

Setting the Stage:

What we Know About Stigma and Discrimination in BC

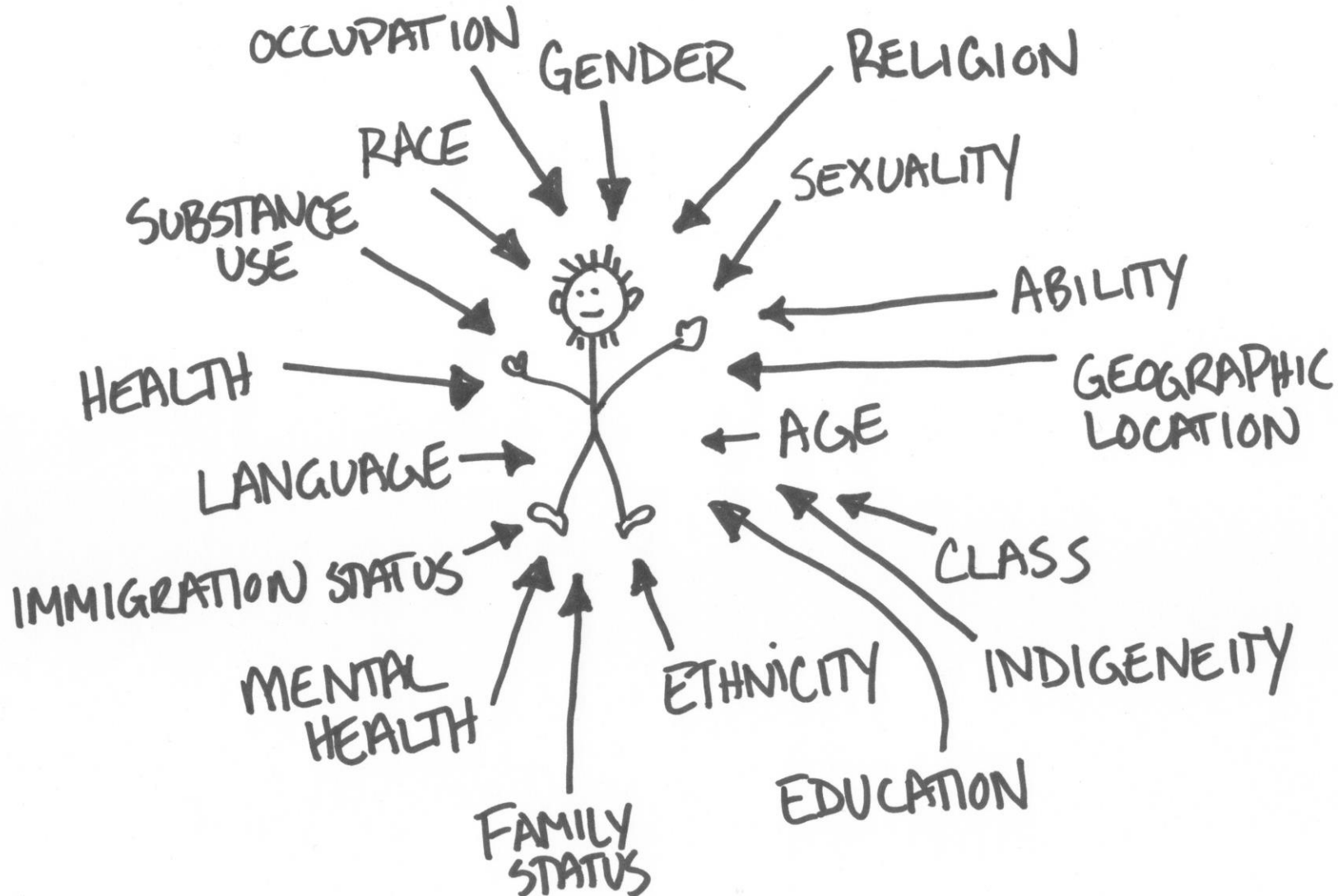
Deliberative Dialogue
November 21, 2019

Stigma is not new!

But recently there has been a lot of work done to gather stories and narratives showing how widespread stigma is in people's lives and to study stigmas' impacts .

