According to the Ukrainian center for prevention and control of AIDS, Dnipropetrovsk region, together with Odessa and Mykolaiv regions, during many years of surveillance is among the five most epidemiologically unfavorable regions of Ukraine regarding HIV-infection. Introduced in the Dnipropetrovsk region in recent years new and effective methods of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV infection help to improve the state of the problematic issues of this infectious disease, but did not stop the spread of the epidemic in the region.

It is possible to recognize HIV/AIDS problem, but at the same time to resist communicating with HIV patients. The mode of transmission of HIV infection and incurable character of the disease lead to the perception of HIV/AIDS as a shameful stigma. Existing prejudices against many groups of people living with HIV/AIDS only amplify unfounded fears or moralizing about its reasons. This situation of the problem forces the performance of thorough structural systemic monitoring of the state of population awareness in Dnipropetrovsk region regarding the existing measures of diagnosis, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, with obligatory taking into account the local features which can provide opportunities for their optimization to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS in Dnipropetrovsk region.

**Goal of the study:** to assess the existing medical and social measures for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS on the basis of the analysis of the state of awareness of different population groups in Dnipropetrovsk region in questions of HIV infection.

**Tasks of the study:**

- To study the state and tendencies of development of the epidemiological situation on HIV/AIDS in Dnipropetrovsk region.
- To evaluate efficacy and availability of existing medical, social and psychological measures of HIV prevention and AIDS patients support in Dnipropetrovsk region.

**Research methods:** epidemiological, socio-psychological (questionnaires, interviews), statistical.

The results of the analysis of epidemiological monitoring of HIV/AIDS in Dnipropetrovsk region and the results of socio-psychological research of different population groups in the region are presented. For the analysis goals, 3 types of specially developed questionnaires (types A, B and C) were developed for research groups (group A included residents of the city who came for outpatient appointments to their clinics; group B consisted of medical workers of different specialties; group C was presented with PLWHA). All the questions in the questionnaires were divided into the following semantic blocks: ways of obtaining
information on HIV/AIDS; awareness of respondents about the ways of infection, methods of prevention and testing for HIV; respondents' attitudes toward PLWHA. Type B and C questionnaires included additional semantic blocks: accessibility of measures to prevent HIV infection of medical personnel (type B) and the respondent's opinion about the quality and accessibility of existing methods of assistance to PLWHA (type C).

The results of our study showed that the overall population of the region is aware of most issues regarding HIV/AIDS, but the majority of them, including medical professionals, demonstrates the intolerance to PLWHA, the lack of knowledge about ways of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS, as well as legislative acts regulating policies regarding the containment of the HIV epidemic in Ukraine. While PLWHA showed a good level of medical and psychological assistance from the AIDS centers, however, they indicated the presence of stigma and discrimination, as well as insufficient information activity and social support from public and charitable organizations in Dnipropetrovsk area. We also identified the prevalence of HIV-phobia among 72% of the city residents who came to the clinic for an appointment (group A), and 24% of health workers of various specialties (group B); the later was mainly attributable to the idea of mandatory HIV infection of men who have sex with men. Also 40% of the respondents of group A and 12% of respondents in group B consider it necessary to isolate PLWHA from society, which confirms the lack of awareness about HIV among the population.

The analysis of the obtained data showed that most HIV-infected individuals do not consider it necessary to be screened for HIV, even in the presence of risk factors, before appearance of certain health problems. This presents a "hidden" source of infection, which supports the spread of HIV, which is supported by the fact that only 33% of group C respondents (PLWHA) revealed their status of HIV infection through anonymous testing.