



Studying the level of stigma towards key populations and most-at-risk of HIV groups among health workers in 5 cities of Belarus

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Research object (study population) - health workers - doctors, who work with key populations affected by HIV

Research aim - to assess the level of stigma (if existent) towards key populations affected by HIV among health workers

Study period –
May – December 2017



Research objectives:

1. Determination of the level of awareness of the target group in the field of HIV infection (transmission routes, diagnostics)
2. Characteristics of the attitude of the target group to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
3. Characteristics of the attitude of the target group to people who inject drugs (PWID)
4. Characteristics of the attitude of the target group to men who have sex with men (MSM)
5. Characteristics of the attitude of the target group to commercial sex workers (CSW)



1.HIV awareness

What are HIV transmission routes? (% by row)	Yes	No	Don't know
Can the risk of HIV transmission be reduced if condoms are used?	95.3%	3.3%	1.3%
Can a healthy-looking person have HIV?	97.3%	2.0%	0.7%
Is it possible to become infected with HIV when shaking hands?	3.3%	94.0%	2.7%
Can HIV be transmitted with a mosquito bite?	8.7%	82.0%	9.3%
Is it possible to become infected with HIV when sharing tools (syringes, needles, etc.) of intravenous drug use?	98.0%	1.3%	0.7%
Is it possible to be infected with HIV with tattooing, manicure, shaving with non-sterile tools?	96.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Is it possible to become infected with HIV when using a shared bath, pool, toilet with an HIV-infected person?	14.0%	75.3%	10.7%



2. Attitude to people who live with HIV/AIDS

66.7% of the surveyed health workers believe that HIV-infected people need help and support; 28% refer to HIV-infected people neutrally. 5.3% of respondents found it difficult to answer this question. None of the survey participants stated the negative attitude to PLWHA.





2.ATTITUDE TO PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITH HIV/AIDS

Please tell your opinion	Yes	No	I don't know
If your friend is HIV-infected, will you continue to communicate with him?	93.3%	-	6.7%
Would you buy food from a seller with HIV?	54.7%	18.0%	27.3%
Should the HIV-infected teacher be allowed to work at school?	61.3%	21.3%	17.3%
Can an HIV-infected child learn in the same class with healthy children?	68.0%	14.0%	18.0%



4.1.ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

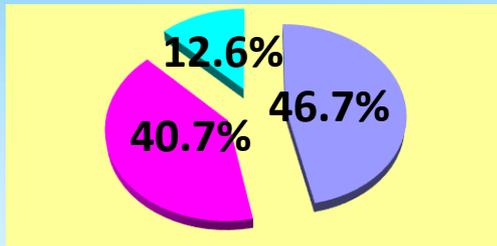
Do you agree with the following statements about injecting drug users? Answer each line	Yes	No	I don't know
They should be treated as sick people	72.7%	17.3%	10.0%
It's not a disease, it's a bad habit.	24.7%	62.0%	13.3%
If an injecting drug user does not want to be treated for addiction, he / she needs to be treated forcibly	67.3%	12.7%	20.0%
Injecting drug users need to be treated only on a voluntary basis	26.0%	49.3%	24.7%
Injecting drug users pose a threat to the lives of others, so they need to be isolated	38.0%	30.0%	32.0%
Injecting drug users should be provided with conditions for treatment, rehabilitation and employment	77.3%	8.7%	14.0%

38% of respondents believe that injecting drug users pose a threat to the lives of others, so they need to be isolated; do not agree with this 30%, and found it difficult to answer - 32% of doctors



4.2. ATTITUDE TOWARDS MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

The attitude of health workers to men who have sex with men (MSM) is ambiguous. 46.7% of respondents refer to them in the same way as to other people; 40.7% - it is negative; 12.7% found it difficult to answer this question



I treat them as other people.
It is their personal issue.

- Я отношусь к ним так же, как и к остальным людям. Это их личное дело
- Я отношусь к ним отрицательно, это явление надо пресекать
- Затрудняюсь ответить

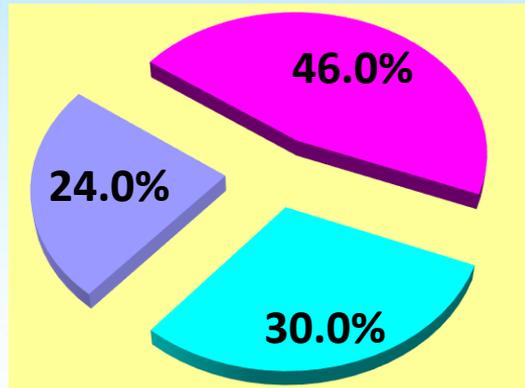
I perceive them negatively.
This phenomenon should be discouraged.

I don't know



4.3. ATTITUDE TO COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS

The attitude of health workers towards people who provide sexual services for money / reward is ambiguous. Thus, 24% of respondents state that they treat them the same way as other people; 46% - it is negative; 30% found it difficult to answer this question



■ Такое же, как к другим людям ■ Я отношусь к ним отрицательно ■ Затрудняюсь ответить

Same as to other people

I perceive them negatively

It is difficult to answer



General conclusions

- ✓ The study showed that attitudes toward vulnerable groups at the first two levels are formed in doctors, as in other population groups, under the influence of a combination of different factors (cultural and historical traditions, norms and values of the whole society, existing stereotypes, the level of acceptability of behavioral characteristics of vulnerable groups, personal experience of communication and many others). The relatively low level of tolerance for various social phenomena that form vulnerable groups (for example, drug use, sexual relations between men and men) has little impact on the level of tolerance to the patient-representatives of these groups, which is high.

Thus, the attitude to the phenomenon, to just a person from a vulnerable group and to a patient representative of a vulnerable group, can not be regarded as identical concepts.



Thank you for your attention!