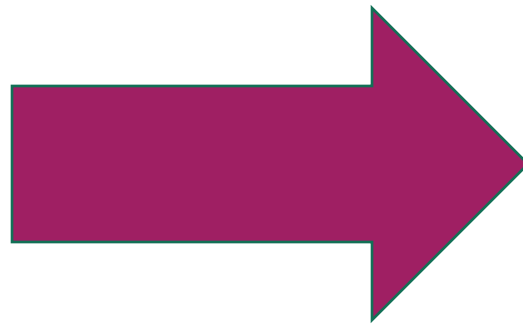
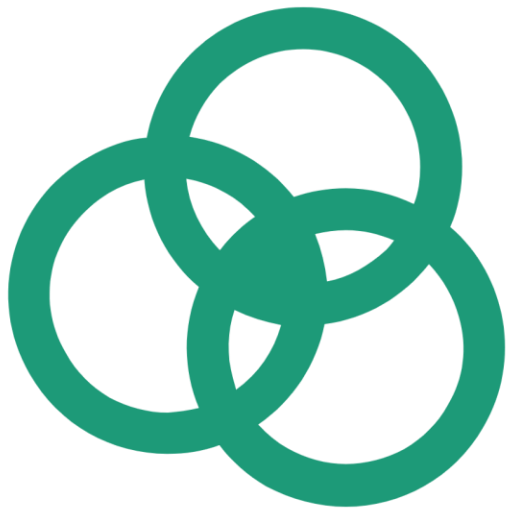


Intersectionality



Intersecting Stigmas...

Impact all aspects of a person's life including -- how we access health and social services and also our health outcomes



Take some time this morning to share what
partners in the room have learned about
stigmas in BC



Indigenous Communities and Stigma






<http://www.icad-cisd.com/about-us/membership/featured-member/trevor-stratton/>



What resonates with
Trevor's Poster



How can we use our own
knowledge and stories to
reduce stigma?

Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC)

Sex Now Survey

- National survey of sex between guys – conducted by the Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC). Has been conducted since 2002.
- 2018 survey conducted in-person at 15 Pride festivals nationally
- 2019 survey online and recruiting now! (www.cbrc.net/sexnow)
 - “The survey asks questions about your everyday life, including your sex life, mental health, substance use, attitudes and your opinions on Canadian Blood Services current deferral policies for guys who are into guys.”
 - Looks at information around HIV, hepatitis C, sexual and substance use behaviours, mental health, service access, community connection, violence and discrimination



Some participants in Sex Now 2018 who were eligible but not on PrEP reported judgement as a reason they were not currently taking PrEP:

Stated prevented them from taking PrEP	
Judgement from guys in the community	5.4%
Judgement from a healthcare provider	8.3%

Some participants in Sex Now 2018 reported experiencing discrimination based on different bases

