

Module 5: HIV/AIDS and young people - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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Groups of young people in Macedonia who should be targeted with HIV interventions

1. Young people who have relatives or friends who are intravenous drug users.
2. Young people who use drugs.
3. Young people who sell sex.
4. Young men who have sex with men.
5. Young people who are dropped out of school.
6. Young people from dysfunctional families.
7. Young people who are part of economic migration.
8. Young people who are bisexual.
9. Young people who are potential piercing users.
10. Young people who are living with HIV.

Interventions

In many regions all over the world, there is a significant deficit in HIV knowledge among young people. Through the past decade in Macedonia, many campaigns about HIV/AIDS were realized by Macedonian government and nongovernmental organizations. However, risk of HIV remains high. My opinion is that the main reason is economic instability in many families, no access to health services and education.

If we want to achieve the goals in HIV reduction among young people, a set of essential actions must be done:

- Promotion of responsible sexual behavior (sex with condom, no sex with stranger, reducing the number of sex partners).
- Engagement of young people in implementation of HIV preventing programs.
- Parents must be involved in monitoring as supportive members.
- Free access to education for all young people.
- Free condoms and regular medical follow-up for all sexual workers.
- Free sterile needles and syringes for intravenous drug users.

- Programs for decrease drug use.
- Employment for vulnerable groups.
- Training of health care providers.

Assignment document

1. [Ferguson J. HIV/AIDS and young people. Paper presented at: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research; 2010 Sep 26; Geneva.](#)