

1 Social and Economic Characteristics of AIDS Patient in Jordan:
2 A Descriptive Field Study

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7 **Abstract**

8 This study aims to identify the status of AIDS patients in Jordan and their social and
9 economic characteristics through detecting number of the cases and ways of contracting this
10 disease. The patients were classified according to age, gender, place of contracting the disease,
11 and their origin. The study came with the following results: The total number of the detected
12 cases since the establishment of the national AIDS program for disease prevention in 1986 till
13 the end of 2015 was 1222 cases; 325 Jordanian and 897 foreigners . The total number of deaths
14 of this disease was 115. Having illegitimate sex contact is the first reason for AIDS infection(55

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16 **Index terms**— aids, counseling and awareness center, victims of aids, social workers

17 **1 Introduction**

18 IDS disease is considered one of the most sexually transmitted diseases and it is a source of threat to human
19 beings. It is a global epidemic which has no cure 100% ??Lori,2000). furthermore, this disease is one of the most
20 horrible health crises for its effects on human as social and psychological shock, loss of control over emotions and
21 feelings, denial, fear of disease, loss of self-esteem,..etc (The Jordan Red Crescent, 2007). The AIDS disease has
22 direct social effect in the society; it causes health problems in addition to social ones as family and relative's
23 relations get weak which makes the patients feel isolated (Ahmad, 1990). Even the infected children may be
24 exposed to negative reactions from the society as rejecting them and refusing to accept them in the schools to
25 continue their learning. At the moment of discovering the disease, the AIDS Patients felt shocked, denial, blame
26 and pangs of remorse but later he starts to accept the disease and integrate with the society.

27 **2 II.**

28 **3 Problem of the Study**

29 The problem is represented by the social and psychological pressures facing the AIDS patients and make them
30 feel embarrassed for asking for treatment and advice by visiting the centers of awareness and education of AIDS
31 especially if they feel that their privacy has been violated and the society reject them. Therefore, the AIDS
32 patients prefer to live in isolation before and after their sickness is revealed and consequently the number of
33 AIDS patients who visited awareness and guidance centers does not exceed (40%) while those who did not visit
34 the centers , their number is still unknown.

35 **4 III.**

36 **5 Significance of the Study**

37 The social ,demographic and economic effects of AIDS are horrible. In some societies, AIDS disease kills a
38 big number of young people which will lead one day to have a generation lacks adult category (20) ??21)
39 ??22) ??23) ??24) ??25) ??26) ??27) ??28) ??29) ??30). Because AIDS disease infects the adult, its effect

7 AIDS DISEASE IN JORDAN

40 is seen clearly in the sectors of army, education, agriculture, industry, transport and economy in general (World
41 ??ank, 2003). additionally, experts and specialized in the economy depression pointed to the horrible and disastrous
42 results of this fatal disease and unless anything is done, there will be total economy depression within three
43 generations in the countries that suffer greatly because of this disease ??Khozai, 2004).

44 The spread of silence culture in the Islamic and Arab countries that obliged the woman to be obedient and no
45 to ask her husband about his sexual relations which makes her more exposed to have an infection. the woman has
46 to ignore the man's multi sexual relations with more than a woman. It should be stated here that 90% of AIDS
47 cases at Saudi Arabia was because of illegitimate sexual relations (Ra'i newspaper, 2003). In Sudan which has the
48 highest proportion of Aids cases in middle east and north of America was also because of the illegitimate sexual
49 relations with 97% (Al-Dastour, 2006) while in Lebanon the proportion of AIDS cases for the some reason was
50 79% including the Homosexual relations with 23%. In Egypt, the official records showed that the main reason
51 for AIDS infection was either insecure sex between men and women with 50% or homosexuality amng men with
52 20%.

53 IV.

54 6 AIDS Disease in the World

55 This disease was first discovered in USA and UK among who make homosexual or bisexual relations and about
56 71% of AIDS patients were infected sexually.