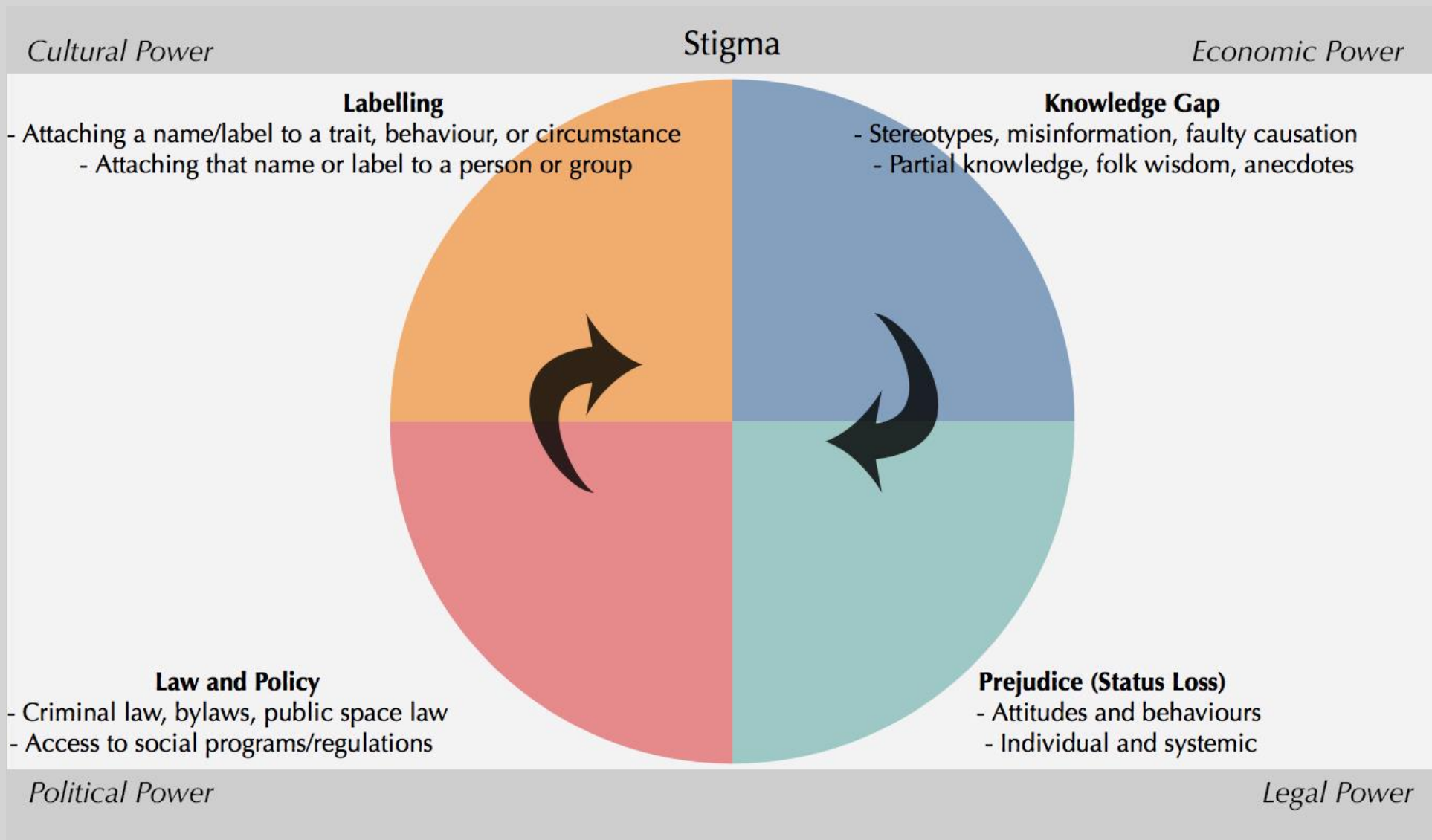
	Respondents experience of discrimination in past year <u>by anyone</u>
Sexual orientation	26.2%
Body type	26.1%
Age	24.3%
Race/ethnicity	14.8%
Gender expression	10.8%
(Dis)abilities	6.1%
Trans experience	5.9%
HIV status	4.6%
PrEP status	4.1%

PROJECT INCLUSION

CONFRONTING ANTI-HOMELESS
AND ANTI-SUBSTANCE USER STIGMA
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



This project aims to address stigma's root causes by offering analysis of how laws and policies in BC are both shaped by stigma and serve to perpetuate it. This report offers that analysis alongside actionable recommendations for change.



To learn more visit: http://www.pivotlegal.org/project_inclusion_full



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Stigma-Relating Findings from the Participatory Evaluation of the
Overdose Prevention and Education Network (OPEN)

Stigma Related Findings: OPEN Evaluation

- 28 peers interviewed by peer members of OPEN's Evaluation Steering Committee, between August and September 2019.
- Majority (64%) described attitudes towards PWUD in their community, in harshly negative terms:
 - “Terrible, horrible, discriminatory, hostile, brutal, hatred”
- Many peers (45%) cited the stigma experienced and encountered in the course of their daily lives, through contact with health care workers, bureaucrats, police and the general public, as a barrier impacting their ability to participate meaningfully and create positive change.

