



# XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

3-8 August 2008 | Mexico City

## CD-ROM Publication

### Track C - Behavioral surveillance

#### CDC0208 - HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitude among MSM in Tehran

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**Background:** Men who have sex with men are a highly stigmatized and marginalized group in Iran and there is no specialized care available for this group. In this study HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitude of a group of MSM were evaluated.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional epidemiological study using RDS sampling conducted in 2007. The data was gathered through screen touch monitors. Sample size was 101.

**Results:** The data indicated that 69.4% and 82.4% have ever heard about sexually transmitted infections/diseases and HIV/AIDS respectively. Around 50% have known somebody living with or dying of HIV and AIDS; from whom 15.2% were a close relative and 51.6% a close friend. Only 5.3% (2.3% - 11.5%) had "Comprehensive Correct Knowledge" about HIV/AIDS.

The following table shows the answers to seven explicit questions about attitudes toward people living with HIV: Proportion Answered (95% Confidence Interval)

YES --> NO --> Don't Know

Willing to eat with an HIV positive person - 20.9%

(12.2% - 33.3%) - 61.5%

(47.1% - 74.2%) - 17.5%

(8.3% - 33.1%)

Willing to care a relative with cancer at home - 68.6%

(54.1% - 80.1%) - 18.7%

(9.1% - 34.4%) - 12.6%

(6.9% - 21.9%)

Willing to care a relative with HIV at home - 36.1%

(23.7% - 50.7%) - 44.1%

(30.9% - 58.1%) - 19.7%

(11.7% - 31.7%)

An HIV positive student still may go to school, while not sick - 34.7%

(23.5% - 48.0%) - 34.7%

(22.4% - 49.4%) - 30.4%

(18.8% - 45.2%)

An HIV positive teacher still may teach, while not sick - 51.0%

(37.3% - 64.5%) - 29.8%

(19.1% - 43.2%) - 19.1%

(11.6% - 29.7%)

Will buy food from an HIV positive food-seller - 14.7%

(6.2% - 30.9%) - 73.1%

(58.3% - 84.1%) - 12.0%

(6.1% - 22.3%)

Prefer the status of an HIV positive family member remain undisclosed - 55.2%

(41.3% - 68.4%) - 20.8%

(12.7% - 32.3%) - 23.8%

(13.2% - 39.0%)

**Conclusion:** HIV/AIDS knowledge is very low and there are many false beliefs and negative attitude toward HIV/AIDS in this group.

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