



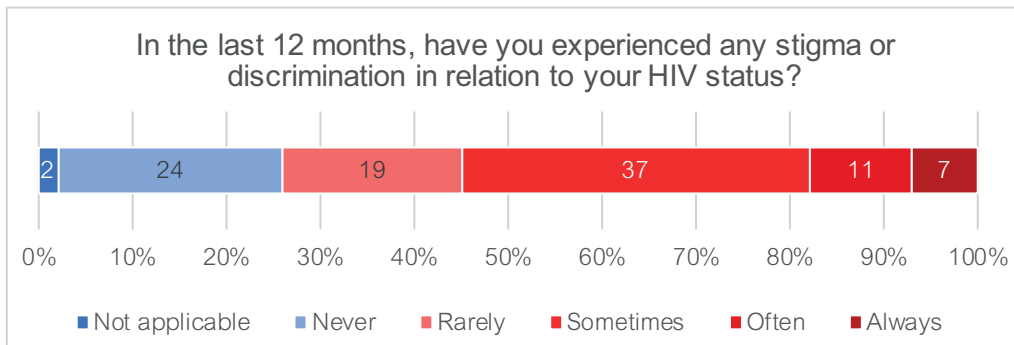
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# Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project People living with HIV



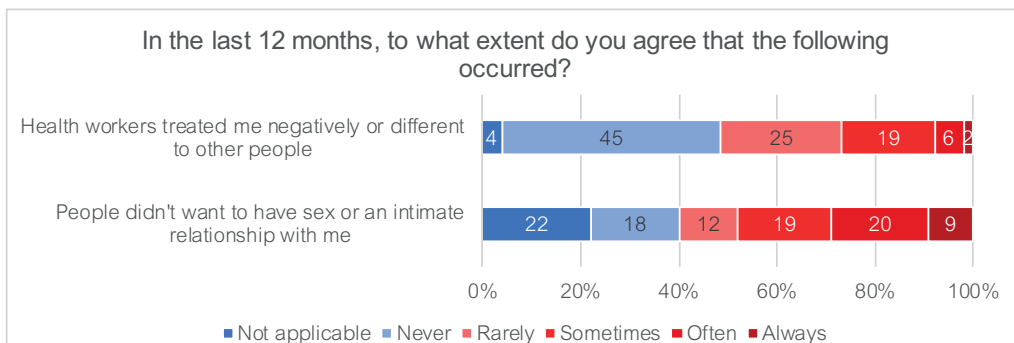
Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. Australia has five national strategies addressing HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections, each with a clear goal to eliminate the negative impact of stigma and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

In 2016, an online survey of people living with HIV was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma in relation to their HIV, using a newly developed stigma indicator.



74% of people living with HIV reported any stigma related to their HIV status. Stigma did not occur regularly, however, with participants more likely to report experiencing it 'rarely' or 'sometimes' (56%).

More than half of respondents reported experiencing negative or different treatment by health workers (52%). Most indicated that this occurred 'rarely' or 'sometimes' (44%). Three out of five participants reported that people did not want to have sex or an intimate relationship with them (60%), with 29% stating this had 'often' or 'always' occurred.



The next phase of this project will expand data collection with the stigma indicator from people living with HIV. 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.

**181 people**  
completed the survey

**88%**  
male

**71%**  
gay

**86%**  
acquired HIV from having sex with a man

**99%**  
were on HIV treatment

**94%**  
had an undetectable viral load

If the results presented here have upset you in any way, we encourage you to seek support from the National Association of People with HIV Australia (1800 259 666) 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 the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWA) 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>



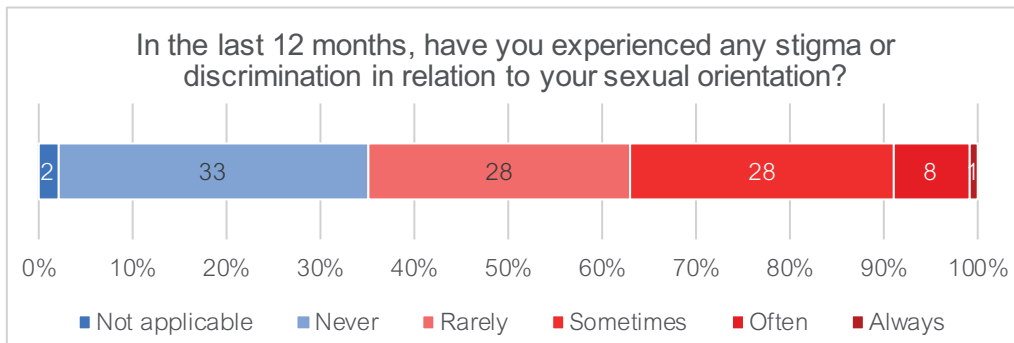


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# Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project Men who have sex with men

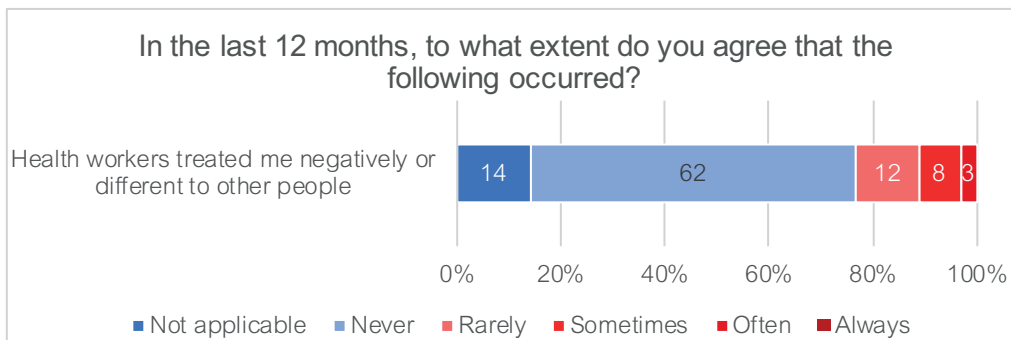


Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. Australia has five national strategies addressing HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections, each with a clear goal to eliminate the negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people's health. In 2016, a newly developed stigma indicator was included in the *Telling* survey of men who have sex with men (Kirby Institute, UNSW), which was completed by 794 participants.



Stigma related to sexual orientation was clearly a relevant issue for this group, experienced by 65% of participants in the last 12 months, though this was generally experienced 'rarely' or 'sometimes' (56%).

Less than one in four participants felt that they had been treated negatively by health workers (23%).



The next phase of this project will expand data collection with the stigma indicator from men who have sex with men. 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.

**339 men**  
completed the indicator

**81%**  
gay/homosexual

**17%**  
bisexual

**19%**  
HIV positive

If the results presented here have upset you in any way, we encourage you to seek support from QLife (1800 184 527) or Lifeline (13 11 44).

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

We would like to thank the Kirby Institute, UNSW for including the stigma indicator in the *Telling* survey.

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>



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