

EDUCATION OF PRISON STAFF ON HIV INFECTION

approach, methodology and significance



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**NGO "VIKTORIJA"
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NGO VIKTORIJA

- Founded in 2002
- Non-existence of specialized institution dealing with problem of drug addiction in BIH
- MISSION- preventive suppression of addiction, professional treatment and assistance to addicted to alcohol and drugs, and founding of specialized community centers for addicts

HIV / AIDS

HIV/AIDS is a serious health problem among prison population in many countries and represents challenge for representatives of prison institutions, government and public health authorities

WHY ARE THE PRISONS RISKY ENVIRONMENT FOR TRANSMISSION OF HIV VIRUS?

- ***Risky behavior*** – use of narcotic means, exchange of narcotic means and appliances for injecting narcotic means, unsafe sex, exchange of appliances for tattoo and body piercing, appliances for personal hygiene and inadequate sterilization of medical instruments
- ***Specific conditions of prison*** – large number of prisoners in small and overcrowded space, violence, inadequate natural light and ventilation, inadequate personal hygiene and nutrition, non-existence of medical services, etc.

PROGRAMS OF PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS IN PRISONS SHOULD* :

- Secure to prisoners prevention measures, care, treatment and support equivalent to measures in social environment outside prisons
- Prevent transmission of HIV and other infections among population of prisoners, prison staff and social environment
- Promote integration approach in provision of health care to prisoners through improvement of health protection and general prison conditions

* According to UNAIDS and World Health Organization (2006)

PROGRAM OF RISK DECREASE FROM HIV INFECTION IN PRISONS

- Education, informing and change of behavior in population of prisoners
- Voluntary, confidential counseling and testing to HIV
- Care, treatment and support to persons in prisons infected by HIV
- Treatment of addiction to psycho-active substances in prisons
- HIV education of prison staff
- Programs of exchange and distribution of appliances for injecting drugs
- Distribution of condoms
- Programs of safe tattoo

HIV EDUCATION OF PRISON STAFF

GOAL – secure optimal conditions in order to secure safe and healthy environment for prisoners, staff and visitors in prisons, and educate staff for implementation of preventive activities in area of HIV/AIDS in prisons

PROJECT “KNOWLEDGE IS POWER”

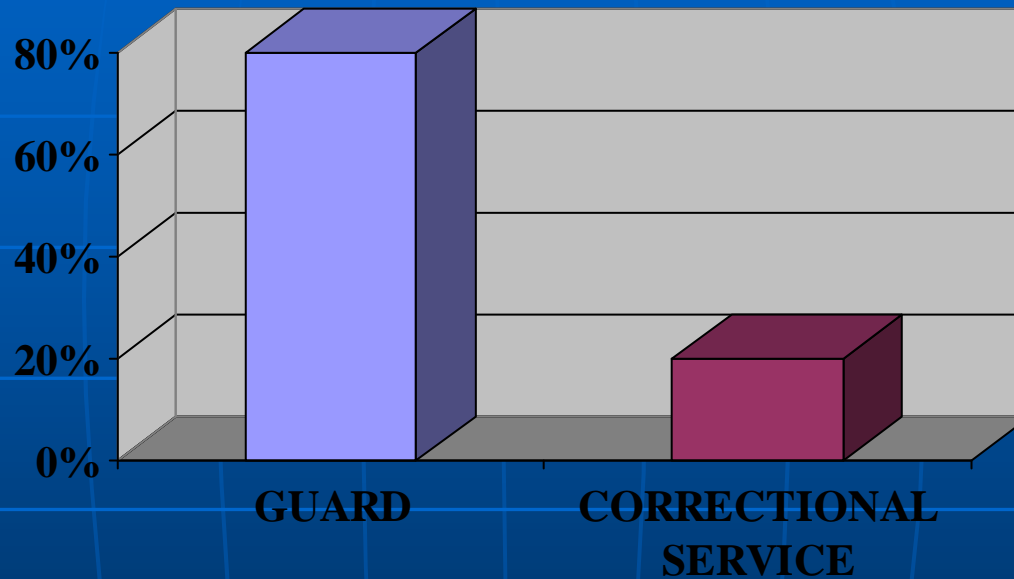
- One of goals: increase of knowledge on HIV, drug addiction and other infections in population of non-medical staff in 5 prisons in BiH
- 9 lecturings held in Banja Luka, Foca, Doboje, Mostar and Tuzla
- 175 representatives of non-medical prison staff educated
- Group discussion (basic information on HIV and Hepatitis, manners of transfer and prevention in prison conditions, testing, confidentiality, basic information on drug addiction, treatments of addiction inside prisons, harm reduction methodology, role of prison staff in the field of HIV prevention, manners of transfer of HIV at work place and universal protection measures etc.)

