

An Assessment of the Level of Knowledge and Attitude About AIDS Among Medical Faculty Students in Bezmialem Vakıf University



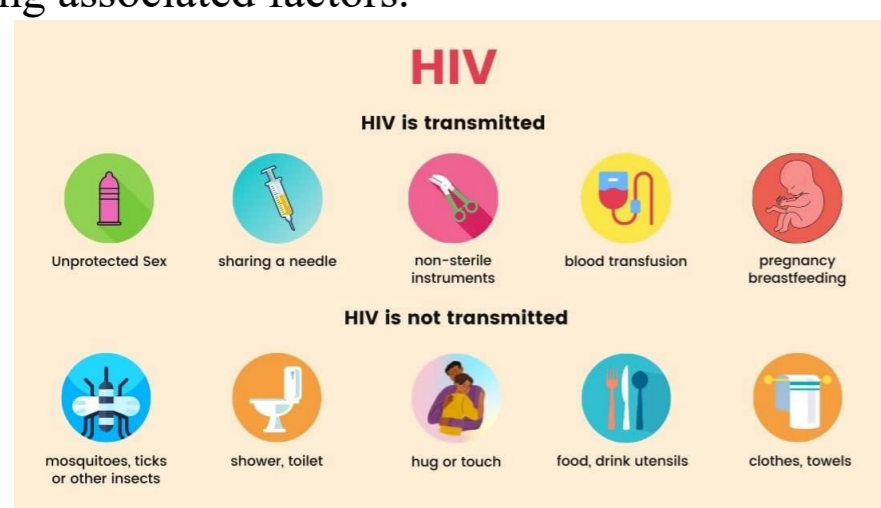
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Introduction

Since 1981, HIV has affected 80 million people worldwide, resulting in over 35 million deaths and emerging as a critical public health concern. This study aims to assess the knowledge and attitudes of Bezmialem Vakıf University Faculty of Medicine students (1st to 6th semesters) concerning AIDS, along with identifying associated factors.



Results

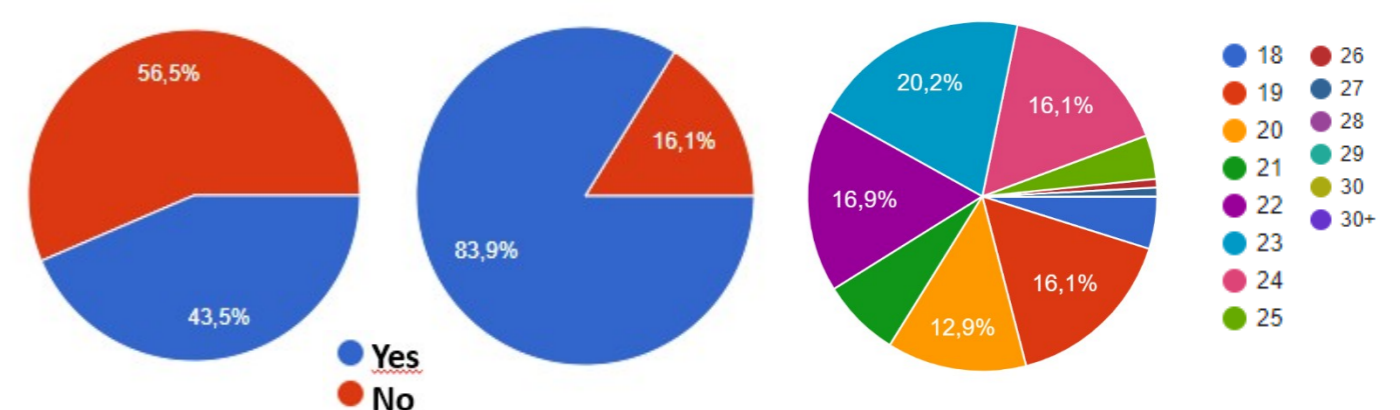
Analysis of AIDS Knowledge Scale scores based on HIV/AIDS testing status revealed significantly higher scores among those tested ($p = 0.005$). Preclinical and clinical students exhibited a significant difference in knowledge levels ($p < 0.001$), with clinical students showing higher knowledge. Students in clinical training also demonstrated significantly higher attitude scores ($p = 0.039$). Those receiving sexual health education had notably higher knowledge scores ($p = 0.003$). Age exhibited a significant positive relationship with AIDS Knowledge Scale scores ($r = 0.338$; $p < 0.001$), while the relationship between age and AIDS Attitude Scale scores was positive but low-level ($r = 0.189$; $p = 0.038$). The age of first sexual intercourse displayed a significant positive moderate-level relationship with AIDS Attitude Scale scores ($r = 0.334$; $p = 0.014$).

Conclusion

Significant associations were observed between age, semester, sexual health education, and AIDS Knowledge and Attitude levels. HIV testing correlated with higher knowledge levels, while the age of first sexual intercourse linked with attitudes. Participants with sexual health education showed increased knowledge but negative attitude shifts. Post-clinical students had higher knowledge, but attitudes trended negative. HIV-tested individuals exhibited higher knowledge levels.

Methods

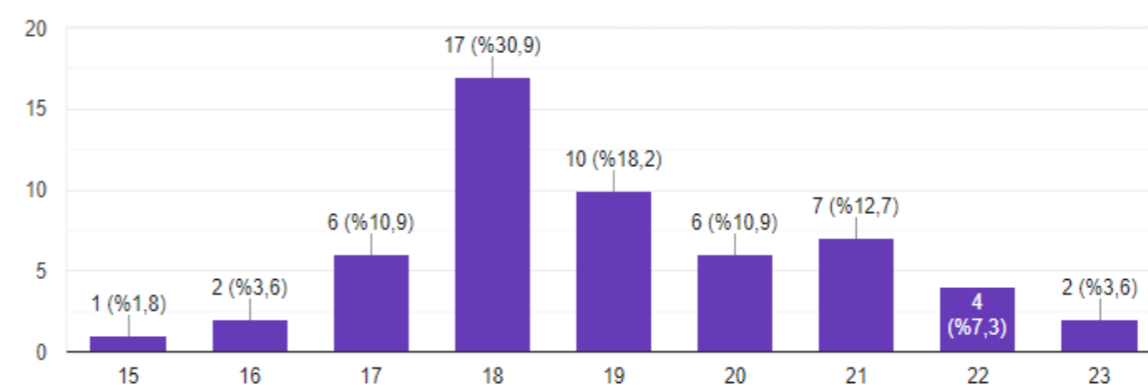
The study is a cross-sectional research conducted to evaluate the knowledge level and attitudes towards AIDS among students in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades of Bezmialem Vakıf University Faculty of Medicine, and to determine associated factors. Students who provided consent were queried with a 16-item demographic questionnaire, followed by a 21-item AIDS Knowledge Scale and a 17-item AIDS Attitude Scale.



The percentage of individuals who have received sexual health education.

The rate of undergoing an HIV test.

Distribution of survey participants by age groups.



The age of first sexual intercourse.

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