

Healthcare Workers' Attitudes Towards People Living With Hiv And Drug Users

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Abstract : Background: For proper care and treatment of HIV patients and drug users, the medical staff and physicians must have a correct and positive attitude and knowledge towards such patients. We aimed to assess the attitudes in a sample of health care workers (HCW) working in different hospitals and clinics and medical students in Georgia towards HIV infected people and drug users in Tbilisi. Method: We conducted a cross-sectional study to assess attitudes of health care workers towards people living with HIV and drug users in hospitals and clinics in Tbilisi. The study was carried out from 1st of May 2020 till 30th of September 2020. Data were collected using a self-administered structured online questionnaire. With this tool we evaluated four facets of attitudes: Discrimination, Acceptance of HIV/AIDS patients, Acceptance of drug users and Fear. All data were imported and analyzed with the software SPSS 22 for windows. Results: In total data was collected from 168 respondents, that among them 107 (65%) were women and majority of the participants were medical doctors. Women had more acceptance attitudes rather than men towards drug abusers. We found significant differences regarding expressing negative attitudes among HCW who were more than 50 years old comparing with other age groups in all four aspects. Medical doctors expressed more acceptances towards people with HIV and drug users comparing two other groups. Also our study revealed that the group with working experience 21 years and more, showed more discriminatory attitudes comparing other groups. Conclusion: Based on our study findings, there are significant differences regarding respondent's attitudes based on gender, medical specialty and working experience in health care system. People struggling with HIV and drug use need nonjudgmental and positive behaviors from health care workers and physicians in order to help them for harm reduction and receiving appropriate treatment.

Keywords : hiv, addiction, attitudes, healthcare workers

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