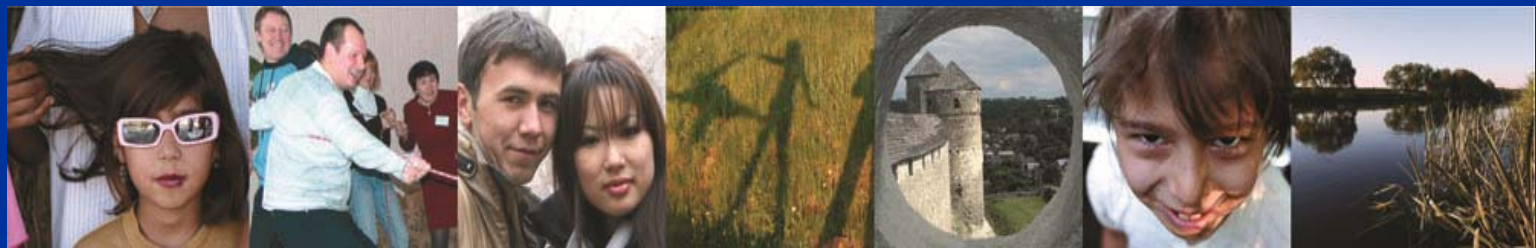


Opportunities for e-Learning in Drug Use Treatment and HIV Prevention in Russia

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Background (1)

- The growing HIV epidemic among injecting drug users (IDUs) in Russia creates a significant need among specialists in the field for timely access to professional updates and continuous education
- Studies performed at various stages of the HIV epidemic in Russia by *The National Research Center on Addictions* have demonstrated a demand for additional knowledge on treatment and prevention issues related to IDUs

Background (2)

- Many public health professionals find it difficult to access training courses in the current educational system
- Contemporary information technologies and e-learning approaches provide possible solutions for the fast delivery of knowledge and training

Methods

- A needs assessment survey was conducted to identify key areas of interest among drug treatment specialists, to evaluate the readiness of health professionals to undertake e-learning and to pinpoint priority topics for courses
- The study was conducted in the Moscow, Tver, Pskov, Chelyabinsk and Yaroslavl regions among 261 respondents, aged 19 – 72 (Mean= 41.5; SD=13.1), 49% (128) of which were female

Results (1)

- 40% of respondents had previously participated in trainings or lectures on HIV related topics
- 79% of respondents have Internet access: 67% at home, 23% in the workplace
- 57% use the Internet at least once a day
- The potential benefits of e-learning are:
 - opportunities for professional development (71%)
 - access to up-to-date information (57%)
 - electronic materials (57%)

Results (2)

- 55% of respondents expressed a desire to participate in e-learning courses.
- The topics of most interest are:
 - ‘Contemporary drug treatment methods including substitution therapy’ (72%)
 - ‘Methods of motivation’ (33%)
 - ‘Involvement of IDUs in prevention programmes’ (30%)

Conclusions

- e-Learning is a highly promising way of providing HIV prevention education to Russian professionals.
- Drug treatment specialists are interested in using e-learning for professional development, but technical capacities need to be taken into consideration



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