Stigma-Related Findings: OPEN Evaluation

- A majority of peers (67%) said they witnessed positive shifts in people's attitudes towards PWUD in their community.
 - Perception that cause of any (positive) shifts, as communities are banding together because "they're tired of losing people".
- Peers identified specific activities they think might be having a positive impact in shifting people's attitudes towards PWUD in their community, including:
 - Sharing stories and connecting with people
 - Specific events and community gatherings: Overdose awareness day, community meals, radio broadcasts and live drama performances
 - Cleaning up used drug paraphernalia and garbage

Stigma Related Findings: OPEN Evaluation

- Peers also spoke about the need to find ways to address the stigma:
 - “Just breaking the stigma around it, more people coming out, more people talking. More people being open. I think that’s the only thing that’s going to change this. More love, more compassion, more understanding, more peers talking.”



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Pacific Hepatitis C Network – Experience of people with lived hepatitis C experiences of stigma in BC

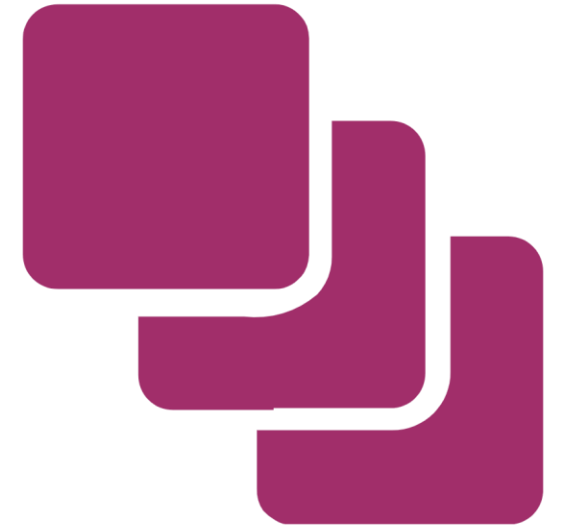


Hepatitis C stigma

From Factors Affecting Attendance for Hepatitis C Care: Addressing Stigma and Discrimination Stigma presentation, September 2015 by Liza McGuinness. These findings align with the experience of community.

Multiple sources

- association with drug use (immensely stigmatized, criminalized)
- contagious & chronic illness
- lack of knowledge

