



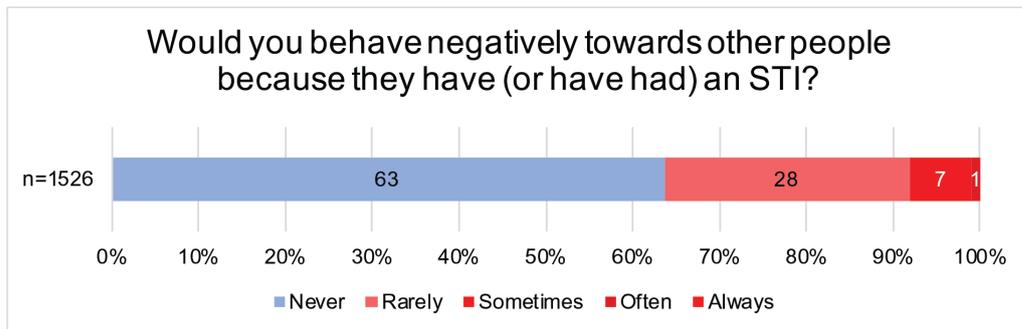
Australia's
Global
University

Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project Sexually transmissible infections



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

In 2017, the Debrief online survey was conducted to collect data on STI-related knowledge, attitudes and practices of young people aged 15-29 years and living in Australia. The survey included data on STI-related stigma that document the extent to which young people in Australia would stigmatise other people with STIs, and if they expected that they would experience stigma if they had an STI themselves.



Nearly two-thirds of participants (63%) indicated that they would never behave negatively towards other people because of STIs. Of those who reported that they would behave negatively towards people with an STI, almost all of them indicated that this would 'rarely' or 'sometimes' occur.

2,303 people
completed the survey

54%
female

22 years old
average age

70%
heterosexual

3%
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander

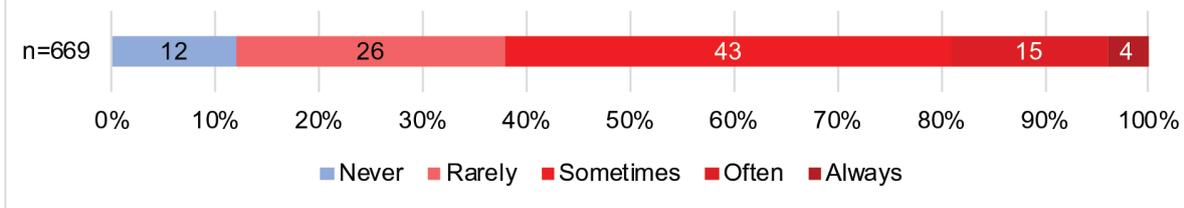
68%
university students

64%
lived in capital cities



Centre for Social Research in Health

If you ever had an STI, do you think you would experience any stigma or discrimination in relation to this STI?



While participants reported that they were unlikely to behave negatively towards other people with STIs, they were much more likely to expect that they would experience stigma or discrimination themselves if they were ever to have an STI. Only 12% believed they would never experience stigma, while 62% believed they would at least 'sometimes' experience stigma or discrimination. Importantly, 19% believed this would 'often' or 'always' be the case.

This project will continue to expand data collection on the extent 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 STIs. Data are being collected throughout 2018. Being able to quantify the expressed stigma towards these groups is an important first step towards introducing evidence-based strategies to eliminate its negative effects.



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.

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

For more information on the Debrief online survey, please see the project report: Adam, P.C.G., de Wit, J.B.F., Ketsuwan, I., Treloar, C. (in press). *Sexual health-related knowledge, attitudes and practices of young people in Australia. Results from the 2017 Debrief survey*. Sydney: Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney.