

Stigma and the Provision of Dental Services to People Living with HIV

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Disclosures

Steven Toth – no significant financial interests or other relationships with commercial interests have existed for a period of **one (1)** calendar year prior to the start of the educational activity.

HRSA Education Committee Disclosures

HRSA Education Committee staff have no financial interest or relationships to disclose.

CME Staff Disclosures

Professional Education Services Group staff have no financial interest or relationships to disclose.

Learning Objectives

1. By the end of this session participants will understand the four types of stigma factors that were identified based on literature review and the psychosocial aspects of HIV/AIDS infection.
2. By the end of this session participants will be able to explain and compare the perceived stigma that individuals infected with HIV/AIDS experience versus the stigma that the population at large feels towards persons living with HIV/AIDS.
3. By the end of this session participants will be able to identify what factors can be changed to eliminate the perceived stigma that persons living with HIV/AIDS experience in order to improve the provision of dental services in this population.

Framework

- Objectives
- Stigma Background
- Research – HIV Stigma Comparisons
- Future Directions

“Everyone hears only what he understands.”

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Atlantic City, New Jersey, by Bob Jagendorf

Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Stigma Factors
- **Objective 2:** Comparison of Stigma Perceptions
- **Objective 3:** Possible Changes to reduce perceived stigma and improve the provision of dental services

Stigma - Official Definitions

a *archaic* : a scar left by a hot iron : brand

b : a mark of shame or discredit : stain <bore the stigma of cowardice>

c : an identifying mark or characteristic; *specifically*
: a specific diagnostic sign of a disease

Merriam Webster's Dictionary

Stigma - Definition

“The collection of all negative attitudes aimed at people living with HIV/AIDS”

Deborah Brimlow

Stigma - Background

- Origins – Mystery Disease
- GRID
- Ryan White
- Mainstream Education



Stigma - Background

- Dangers
 - Emotional (identity engulfment, self esteem, social withdrawal)
 - Less likely to test (interference with prevention / early tx)
 - Psychosocial (withdrawal)

Literature Review / Study Background

- Quantifying Stigma Perception – Stigma Scales
 - Stigma Perception of HIV+ Population
 - Stigma Perceptions of the Public towards HIV+ Population
- Much study has be done about each topic
- Seek to fill the gap between the stigma perception of the HIV+ population and the stigma perception of the public.

Hypothesis

- How does the stigma perceived by HIV+ populations compare to the stigma attitudes of the general population?



Yosemite Valley, by Boris D.

Study Design

- Community surveys
- Distribution– UMDNJ Dental Centers
 - Underserved Populations
 - Men / Women Aged 25-64
 - Anonymous Participation

Stigma Surveys

- Distribution of Stigma scale surveys
- Berger Stigma Scale – HIV+ Population
 - Questions reviewed by experts and subjected to validity analysis
- Adapted Stigma Scale – HIV- Population
 - Modified and Adapted from Berger's Scale
 - Temporal Validity Established

Stigma Surveys

- 40 questions
- 3 Demographic Questions
 - Age, Gender, Race
- 4 point Likert scale (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree)

Sample Questions

HIV+ Survey

- In many areas of my life, no one knows I have HIV.
- I feel guilty because I have HIV.
- Telling someone I have HIV is risky.
- People with HIV lose their jobs when their employers find out.
- I work hard to keep my HIV a secret.

HIV- Survey

- In many areas of someone with HIV's life, no one knows they have it.
- People feel guilty because they have HIV.
- Telling someone they have HIV is risky.
- People with HIV lose their jobs when their employers find out.
- People with HIV work hard to keep it a secret.

Stigma Factors

- Personalized Stigma
- Disclosure Concerns
- Negative Self Image
- Concern with Public Attitudes about People with HIV



Stigma Scale Score Ranges

- Total HIV Stigma Scale 40 to 160
- Personalized Stigma 18 to 72
- Disclosure Concerns 10 to 40
- Negative self-image 13 to 52
- Public attitudes subscale 20 to 80





Barcelona, Spain Photo by Bernard Gagnon

Demographics

HIV+ Responses (N=50)

Age Range	% of Responses	Gender	% of Respondents	Ethnicity	% of Respondents
25-34	12	Male	68	White	42
35-44	28	Female	32	African American/Black	40
44-54	42	Transgender	0	Hispanic	14
55-64	18			Other	4

Demographics

HIV- Responses (N = 50)

Age Range	% of Responses	Gender	% of Respondents	Ethnicity	% of Respondents
25-34	22	Male	44	White	78
35-44	26	Female	56	African American/Black	14
44-54	26	Transgender	0	Hispanic	0
55-64	26			Other	8

Demographics

- Reflective of area demographics of HIV+ and HIV-patient populations
 - HIV+ Population relative to HIV- Population
 - Greater proportion of Males
 - Greater proportion of African Americans and Hispanics
 - Greater proportion aged 35-54

Results

	HIV +				
	FACTORS / SUBSCALES				Total HIV Stigma Score
	Personalized Stigma	Disclosure Concerns	Negative Self Image	Concern with Public Attitudes about People with HIV	
Average	41.78	28.02	29.62	49.16	98.12
Median	40.5	28	29	49	96

	HIV -				
	FACTORS / SUBSCALES				Total HIV Stigma Score
	Personalized Stigma	Disclosure Concerns	Negative Self Image	Concern with Public Attitudes about People with HIV	
Average	48.08	29.8	34.32	52.84	108.36
Median	49	29	34	53	108



Results

- HIV- population measured a larger total HIV stigma score than the HIV+ population
- HIV- population measured larger stigma scores across all four subscales than the HIV+ population
- Largest Discrepancy – Personalized Stigma
- Smallest Discrepancy – Disclosure Concerns

Conclusions

- A measurement of how well the general population understands the stigma that HIV+ population experiences
- The general population needs to further understand “personalized” stigma

Dental Impact

- Dental Offices
 - Disclosure concerns
 - Failure to disclose medical history
 - Education centers
 - Wide segments of population
 - Excellent opportunity to educate
- Dentist Education
 - Provide better more understanding care to HIV+ population

Thank you for your attention!

Any Questions?



Glacier Park, Montana by Ruslan Vladimirovich Albitsky