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Poster Session VI

Laboratory and risk factors in HIV infection

PREVALENCE OF HIV AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE REQUESTING HIV TESTING IN A STI CLINIC IN MADRID

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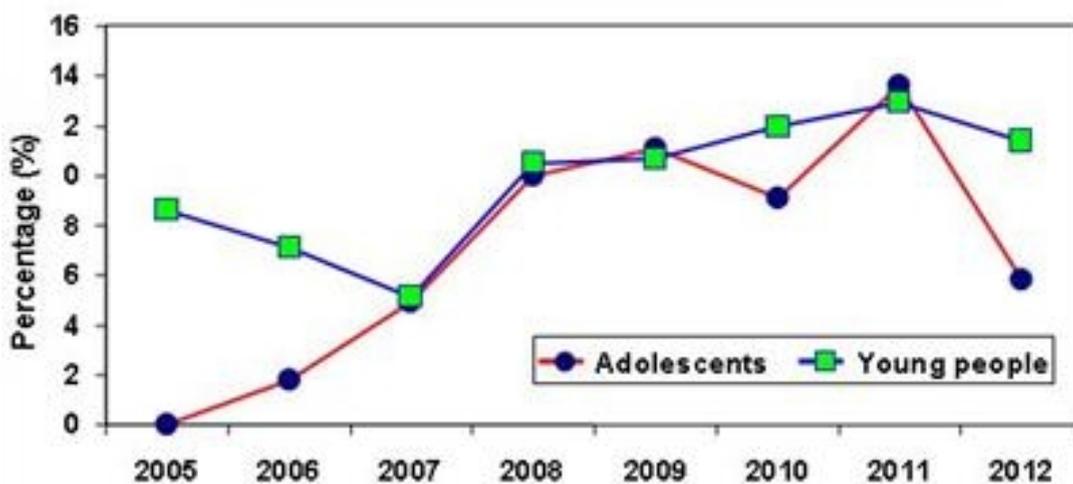
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Objectives: According to WHO adolescents are aged from 10 to 19 and young people from 20 to 24. Prevention of HIV transmission in these age groups is a priority to the future control of the epidemic. Our goal was to assess the prevalence of HIV among adolescents and young people who requested HIV testing in a reference STI clinic in Madrid, between 2005 and 2012.

Methods: We analysed 6038 patients aged from 13 to 34 years. In order to offer adapted counselling, all of them completed a structured questionnaire to describe their sexual orientation and risk behaviours for STIs. They also had a HIV serology by means of microparticle enzyme immunoassay and Western blot.

Results: Among the 6038 patients, 879 were adolescents (497 men, 379 women and 3 transexuals) and 5159 young people (2897 men, 2238 women and 24 transexuals). Overall, 239 were HIV positive, representing 3.2% among the adolescents and 4.1% among the young people. Regardless of age, the 0.4% of heterosexuals and the 9.3% of homo/bisexuals were HIV infected. In general, 89.5% of the HIV diagnosed patients were homo/bisexuals. Regarding adolescents, HIV prevalence was 0.6% in heterosexuals and 6.8% in homo/bisexuals ($p < 0.001$) and among young people it was 0.7% and 9.8% ($p < 0.001$), respectively. There has been an increasing trend of HIV prevalence in adolescents and young homo/bisexual throughout the study period (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Evolution of HIV prevalence in MSM



Conclusions:

- Adolescents and young homo/bisexual groups are very vulnerable to HIV infection.
- Evidence of HIV transmission since very young ages makes it advisable to influence upon sex education in schools so that messages arrive on time.
- There is a need for stronger and specific preventive interventions for young people homo/bisexual men.

