

Zusammenfassung der Master-Thesis von
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HIV/AIDS knowledge amongst professionals working in the areas of Integration and Asylum at the cantonal level in Switzerland

The impulse for this study came from the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health and Aids Hilfe Schweiz. It focuses upon professionals working in the areas of integration and asylum at the cantonal level in Switzerland. It marks the first systematic attempt to explore their opinions about HIV/AIDS, how differentiated these views are, well as their familiarity with available HIV/AIDS related materials and services. The hypothesis is that this group of professionals may not command sufficient knowledge for their mediatory role in HIV prevention efforts amongst migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers to be fully exploited.

A quantitative survey using a questionnaire was conducted amongst a study population of 368. 266 questionnaires were returned. The overall return rate was 72%. In the analysis the main variables sex, age-group, whether the respondent works for an NGO or in the civil service and whether they work in the German part of Switzerland or in the Romandie and Tessin were stratified by key questions designed to deliver information on the importance attached to HIV/AIDS, knowledge of HIV/AIDS in Switzerland and continuous education in the area of HIV/AIDS.

The results show that overall this group of professionals command a good general knowledge about HIV/AIDS. However, when it comes to more detailed issues, the understanding shows signs of becoming less sound. Interestingly, NGO staff are more likely to attach high importance to HIV, as well as being significantly more likely to have undergone further training in HIV/AIDS than their counterparts in the civil service. Those responding from the Romandie and Tessin feel significantly less well informed about HIV/AIDS than respondents in the German part of Switzerland. The findings will be used to develop recommendations for further optimising the HIV/AIDS response for migrants and asylum seekers at the cantonal level.