

# APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY, ANTIBIOTICS, ANTIMICROBIALS AND BENEFICIAL MICROBES

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## Prevalence of HIV, HBV and HCV and their related risk factors amongst male homeless people in Lorestan Province, the west of Iran

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Homeless people are at a higher risk of blood-born infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C. The aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence of HIV, HBV and HCV and their related risk factors among male homeless people. This cross-sectional study was conducted in Khorramabad city, in the west of Iran. A pre-designed validated questionnaire was used to collect the data on behavioral and other potential risk factors. Blood samples were taken in order to diagnose HIV, HCV and HBV infections. The prevalence of HIV, HBV and HCV and all related risk factors was reported with a 95% Confidence Interval (CI). In this study, the participants were 307 male homeless people with a mean ( $\pm$ SD) age of 35.86 ( $\pm$ 9.62) years. The prevalence of HIV, HBs Ag and HCV Ab positive cases was 6.51% (95% CI: 4.23, 9.90), 0.98% (95% CI: 0.31, 3.00) and 31.27% (26.31, 36.71), respectively. The prevalence of co-infections of HIV and HCV Ab+ was 5.76% (95% CI: 1.34, 8.51). The most common recently used drugs were heroin, methamphetamine and opium with a prevalence of 44.30% (95% CI: 38.81, 49.94), 41.04% (95% CI: 35.64, 46.67) and 24.76% (95% CI: 20.22, 29.92), respectively. According to this study, prevalence of HIV and HCV among homeless people was considerable. Abusing heroin, methamphetamine and industrial drugs was also significant. Considering the association between drug abuse and HIV and HCV infections, planning for effective control and preventive interventions is important in homeless people.

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