

Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project

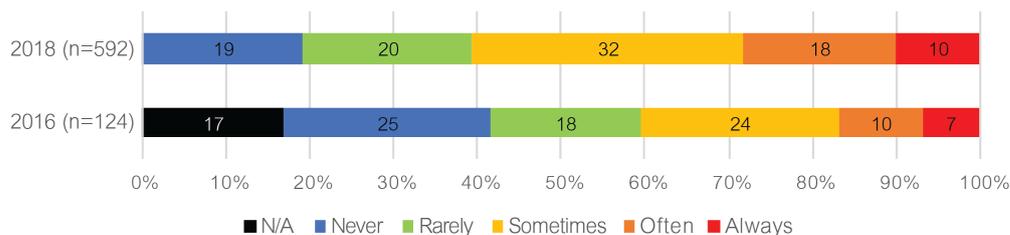
People who inject drugs



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

In 2018, a survey of people who inject drugs was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma in relation to their injecting drug use. This followed on from a previous survey of people who inject drugs, conducted in 2016.

In the last 12 months, have you experienced any stigma or discrimination in relation to your injecting drug use?

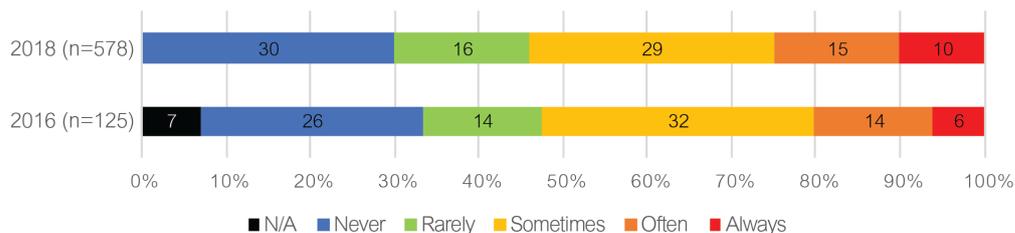


Note: N/A was not provided as a response option in 2018. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. In 2018, 11 participants did not answer the indicator.

In 2018, more than four out of five participants (81%) reported experiencing stigma within the last 12 months in relation to their injecting drug use, including 28% reporting that they 'often' or 'always' experienced stigma. These proportions are higher than were found in 2016, though caution should be used when drawing comparisons between these surveys (due to the different samples and methodological differences between the two surveys).

In 2018, more than two-thirds of participants (70%) reported any negative treatment by health workers, including 25% who indicated that this was 'often' or 'always' the case. This was similar to 2016, when 66% of participants reported negative treatment from health workers.

In the last 12 months, to what extent do you agree that health workers treated you negatively or different to other people?



Note: N/A was not provided as a response option in 2018. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. In 2018, 25 participants did not answer the indicator.

Stigma and discrimination continue to be commonly experienced by people who inject drugs. 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. Broad ranging interventions are required to address stigma towards people who inject drugs throughout society.

603 people
completed the 2018 survey

60%
male

76%
straight/heterosexual

21%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander

50%
completed high school

22%
employed

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 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 more information on this project, please see: bit.ly/stigma-indicators

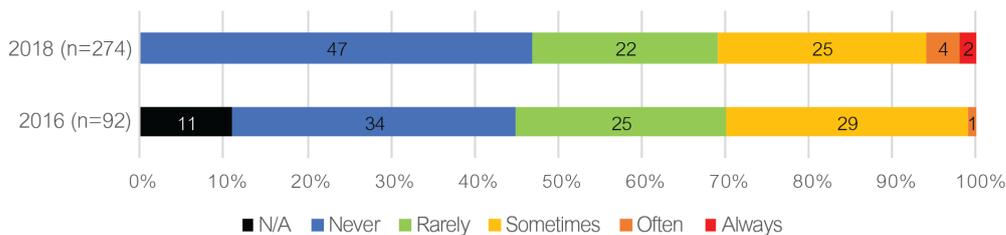
Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project Hepatitis C among people who inject drugs



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 with a clear goal to eliminate the negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people's health.

In 2018, a survey of people who inject drugs was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma (see overleaf). Those participants who had ever been diagnosed with hepatitis C were asked about their experiences of stigma in relation to their hepatitis C. This followed on from a previous survey of people who inject drugs and live with hepatitis C, conducted in 2016.

In the last 12 months, have you experienced any stigma or discrimination in relation to your hepatitis C?

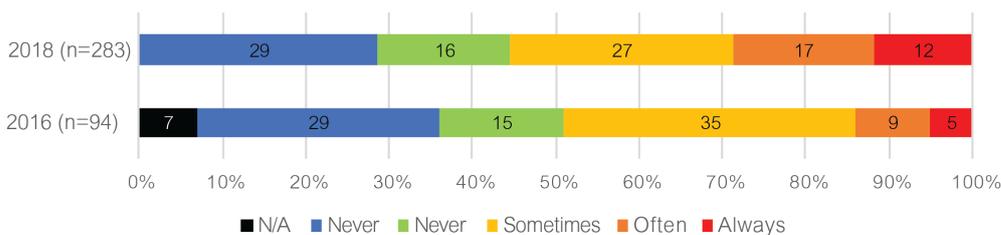


Note: N/A was not provided as a response option in 2018. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. In 2018, 23 participants did not answer the indicator.

In 2018, more than half of participants reported experiencing stigma within the last 12 months related to their hepatitis C status (53%), although only 6% reported that this occurred 'often' or 'always'. This is similar to results from 2016, though caution should be used when drawing comparisons between these surveys (due to the different samples and methodological differences between the two surveys).

In 2018, more than two-thirds of respondents reported any negative treatment by health workers (71%), including 29% who indicated this 'often' or 'always' happened. This was slightly higher than 2016, when 64% of participants reported any negative treatment from health workers.

In the last 12 months, to what extent do you agree that health workers treated you negatively or different to other people?



Note: N/A was not provided as a response option in 2018. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. In 2018, 14 participants did not answer the indicator.

Stigma and discrimination continue to be commonly experienced by people living with hepatitis C. 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. Broad ranging interventions are required to address stigma towards people living with hepatitis C throughout society.

297 people
completed the 2018 survey

63%
male

78%
straight/heterosexual

23%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander

49%
completed high school

17%
employed

58%
acquired hepatitis C from
injecting drugs

9%
were currently on HCV
treatment

42%
had previously received
HCV treatment

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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