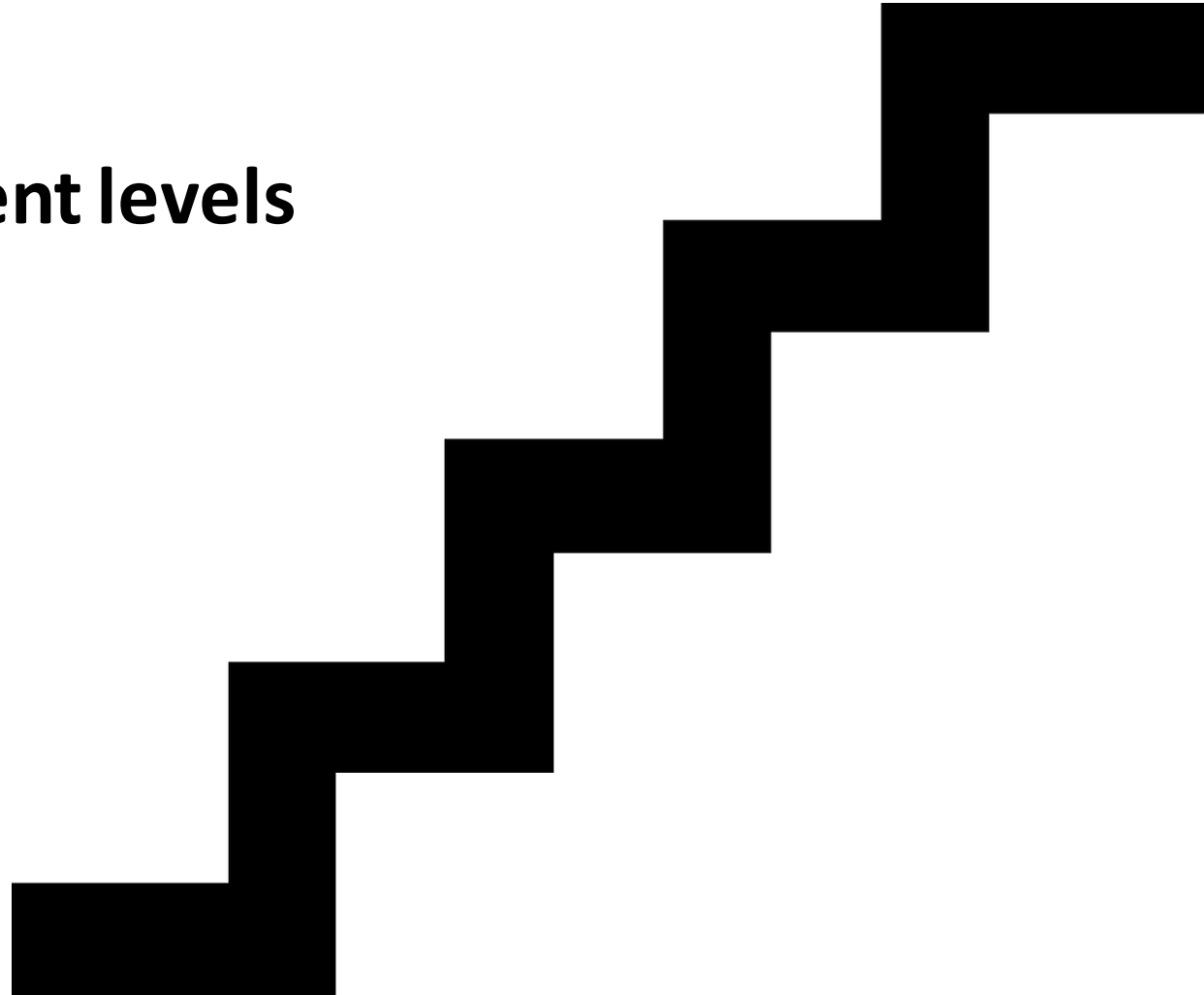


Hepatitis C Stigma

HCV stigma occurs at different levels

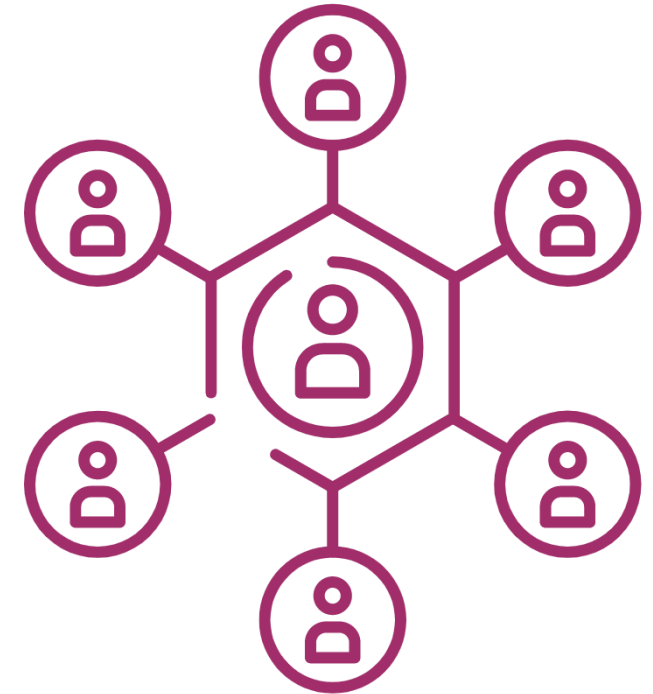
- self-stigmatization
- one-on-one
- structural

From Factors Affecting Attendance for Hepatitis C Care: Addressing Stigma and Discrimination Stigma presentation, September 2015 by Liza McGuinness. These findings align with the experience of community.



