

HIV / AIDS among seamen:
knowledge, attitudes, and
practices: The case of Senegal

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INTRODUCTION

- The sailors represent a high risk group and an access point for HIV/AIDS infection.
- The objective of this study is to assess the state of knowledge, attitudes and practices about HIV / AIDS in this target.

METHODOLOGY

- This is an observational epidemiological study, transversal descriptive and analytical conducted in 2010
- It is based on a sample of 400 sailors aged 20 to 65 and randomly selected from medical consultants.
- A questionnaire with items on the transmission mode, the understanding of the disease, the protection means including condom use and stigma has been submitted directly to the participants.
- Data were analyzed using Epi 2000 version 3.5.1.

RESULTS

- 7.5% among respondents know the modes of HIV transmission.
- Protection by the condom is known by 56%.
- 41.3% think that the mosquito transmits the disease,
- 13.8% believe in transmission through sharing a meal with an infected person.
- About stigma: 48.3% did not accept the presence of an infected person on their ship.
- Only 39.5% know their HIV status.

RESULTS

- mobility (78%) is a factor of ignorance: indeed, 15.9% of the sailors who had never lived abroad were familiar, against 5.1% of the sailors who had previously stayed at the abroad ($p < 0.001$).
- The instruction influenced the understanding of modes of transmission ($p < 0.001$).
- The risk of detection was multiplied by 2 in sailors who had good knowledge ($p = 0.04$),

RESULTS

- The disembarkation abroad multiplied by 1.6 the risk of having casual sex ($p = 0.03$).
- knowledge of condoms as protection and knowledge of modes of HIV transmission have not favored the protection of the last casual sex ($p=0,6$ et $p=0,4$)

CONCLUSION

- If the prevalence rate of HIV / AIDS is still low in Senegal (0.7% in the general population and 1% among sailors), it remains equally important to sustain the actions, by developing a real policy of support for this population through a program based on an appropriate strategy for this target.