Abstract: Introduction: AIDS is a new viral disease with a rapid spreading. It is one of the most serious diseases of young ages. At present, this disease has no known treatment or vaccine, but can be prevented. Through improving public awareness level about transmission routes and prevention, the disease spread can be prevented. This study was performed to determine the awareness of students about AIDS for planning educational programs based on their real needs.

Methods: In this descriptive-analytic cross-sectional study, 296 students of Kerman University of Medical Sciences were randomly selected. Data gathering was done through a questionnaire consisted of demographic features, awareness-testing questions, and source of information ($\alpha=0.87$). Data were analyzed using Chi-square test and Spearman coefficient of correlations and through SPSS17.

Results: Mean age of participants was 22±3.35 years and 37.8% were male. From all, 3.4% of the students were working and 7.5% had history of blood transfusion. The most important sources of information were respectively television (79.4%), teachers (76.7%), health posters and pamphlets (70.3%). Mean awareness score was 45.28±5.14 from 59. Awareness level was good in 52.7% and moderate in 45.9%. Awareness score had significant direct relationship with age, but no significant relationship with variables of sex, marital status and field of study.

Conclusion: According to the obtained results, Kerman University of Medical Sciences has worked well in regard to the AIDS education. In spite of this, considering the significant impact of television and other mass media in improving public's awareness level and consequently community health level, more widespread use of these sources in AIDS educational programs is emphasized.

Presentation: Poster