PROJECT "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"

UG "VIKTORIJA"

- 94 participants (75 guards and 19 members of correctional services)
- Average age of participants 35 (youngest participant 22, oldest participant 53)
- 91,5% (86) men; 8,5% (8) women
- 72,3% completed secondary school; 5,3% higher education and 22,3% faculty
- 47 participants met for the first time with this subject while 47 participants attended educations
o HIV earlier

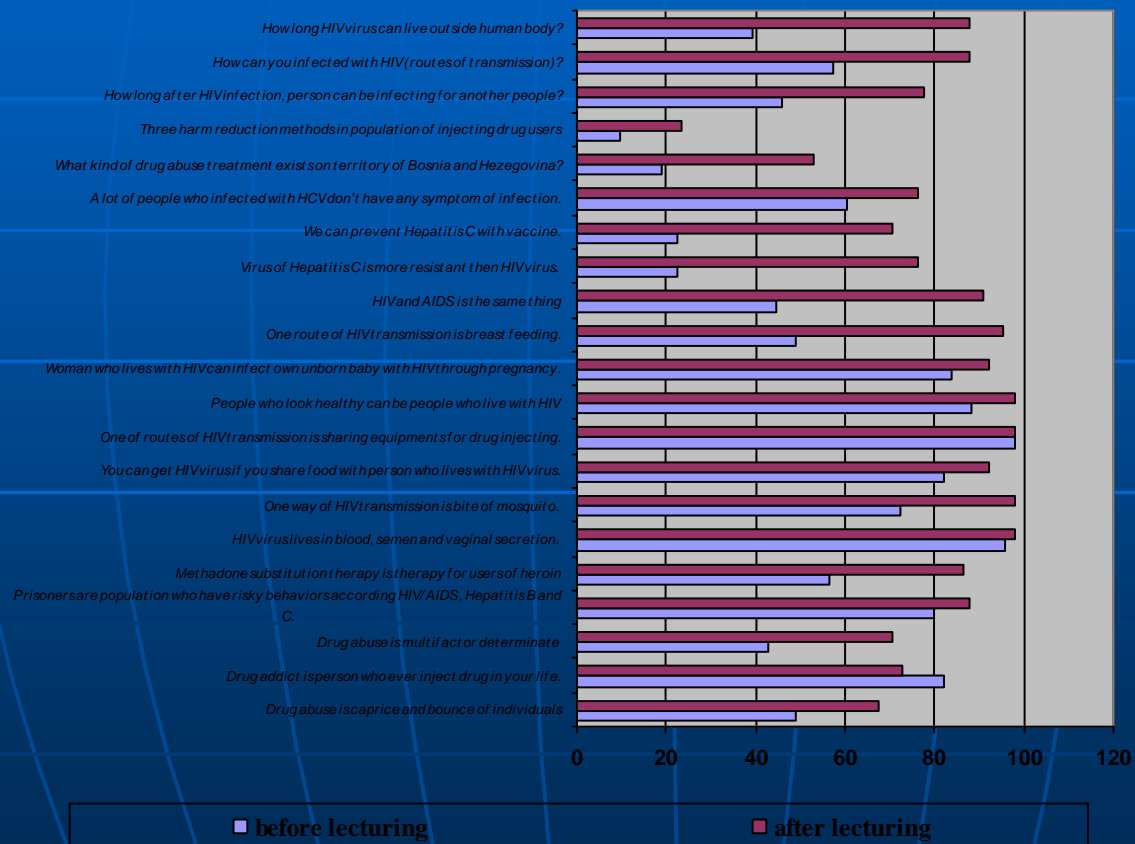
PROJECT "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"



PROJECT “KNOWLEDGE IS POWER” - Results

- 250 injecting drug users tested to HIV and Hepatitis C
- 58 HCV +
- 1 HBV +
- 0 HIV +

PROJECT "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER" - Results



PROJEKT “KNOWLEDGE IS POWER” - Obstacles

- Difficult process of changing attitudes and rejection of current prejudices related to drug addiction and HIV infection (for example, drug addiction is a caprice and brass of individual)
- Pleading for obligatory testing of all prisoners and rights of staff to know HIV status of all prisoners
- Stigma and discrimination

PROJECT "Institutional and postpenal treatment of addicts to psycho-active substances" as a result of previous project

- Implemented by Association of citizens "Viktorija"
- Project realized within Project "Strengthening of local democracy - LOD"
- Financed by European Union and co-financed by Town of Banja Luka and UNDP
- LOD Project is implementing UN Development program in BiH in 14 municipalities of BiH
- TARGET GROUP: addicted to drugs in prison facilities
- Location: Banja Luka (Penitentiary Tunjice)

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Individual psycho-active work with addicts
- Group psycho-active work with addicts
- Social service for addicts (for the first time secured is tracking of prisoners after completion of their prison penalty)
- Testing to presence of narcotic means in urine
- Consultative dialogue with Psychiatrist
- Groups of self-help for family members of addicts
- Supervision of therapeutic activities

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Decrease of risky manners of behavior related to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C and other infections
- Continuation of treatment upon completion of prison penalty (treatments available outside prisons)
- Sustainability of therapeutic programs in prison facilities

CONCLUSION

- Best way to find resolution for drug related problems in society is linking of state policy, organizations of civil society, profession and practice, integrative and multidisciplinary approach in order to act from various levels and share responsibility.

Thank you!