Hepatitis C Stigma

Occurs most frequently in health care and frequently within families and social networks

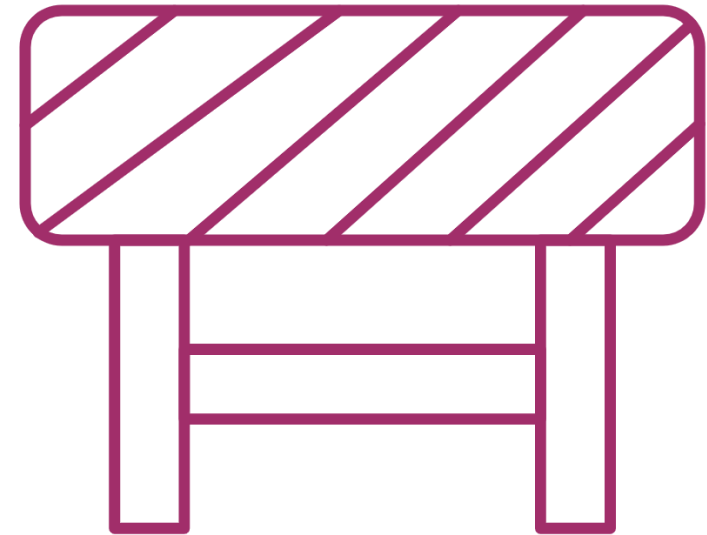


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Hepatitis C Stigma

Effects of HCV Stigma

- Prevents people from seeking diagnosis, care and treatment
- Prevents people from participating in research
- Lowers quality of life
- Adds to the burden of illness

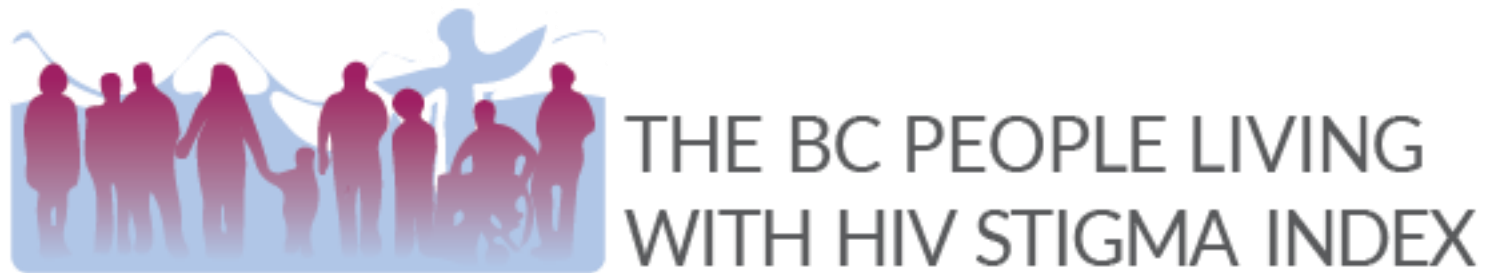


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Pacific AIDS Network (PAN)

BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index

- Stigma Index is an international tool – used in over 100 countries since 2008. BC was the first region in Canada to implement the Index
- Community-based, peer-driven study
- 176 participants across BC



Stigma Experiences in Healthcare & Social Services

In the last 12 months, did you...



Avoid going to a local clinic?

YES 25% (44)

Avoid going to a hospital?

YES 22% (38)

N: 175



Avoid social services?

YES 24% (42)

N: 175

30%
avoid healthcare
as a result of
stigma or
discrimination
(52/176)

Intersectionality of Stigma

Participants were asked, if they had experienced stigma and/or discrimination for reasons other than their HIV status and were asked to select one category that best explained why they felt they were stigmatized or discriminated against.

