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**EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HIV-INFECTION IN SUMY REGION****Medical Institute, Sumy State University, Sumy, Ukraine**

**Introduction.** HIV-infection is one of the great medical and social problem in all of the world, including in Ukraine. The scale of epidemic in our country increases with every year.

**The purpose** of the work was to learn dissemination of HIV-infection among the various contingents of Sumy region population. The research tasks were to analyze epidemiological features of HIV-infection in Sumy region, to explore sexual and age structure of the persons with antibodies to HIV 1/2.

**Materials and methods.** During the 2001-2008 years 7296 consumers of drugs, 12262 persons with venereal diseases, 17764 persons with plural sexual contacts, 1518 prisoners, 118862 donors of blood, 176726 pregnant women were examined in Sumy region. Antibodies to HIV 1/2 were revealed with method immune-enzyme analysis test-system "IEA-HIV 1/2" (producer "Diaprofmed", Ukraine). HIV-infection diagnosis was verified with method immune-blot test-system "Western Blot KIT" (producer "Organon", Netherlands) and test-system "New Lav Blot" (producer "Abbot", USA).

**Results.** The medium index of contamination composed among consumers of drugs - 5,69 %, persons with venereal diseases - 0,29 %, persons with plural sexual contacts - 0,37 %, prisoners - 12,32 %, donors of blood - 0,02 %, pregnant women - 0,07 %. The greater part of persons with antibodies to HIV 1/2 was registered in Sumy, Shostka and Ohtirka districts. Among HIV-infected age group 18-29 years compiled 62,2 %, 30-39 years - 30,4 %, 40 years and more - 6,1 %, under 18 years - 1,3 %. The men dominated - 71 %, the women were 29 %. By definition the part of every group among total number of HIV-infected got next results: consumers of drugs composed 48,5 % infected in Sumy region, prisoners - 21,9 %, pregnant women - 15,2 %, persons with plural sexual contacts - 7,6 %, persons with venereal diseases - 4,0 %, donors of blood - 2,8 %.

**Conclusions.** The number of HIV-infected persons in Sumy region was increased with every year. Among HIV-infected persons the age group 18-29 years is dominate. Men compose 71 % of HIV-infection group. The men, consumers of drugs, 18-29 years old determine the disposition of epidemic in Sumy region.

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**AWARENESS OF HIV/AIDS AMONG STUDENTS: A COMPARISON OF THE AWARENESS OF STUDENTS IN HEALTH RELATED COURSES AND THOSE IN NON HEALTH RELATED COURSES****Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, India**

**Introduction:** HIV infected 11 people a minute worldwide during the last year, according to a recent report. In a span of two decades, since its first identification, HIV infection has become a pandemic and has posed a formidable challenge to mankind especially among the young adults.

**Purpose.** In this study, we assessed the knowledge and compared the level of awareness and attitude towards AIDS, HIV and STDs among health related course students (HRS) and non health related course students (NHRS) of Manipal University.

**Materials and methods:** A modified questionnaire adapted from the WHO publication on "School health education to prevent AIDS and STD", was pre tested and self administered to a random sample of 40 students each from eight colleges of Manipal campus. Chi square test for proportion was used to compare responses between the two groups. Results: A total of 294 completed questionnaires were received of the 350 issued (response rate =84%). The expansion of HIV was known to 96.2% of HRS as against 47.7% of NHRS ( $p < 0.001$ ). Modes of transmission were known to 94% of the students from both streams. Misconceptions regarding transmission of HIV were higher among NHRS (59 to 94.8%) as compared to HRS (40.3 to 89%). Sixty percent of HRS