIV awareness**

Age groups	Do not know about HIV infection	Unaware of the extent of spread HIV infection	Poor understanding of latency of HIV infection	Unaware of early signs of HIV infection
Youth group (15-18) years	30 (60%)	35 (70%)	35 (70%)	40 (80%)
Adult population group (30-75 years)	10 (20%)	30 (60%)	35 (70%)	35 (70%)
All respondents	40 (40%)	65 (65%)	65 (65%)	75 (75%)

Young people are thus less aware of the development and prevalence of AIDS than adults, which is a negative social indicator as young people represent the main risk group for the disease. Thus, 44% of respondents aged 15-18 did not know how to diagnose HIV infection (12% of adults). Of the young people surveyed, 48 per cent did not have a correct understanding of the ways in which pathology is transmitted, compared with only 10 per cent of those aged 30-75. 52% of young people and 30% of adults knew about the intrauterine infection of the child from the disease.

Prevention is the principal means of combating the spread of AIDS throughout the world, and the level of knowledge of the population in this area is of paramount importance. However, in these areas as well, despite the ongoing work on health education among the population by medical personnel, educational bodies and the media, the population of the Zengiata district of Tashkent province showed very low awareness. One in four respondents did not know the answer to the question on risk groups and preventive measures. Table 2 shows the distribution of HIV prevention respondents.

**Table 2
Public awareness of HIV prevention**

Age groups	Have no idea how to prevent infection	Misconceptions about HIV risk groups
Youth group (15-18) years	15 (30%)	18 (34%)
Adult population group (30-75 years)	8 (16%)	7 (14%)
All respondents	23 (23%)	25 (25%)

As can be seen from Table 2, HIV prevention awareness is lower among 15-18 year olds than among adults.

Thus, more than half of young people do not have a correct understanding of HIV infection (prevalence, latency, transmission routes, risk groups, etc.), in the 30-75 age group, the level of knowledge is slightly higher, but is also far from ideal 100%.

Withdrawal

It is necessary to raise awareness of AIDS prevention among the general population, and especially among young people, in order to reduce the risk of its occurrence and spread.

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