



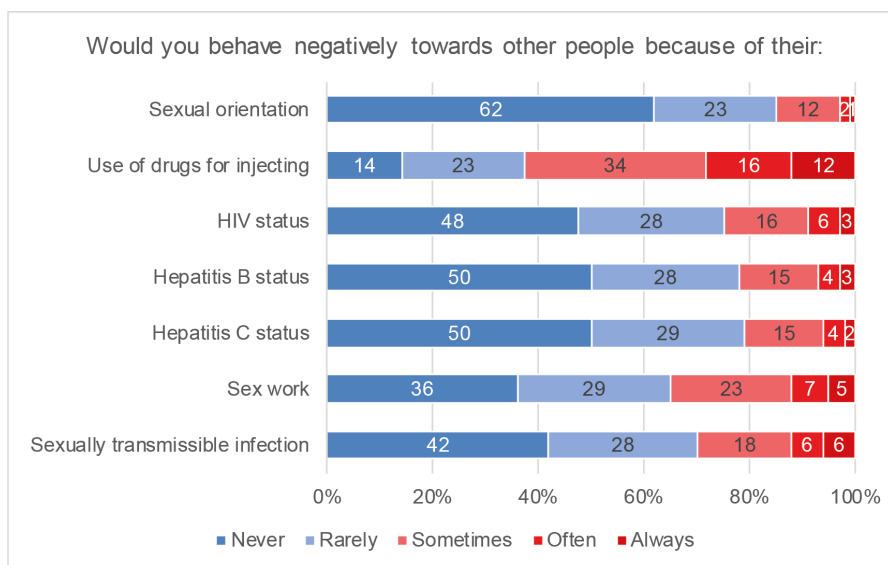
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Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project General public



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

In 2017, the Centre for Social Research in Health at UNSW Sydney included questions in the Australian Survey of Social Attitudes (AuSSA). These questions investigated the extent to which a representative sample of the Australian public would discriminate against other people.



Injecting drug use was the attribute most likely to be stigmatised by participants (86%), with 28% indicating they would 'often' or 'always' behave negatively towards people who inject drugs. This was followed by sex workers, who 64% of participants reported they would behave negatively towards. Sexual orientation was the least likely attribute to receive negative treatment (38%), while participants reported they would behave negatively towards people with the remaining attributes in 50-58% of cases.

The next phase of this project will expand data collection to focus on the experiences of stigma and discrimination amongst priority populations identified by the national strategies, namely, people living with HIV, people living with viral hepatitis, people who inject drugs, gay and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, and people living with sexually transmissible infections. Data will be collected during 2018. Being able to quantify the expressed stigma towards people from these groups is an important first step towards introducing evidence-based strategies to eliminate stigma's negative effects.

1,001 people
completed the survey

57%
female

54 years old
average age

2%
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander

33%
completed university

59%
employed

61%
lived in major cities

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

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AuSSA is conducted by the Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI).

We would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the project advisory committee.

We would like to thank everyone who completed the survey.

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



Centre for Social Research in Health