36.7% reported none

63.3% had selected another reasons for stigma or discrimination

Limitation: people were forced to only select one reason, doesn't truly speak to intersectionality but is a starting place

Other reasons for stigma or discrimination selected:

Reason	% of Participants
Drug Use	30.1%
Sexual orientation or identity	14.5%
Being a member of an Indigenous group	5.4%
Aging	4.2%

AFRO CANADIAN POSITIVE NETWORK OF BC

STIGMA IN EXILE

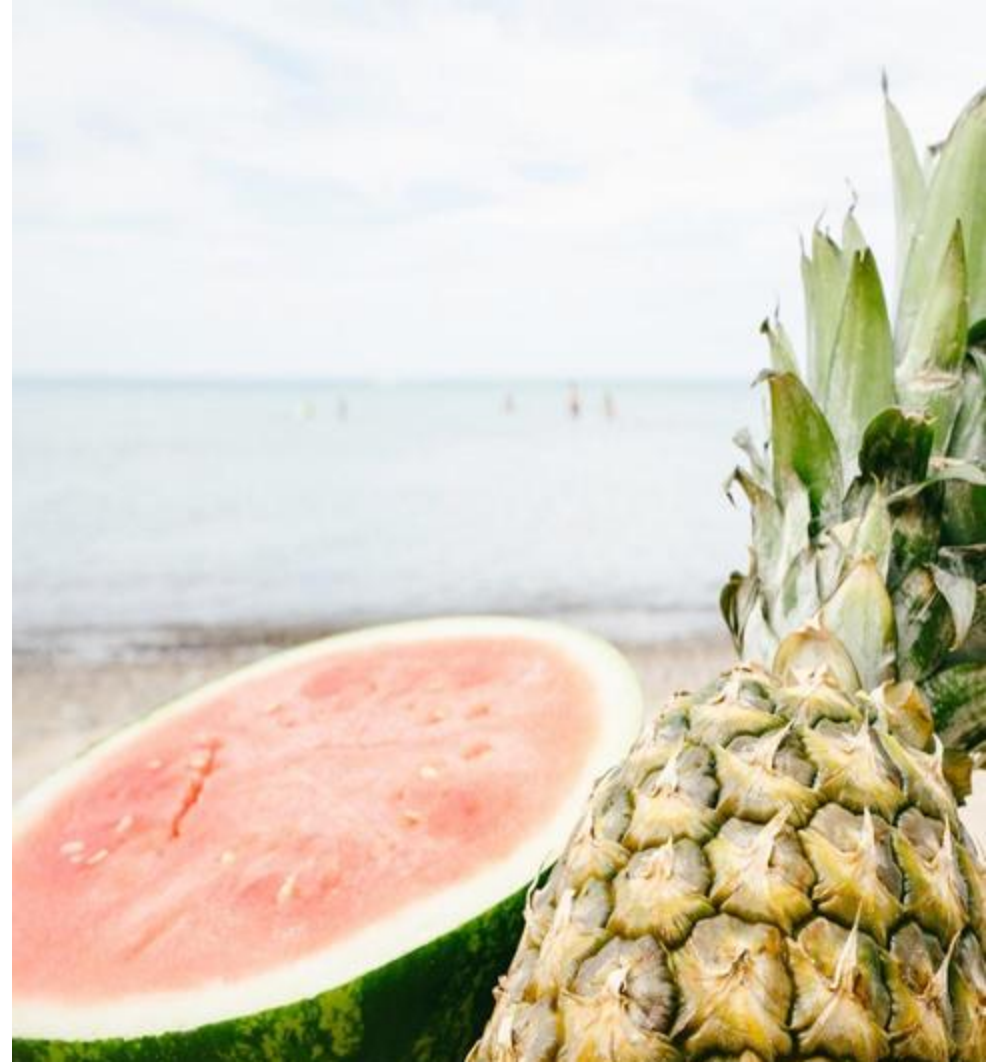
COUNTRY OF ASYLUM

NOT DESERVING

AFRO CANADIAN POSITIVE NETWORK OF BC

UNHCR

**Special food for
Special people on a
Special Day**



**AFRO CANADIAN POSITIVE
NETWORK OF BC**

FAMILY MEMBERS

DESPONDENCY



AFRO CANADIAN POSITIVE NETWORK OF BC

ACCEPTED BUT FEARED

NEW FRIENDS

RELATIONSHIPS

HEALTH PROVIDERS





AFRO CANADIAN POSITIVE NETWORK OF BC

COUNTER STIGMA

EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

WORK WITH HEALTH PROVIDERS

CONTINUOUS AWARENESS

AFRO CANADIAN POSITIVE NETWORK OF BC



Q&A