

ACTIVITIES DIRECTED TO EARLY TESTING AND DIAGNOSTICS OF HIV AMONG MSM IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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Objectives

“Education in the Name of Health” NGO is currently conducting HIV/AIDS preventive activities among MSM within the frameworks of the “National Programme on the Response to HIV Epidemic in the Republic of Armenia”. Preventive activities on HIV/AIDS among MSM are carried out by outreach workers via method of peer education. Another significant process is reasoning and organization of early testing on HIV among the beneficiaries which ensures early identification of HIV status.

Methods

A study has been carried out to reveal the comparative data (analysis) of the beneficiaries undergone testing on HIV due to the counseling work of the program's specialist-counselors on one side and the outreach workers' on the other.

Results

The majority of beneficiaries who received counseling on HIV by specialist counselors consequently took testing on HIV, unlike the beneficiaries who received counseling by the outreach workers. Correspondingly, in the period of 2010 - 2011 1432 beneficiaries have been referred to testing on HIV, out of which 522 have been referred to HIV testing by the program specialist counselors. As a result 452 beneficiaries have been tested. Meanwhile, only 15 beneficiaries out of 910, who have been referred to testing by the program outreach workers, have undergone testing.

Conclusion

For early organization of HIV testing it is vital to develop the outreach workers' capacities of information provision and interpersonal communication which will enable them to formulate and raise the cognizance of healthy lifestyle among program beneficiaries which will serve them as basis and motivation for testing on HIV.

