

## **«COMPARATIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HIV INFECTION IN GENDER ASPECT»**

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### **Relevance:**

Once known in the United States as a «gay» disease, AIDS is now claiming the lives of an increasing number of women in the United States and around the world. Gender equality is a social aspect of relations between women and men, manifested in all spheres of public life and activity, including politics, economics, law, ideology and culture, education and science. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men», adopted on September 2, 2019, No. O'RQ-562, defines a number of tasks to protect the rights and legitimate interests of women and girls, and ensure gender equality. In 1987, the HIV/AIDS epidemic also broke out in Uzbekistan, becoming a real disaster of the 21st century. Until 1999, only 76 cases of the disease were identified among men who inject drugs and were at risk, but since 2000, the infection has spread to the entire population. Women make up about 50% of the population of our country. Therefore, it is known from the history of mankind that the spiritual level of each society is determined by the attitude towards women. The issue of women's participation in the socio-political sphere, the practical provision of their rights and freedoms is an important indicator of the demographic indicators of the state. Many women and girls lack social and economic control over many aspects of their lives, especially sexuality, due to gender inequality. As a result, women face difficulties in discussing sexual and other sexual health issues with their partners. Informal external and internal migration processes are one of the main factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

**Objective of the study:** To study the comparative epidemiological characteristics of HIV infection by gender.

**Research materials:** Official data and statistical reports from the AIDS Control Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2024 were obtained.

**Research methods:** epidemiological and statistical.

**Results:** According to the analysis of the total number of people living with HIV in the Republic of Uzbekistan, by gender, in 2020 men accounted for 57.0%, women - 42.0%, in 2021 men - 58.0%, women - 45.5%, in 2022 men - 60.8%, women - 39.2%, in 2023 men - 61.5%, women - 38.5%, in 2024 men - 62.8%, women - 37.2%. As of January 1, 2022, 65.3% of all people living with HIV were infected sexually, 10.5% through injection, 0.1% through blood transfusion, 12.0% through medical procedures, 1.2% through non-medical procedures, 1.9% through vertical transmission, and for 8.6% the route of transmission remains unclear, given the long latent period of the disease. This, in turn, is important from an epidemiological point of view.

**Conclusions:** A comparative epidemiological analysis of the dynamics of HIV infection among women and men in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2024 showed a predominance of men. Among the gender differences identified, one was associated with a higher rate of HIV infection among men. This, in turn, indicates that the infection was transmitted to women from men through sexual contact.