57 The World Health Organization assured that the women's vulnerability to infection is higher than the man
58 and there are 250 million cases infected sexually yearly ??Mahmoud, 2001). After 36 years of recording the
59 first AIDS case in USA in 1981(Kamal, 1992) till the 2015, the number of AIDS patients is estimated by 35
60 million, most of them (25 million) are from developed countries and it is expected that there will be yearly about
61 116000 new cases (WHO, 2015). The latest report concerning AIDS showed that 168 countries informed WHO of
62 having AIDS cases in their countries (Graeme stewart, 2005) while in 1986 there were 29000 cases in71 countries
63 ??Sahawna, 1988).

64 V.

65 7 Aids Disease in Jordan

66 The Jordanian society with its special characteristics where values, habits, traditions are greatly respected imposes
67 behaviors to be followed by every member in the society (Khozai, 2003). Furthermore, the Jordanian society is
68 committed to the holy books that forbids adultery which is one of the ethic crimes (Abd tawab, 1986), or illegitimate
69 sexual contact with others for their horrible effects as diseases, social problems and family loss ??Ateia, 2003).

70 Article (282) of the Jordanian Punishment Law states: the Adulterous female and her partner are punished
71 by prison form 6 months till 2 years(Najm, 1994). According to Punishment Law, adultery is defined by sexual
72 contact between a married woman or am n with other than his wife or her husband ??Hosni, 1978).

73 Despite of these regulations, laws, habits, traditions and religion that forbid adultery but the Jordanian
74 statistics in this field revealed that 55% of the cases was because of illegitimate sexual relations (Ministry of
75 Health, 2015) .

76 The Jordanian Ministry of Health pays much attention to the AIDS disease through the effective effort in the
77 field of prevention and health care .And the ministry considers the voluntary testing and counseling services a
78 very important point to other activities of prevention of this disease and support to the patients and therefore,
79 these services will be helpful to the individuals and couples.

80 The first AIDS case was recorded for a Jordanian woman in 1986 and it was because of a blood transfer abroad
81 ??Belad Newspaper, 2002). Since that date, the Jordanian program for AIDS prevention was adopted and the
82 Ministry of Health adopted the main goals of the international AIDS program which fighting the disease, reduce
83 its spread and its effect on the patient and his family and the society in general. the total number of the diseases
84 which were discovered from 1986 (the date of establishing the national program for AIDS prevention) till 2015
85 was 1222including 325 Jordanian cases and 897 cases for non Jordanians . the total number of deaths because of
86 this disease was 115(Ministry of Health, 2015).

87 In 1999, Ministry of Health established Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Centre to provide advice and
88 help to the youth to enable them to make their own decisions towards behaviors that may cause health problem
89 as AIDS. Moreover, the center provide counseling and social, psychological and health care to the AIDS patients
90 and their families in addition to supply them with bulletins, regulations and guidance concerning prevention of
91 this disease (Ministry of Healt, 1999). The hotline in this center is being supervised by three employees: health
92 supervisor, a doctor, social expert). Terms definitions: ? AIDS: It is one of the sexually transmitted diseases in
93 the world which has no treatment till now . It transmits form the man to the woman and vice versa or form a
94 man to a man by polluted injections, multi sexual and illegal relations and having some other venereal disease.
95 ? Coexistence with AIDS: Accepting the disease, following up the treatment, and the specialized instructions. ?
96 Coexistence with society: Integration into the society and living with respect and non-discrimination. ? AIDS
97 patient: The patient who was proved to have this disease and visited the medical center for help. ? Difficulties:
98 It is the problem facing the patients that cannot be solv VI.

99 **8 Goals of the Study**

100 To identify the social and economic characteristics of AIDS patients in Jordan according to the place of infection,
101 age, gender, and way of infection). To determine the difficulties facing AIDS patients in Jordan.

102 **9 VII.**

103 **10 Methodology of the Study a) Population of the study**

104 The study used the comprehensive social survey for all AIDS patients in Jordan who visited the counseling centers
105 in different Jordanian districts (Amman, Zarqa , Jerash , Madaba , Aqaba, Al-Balqa).

