

## **Attitudes and riskiness of the sexual behaviour of high school students in Prague related to HIV/AIDS infection**

*Mgr. Pavla Moravcová, Prague Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 2008*

**Objective:** The purpose of the study is to map the components of attitudes, knowledge and behaviours related to the sexuality risky from the point of view of the HIV/AIDS infection in the students of last two years of grammar schools, specialized high schools and apprentice training centres (being the three basic types of Czech high school institutions) in Prague. Prague population is at highest risk of HIV/AIDS acquisition in the Czech Republic, adolescents being the most sexually active part of the population and the patterns of the young people's behaviour, as well as what they think and what they know needs to be monitored.

**Design and Method:** The study is a quantitative survey of a sample of 500 male and 500 female students of the last two years of grammar schools, specialized high schools and apprentice training centres in Prague. The method of selection based on quotes was used, the quotes being: sex, type of school, and year of study.

**Results:** A wide range of data about attitudes, knowledge and real HIV/AIDS risky behaviour were acquired, and the differences in some of the aspects between students from grammar schools and apprentice training centres as well as between men and women of the sample were proven statistically. The study presents the complete results of the survey.

**Conclusions:** The adolescents show rather good theoretical knowledge of HIV/AIDS, even though some misconceptions are still present. The practical knowledge of employment of safe sex techniques needs to be improved, as well as the use of certain safe instruments (lubrication gel). Two thirds of Prague adolescents are sexually active, the average age at first sex being 15,93 for women and 15,88 for men. On average women had 3,67 partners and men 4,83 partners. Two thirds of the adolescents used condom at first intercourse. The use of condom is still fairly limited, especially in case of casual sex partners and anal sex (75% of women and 41% of men never use condom with casual partners in anal sex). One third of women and a half of men feel that existence of HIV influences their sexual behaviour, the most common reaction being to have sex only with steady partner. Prague adolescents show rather liberal attitudes to premarital sex, group sex, pornography, infidelity and casual sexual intercourses, they are also rather liberal in attitudes towards HIV positive persons in diverse professional roles. The intervention should be aimed to more positive image of "safe sex strategies" in students of lower educational levels, more precise information about the correct use of safe sex techniques, and the use of condoms especially with casual partners.

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