EVOLUTION OF HIV-RELATED STIGMA IN SPAIN BETWEEN 2008-2012

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Objective

• To compare the results of two representative national surveys
• The surveys were conducted in 2008 and 2012
• They evaluated attitudes and beliefs about people with HIV
Method
(in both, 2008 and 2012 surveys)

- Computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) on representative samples of Spanish population
- 2008 survey $n = 1607$
- 2012 survey $n= 1698$
- Both surveys: Margin of error 2.51% for a 95.5% confidence level
Instrument

• 2008 and 2012 surveys were based on the Herek’s (1999) instrument

• We assess different issues related to stigmatization of people with HIV:
  – The degree of discomfort and avoidance of people in three different situations
  – The advocacy of discriminatory policies
  – Attributions of responsibility and blame to people with HIV
  – Wrong beliefs about the transmissions of HIV
Discomfort in three daily life situations

- Not at all/very uncomfortable at work: \( Z=3.10; p<.01; \text{OR}=.78 \)
  - 18.5%\%

- Not at all/very uncomfortable at school: \( Z=5.42; p<.001; \text{OR}=.68 \)
  - 14.3%\%

- Not at all/very uncomfortable in a store: \( Z=3.28; p<.01; \text{OR}=.79 \)
  - 7.8%\%

18% 16% 14% 12% 10% 8% 6% 4% 2% 0%

1% 2%

18% 16% 14% 12% 10% 8% 6% 4% 2% 0%

1% 2%
Advocacy of discriminatory policies

- Agree with the publication of the names of HIV people
  $Z=3.94; \ p<.001; \ OR=.68$

- Agree with the separation of HIV people to protect public health
  $Z=5.21; \ p<.001; \ OR=.060$
Atributions of resposibility and blame to HIV people

- They are responsible for not taking measures to prevent the infection
  - Z=3.03; p<.05; OR=0.75

- They are blame for contracting the HIV
  - Hiv people who contracted the virus through sex or drugs get what they deserve
    - Z= ns; OR=0.94
Correct beliefs about the transmission of HIV

- Very/fairly likely to be infected having sex without condom:
  - 96.9% in 2000, 97.6% in 2020
  - 92.1% in 2000, 97.2% in 2020

- Very/fairly likely to be infected sharing syringes:
  - 47.3% in 2000, 40.6% in 2020

- Very/fairly likely mother-child transmission through breast milk
  - Maternal
Incorrect beliefs about the transmission of HIV

- Very/fairly likely to be infected using public toilets:
  - Z=2.61; p<.05; OR=0.77
- Very/fairly likely to be infected if an HIV person coughs or sneezes nearby:
- Very/fairly likely to be infected by the bite of a mosquito:
- Very/fairly likely to be infected sharing a glass:
Conclusions I

• The evolution of the attitudes and beliefs toward people with HIV has been positive in Spain in the last years (in some aspects).
• Feelings of discomfort in the presence of people with HIV and support of discriminatory policies have decreased from 2008 to 2012.
• In general attribution of responsibility and blame have also decreased in 2012.
Conclusions II

• However, when the transmission is due to drug use of sexual relations the levels of attribution of responsibility remain constant.

• In the same vein the erroneous beliefs about the transmission of HIV through contact social (share a glass, or cough) are maintained.
Conclusions III

• In sum, although the stigmatization have decreased in some aspects from 2008 to 2012, there are some indicators that make us to be alert.

• For instance, near of 7 millions (about 13.5%) of spanish people will agree (pretty much or strongly) with the publication of the name of HIV people or with their separation “to protect public health”.

Conclusions IV

• It is important to point out that until 2011 there were public policies designed to reduce the stigma toward HIV people (Plan Nacional del Sida)

• However, the important reduction of funds since 2012, might impact negatively in the future both, the prevention of the transmission of HIV and the reduction of the stigmatization of people with HIV
MUCHAS GRACIAS POR SU ATENCIÓN