106 **11 b) The study's instrument & its reliability and validity**

107 For collecting data, the researcher used a questionnaire consisted of 30 items distributed into dimensions: the first
108 one related to the patients' general information while the other addresses the difficulties facing the patients in
109 Jordan and the suggestions they have to face these difficulties. To check the instrument's validity, it was presented
110 to five arbitrators who are specialized in (medicine, sociology, social service, psychology, religion) to identify its
111 appropriateness to the study's goal and their notes were taken into account. The instrument's reliability was
112 checked by applying it on a sample consisted of 10 patients and Alpha coefficient was calculated and its value
113 was (0.89%) which indicated that the instrument has a high degree of reliability.

114 **12 c) Statically treatment**

115 The descriptive method was used to analyze data and the means and standard deviations were used. The results
116 were as follows:

117 Results concerning the first goal: identifying the AIDS patients' social and economic characteristics in Jordan
118 according to (place of infection, age, gender, way of infection).

119 Although most of the cases took place outside Jordan(67.7%) as it is illustrated in table (1), about 95 cases
120 were in Jordan which indicated local infection to the cause of the disease and therefore there is a need to condense
121 health awareness ,guidance and prevention programs to reduce the spread of this disease.

122 Table (1) showed that the categories (20-29) and (30-39) are the highest one in being infected by this disease
123 with (35.6%) each, followed by the category(40-49) with (14.9%). It is noted that the age of 76% of the patients
124 was less than 40 years and it is the period of being active economically and sexually. Data showed that 61% of
125 the patients were males while 39% were females.

126 The previous table also showed the 55% of the patients had the infection through illegitimate sexual
127 contact, blood transmission was the cause of 20.3%, Homosexuality practices (11.6%), drugs and intravenous
128 injection(2.2%) whereas the infection from the mother to her child was (2.8%). And thus, much attention should
129 be given to awareness programs, education sessions focusing on the religious aspect in this issue. In the same
130 context, Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi ,sheikh of Al-Azhar, called all the religious leaders in their societies
131 to fight against AIDS to protect the young who will be the leaders in the future (Tantawi, 2006).

132 Although most of the infection cases occurred among non-Jordanians with (73.4%) as it is illustrated in table
133 (1), about (26.6%) of the infection cases was among the Jordanian which indicates local transmission to the
134 disease and therefore there is an eager need to have more education and awareness, and prevention programs
135 to reduce the spread of this disease locally. (2) showed the difficulties facing AIDS patients ordered ascending
136 according to the their means. The difficulty of shame and discrimination because of the disease sensitivity came
137 first with high degree, followed respectively by the difficulty of lack of privacy specially in the public and private
138 hospitals with

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Place	Male	Female	Total	Proportion	
Inside Jordan	64	31	95	%	29.2
Outside Jordan	193	24	217	67.7	
Unknown	12	1	13	4.1	
Total	269	56	325	100	
Age category	Male	Female	Total	Proportion	
Less than 4	7	4	11	0.9	
14	- 5	18	20	1.6	
19	- 15	8	13	1.0	
-29	20	245	203	445	35.6
-39	30	259	188	447	35.6
-49	40	138	49	187	14.9
More than 50	89	28	117	9.3	
Unknown	11	3	14	1.1	
Total	775 61 %	482 39 %	1257 100 %	%	100
Way of infection	Male	Female	Total	Proportion	
Sexual relations	139	37	176	%	55
Blood transmission	47	18	65	20.3	
Homosexuality	37	.	37	11.6	
Drugs addiction	5	2	7	2.2	
Mother to her child	6	3	9	2.8	
Unknown	21	5	26	8.1	
Total	255	65	320	100	
Place of infection	Male	Female	Total	Proportion	
Jordanian	266	59	325	26.6	
Non Jordanians	509	388	897	73.4	
	775	477	1222	%	100

[Note: TotalTable]

Figure 1: Table 1 :

139 Year 2018 high degree, the difficulty of adjusting dangerous behaviors with high degree, the patients' with
140 financial problems with moderate degree and means of transport with moderate degree.

141 .1 VIII.

142 .2 Recommendations

143 Prepare programs and education strategies for the category that is mainly exposed to this disease in the society
144 (young, drivers, prisoners, refugees) to aware them of the horrible disease, ways of infection and prevention.

145 Follow all the medical and administrative procedures to provide privacy and confidentiality (public and private
146 hospitals).

147 Work on establishing a Fund supported by the private and public sectors to help the patients who are financially
148 incapable to secure life necessities.

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