

# HIV/Aids Knowledge and Attitudes among Social Work Students in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

Aisuloo Shailoobek kyzy<sup>1\*</sup>, Medet Kudabekov<sup>2</sup>, Dalida Mukasheva<sup>2</sup>, Ulla Pape<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bishkek State University, Bishkek, Kirgistan

<sup>2</sup> L. N. Gumilev Eurasian National University, Astana, Kasachstan

<sup>3</sup> Frankfurt University of Applied Science, Frankfurt am Main

\* Corresponding author, email: [aisulu889@mail.ru](mailto:aisulu889@mail.ru)

© 2023 Aisuloo Shailoobek kyzy; licensee Infinite Science Publishing

This is an Open Access abstract distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>).

## Hintergrund und Fragestellung

Eastern Europe and Central Asia has the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world. According to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) approximately 1.4 million people are living with HIV in the region. In 2021, about 160 000 people were newly infected with, which constitutes an increase of 48% increase since 2010 (UNAIDS, 2022). The dynamic of the epidemics in Central Asia, however, points to a number of risk factors that have enabled the spread of HIV in the region, including injecting drug use, sex work, and labor mobility between Russia and Central Asia. Initially, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Central Asia has been mainly driven by injecting drug use. In recent years, however, the majority of infections are transmitted via sexual contact. Young people are among those most at risk. Against this background, it is of crucial important to get a clear picture of the level of knowledge on HIV/Aids among students.

## Methoden

This comparative study is based on an online survey among social work students in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (n = 150).

## Ergebnisse

The findings show that social work students have basic knowledge about HIV/Aids, but lack sufficient information on social work services for this target group. Particularly, students of social work are not sufficiently informed about the legal regulations, about guaranteed state services for people living with HIV/Aids (PLWH) and the specifics of working with people with HIV/Aids, including questions of confidentiality and the use of approaches such as motivational interviewing. The findings of the online survey also show that social work students mainly obtain information from internet resources and from social media. At the university, social work students receive only little information on HIV/Aids and on social work services for PLWH.

## Diskussion und Schlussfolgerung

HIV/Aids is not sufficiently included in the social work curriculum in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

## OFFENLEGUNG VON INTERESSENKONFLIKTEN SOWIE FÖRDERUNGEN

Interessenskonflikte: Ich und die Koautorinnen und Koautoren erklären, dass während der letzten 3 Jahre keine wirtschaftlichen Vorteile oder persönlichen Verbindungen bestanden, die die Arbeit zum eingereichten Abstract beeinflusst haben könnten.

Erklärung zur Finanzierung: DAAD