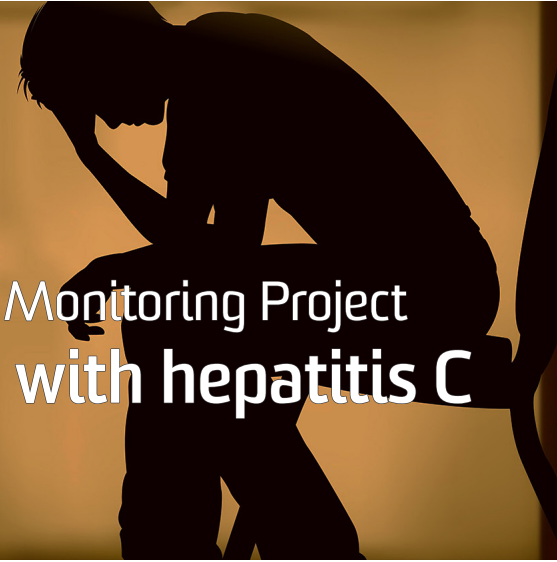




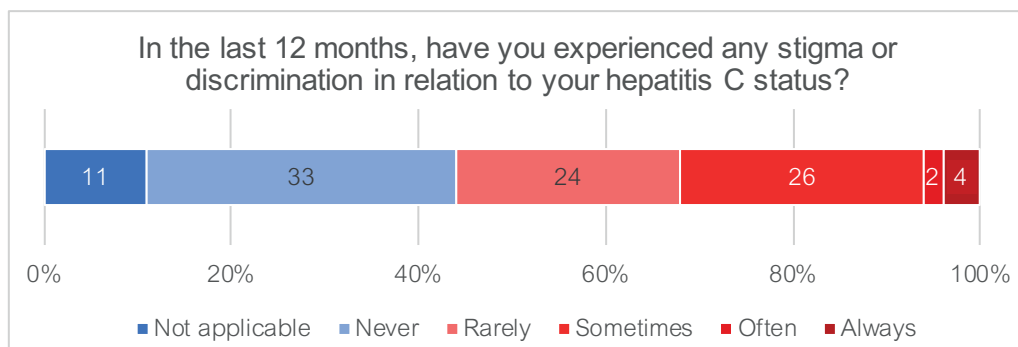
Australia's Global University

Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project People living with hepatitis C



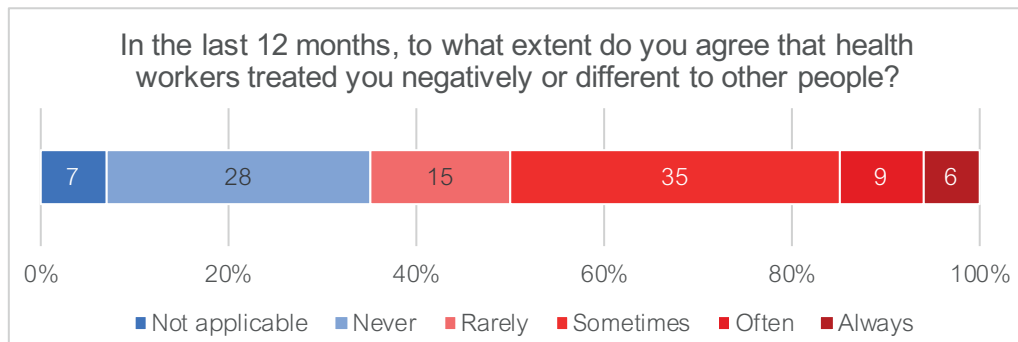
Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. Australia has five national strategies addressing HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections, each with a clear goal to eliminate the negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people's health.

In 2016, an online survey of 165 people who had ever lived with hepatitis C and/or had injected drugs was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma in relation to their hepatitis C, using a newly developed stigma indicator. This summary refers to those people who had ever lived with hepatitis C.



More than half of participants reported experiencing stigma within the last 12 months related to their hepatitis C status (56%), although only 6% reported that this occurred 'often' or 'always'.

Two-thirds of respondents reported at least some instances of being treated negatively by health workers (65%), including 15% who indicated this 'often' or 'always' happened.



The next phase of this project will expand data collection with the stigma indicator from people living with hepatitis C. A revised survey is currently being developed and second round data collection will be conducted in 2018. Being able to quantify the experience of stigma within this group is an important first step towards introducing evidence-based strategies to eliminate its negative effects.

