



Key findings and lessons regarding people living with HCV and people who inject drugs

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Acknowledgements



- Research Participants
- Co-authors
 - Elena Cama, Loren Brener, Max Hopwood, Carla Treloar, John de Wit
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- Funding
 - This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health



Background

- National Strategies for blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections
 - “Eliminate the negative impact of stigma, discrimination, and legal and human rights issues on people’s health”



Background

- Stigma Indicators Project
 - Funded by Australian Government Department of Health
 - Develop indicator of stigma among priority groups identified by National Strategies
 - Gay and other men who have sex with men
 - **People who inject drugs**
 - People living with HIV
 - **People living with viral hepatitis**
 - People who engage in sex work



Stigma Indicator



In the last 12 months, to what extent have you experienced any stigma or discrimination (e.g. avoidance, pity, blame, shame, rejection, verbal abuse, bullying) in relation to your:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable
Sexual orientation						
Use of drugs for injecting						
HIV status						
Hepatitis B status						
Hepatitis C status						
Sex work						



Stigma Indicator – Health workers



In the last 12 months, do you feel that you may have discriminated against patients/clients because of their:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable
Sexual orientation						
Use of drugs for injecting						
HIV status						
Hepatitis B status						
Hepatitis C status						
Sex work						



Stigma Indicator – General public

Would you behave negatively towards other people because of their:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable
Sexual orientation						
Use of drugs for injecting						
HIV status						
Hepatitis B status						
Hepatitis C status						
Sex work						
Sexually transmissible infection						

Methods

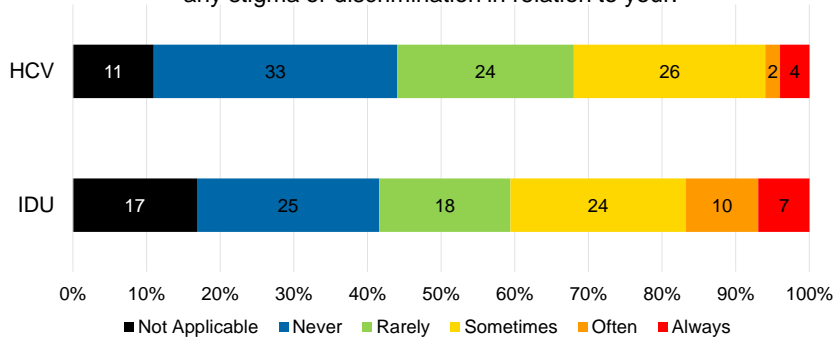
- HCV / IDU survey (N=165)
 - Online survey
 - Promoted through state and territory hepatitis organisations and drug user organisations
- Health Care Worker survey (N=353)
 - Online survey
 - Promoted through ASHM
- AuSSA (N=1001)
 - Conducted by ACSPRI
 - Stigma questions included in 2017 survey



Results

- People living with hepatitis C and people who inject drugs

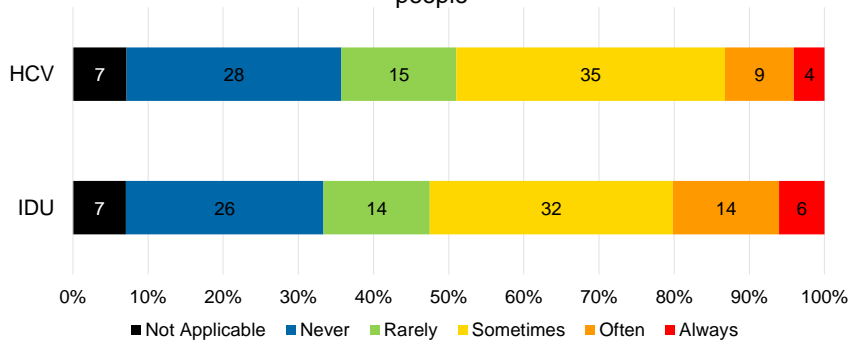
In the last 12 months, to what extent have you experienced any stigma or discrimination in relation to your:



Results

- People living with hepatitis C and people who inject drugs

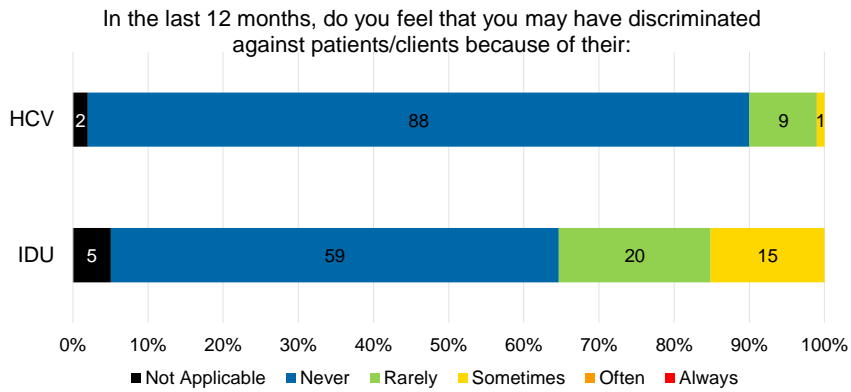
Health workers treated me negatively or different to other people