- 123 people** completed the survey
- 65%** female
- 76%** straight/heterosexual
- 72%** acquired hepatitis C from injecting drugs
- 27%** were currently on HCV treatment
- 46%** had previously received HCV treatment
- 77%** had ever injected drugs

If the results presented here have upset you in any way, we encourage you to seek support from the National Hepatitis Infoline (1800 437 222) or Lifeline (13 11 44).

This project was supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health.

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of Hepatitis Australia and the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) and their member organisations in assisting with recruiting survey participants.

We would also like to thank everyone who completed the survey for their willingness to participate in this project.

For more information on this project, please see the full report available at: <http://bit.ly/stigma-indicators>



Centre for Social Research in Health

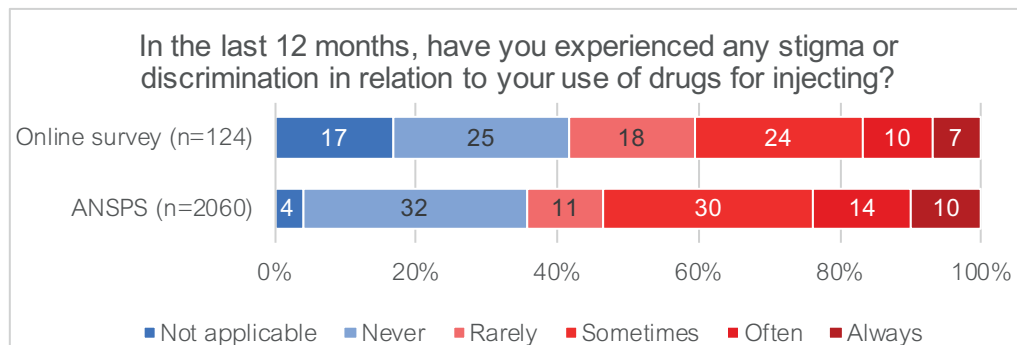
Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project People who inject drugs



Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. Australia has five national strategies addressing HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections, each with a clear goal to eliminate the negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people's health.

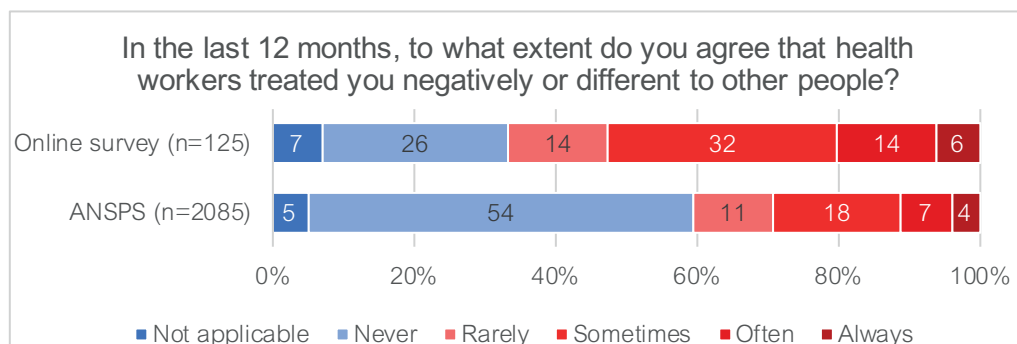
In 2016, an online survey of 165 people who had injected drugs and/or had ever lived with hepatitis C was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma in relation to their drug use, using a newly developed stigma indicator. This summary refers to those people who had injected drugs.

The stigma indicator was also included in the Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey, which was completed by 2,210 people. (ANSPS; Kirby Institute, UNSW).



More than half of participants reported experiencing stigma within the last 12 months related to their injecting drug use (59% in the online survey, 65% in the ANSPS), with 17% of online survey respondents and 24% of ANSPS participants reporting that they 'often' or 'always' experienced stigma.

Two-thirds of the online sample reported at least some negative treatment by health workers (66%), compared to 40% of the ANSPS sample.



The next phase of this project will expand data collection with the stigma indicator from people who inject drugs. A revised survey is currently being developed and second round data collection will be conducted in 2018. Being able to quantify the experience of stigma within this group is an important first step towards introducing evidence-based strategies to eliminate its negative effects.

127 people
completed the survey

62%
female

69%
straight/heterosexual

75%
had ever had hepatitis C

If the results presented here have upset you in any way, we encourage you to seek support from Lifeline (13 11 44).

This project was supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health.

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of Hepatitis Australia and the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) and their member organisations in assisting with recruiting survey participants. We would also like to thank the Kirby Institute, UNSW for including the indicator in the ANSPS.

We would also like to thank everyone who completed the survey for their willingness to participate in this project.

For more information on this project, please see the full report available at: <http://bit.ly/stigma-indicators>