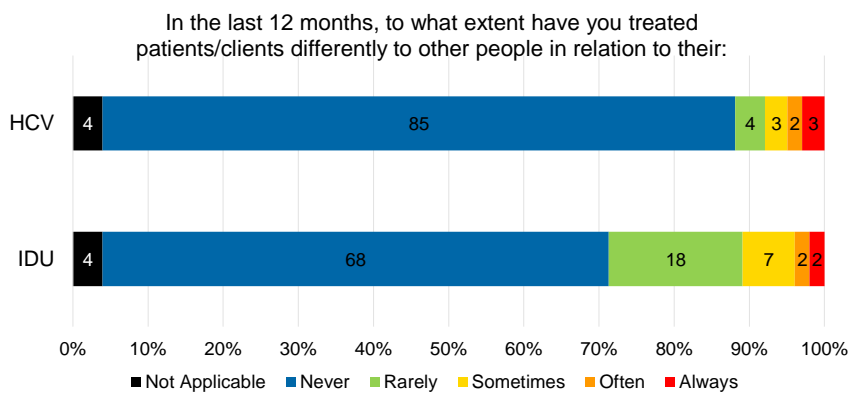
Results

- Health care workers



Results

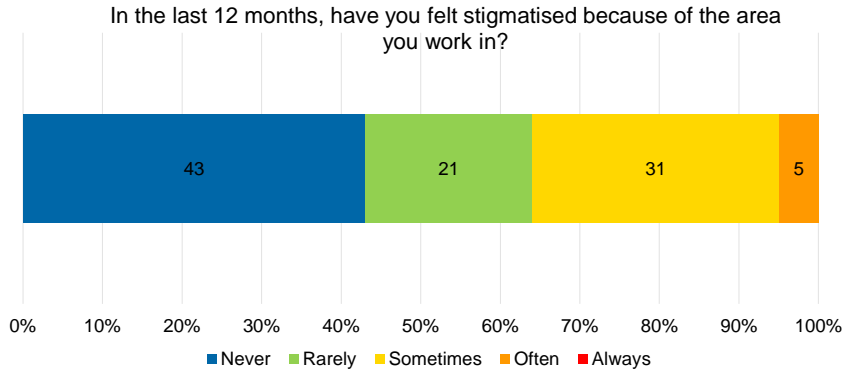
- Health care workers





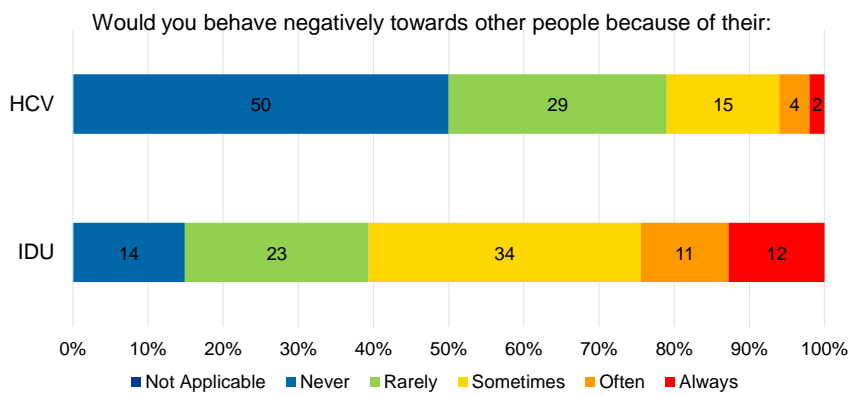
Results

- Health care workers



Results

- General public





Discussion

- Conflation between 'Not Applicable' and 'Never'
- Challenge in reducing stigma into single measure
- Desire for greater detail
- Simple comparisons of prevalence over time



Discussion

- Stigma reported by people living with hepatitis C, people who inject drugs, health workers, general public
- Interventions
 - Self-stigma
 - Therapeutic interventions, group-based acceptance, commitment therapy
 - Social stigma
 - Motivational interviewing, communicating positive individual stories
 - Structural stigma
 - Contact-based training, education programs (e.g. for medical students, other professionals)





Next Steps

- Phase 2
 - Restructured indicator
 - **Hepatitis C survey currently live**
 - http://bit.ly/hepc_survey
 - IDU survey currently recruiting
 - Health care workers incl. med students (later in 2018)

- Findings available on website:
 - <http://bit.ly/stigma-indicators>




The Centre for Social Research in Health at UNSW Sydney is seeking people who have had or are currently living with hepatitis C to take part in a 15 minute online survey about experiences of hepatitis C, including treatment, community, wellbeing, stigma and discrimination.

This study is part of a broader project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health to examine stigma and discrimination among people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections.

Have your say on stigma and discrimination

To complete the survey or find out more, visit: bit.ly/hepc_survey or contact Tim at t.broaday@unsw.edu.au

