

IN+CARE OC

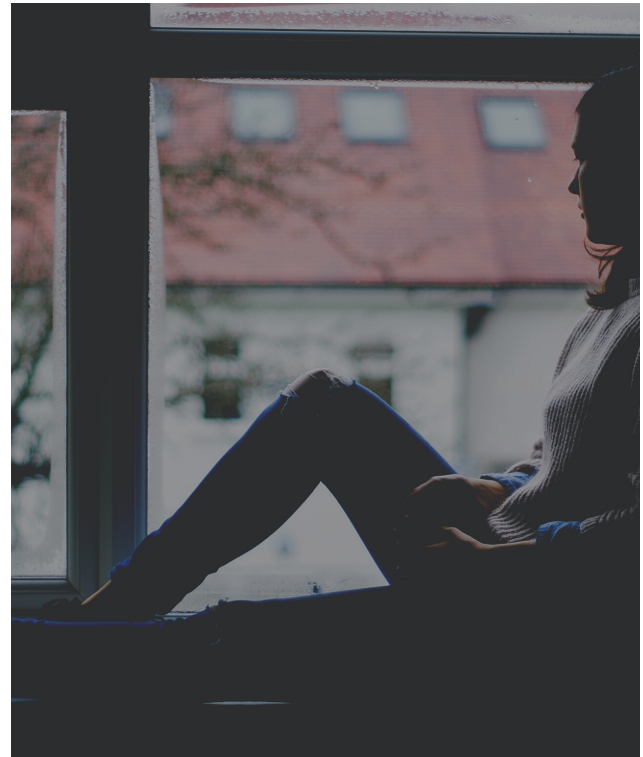
A NEWSLETTER FOR PROVIDERS SERVING PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV IN ORANGE COUNTY

HIV STIGMA: BARRIERS TO HEALTH CARE

HIV stigma and discrimination can be barriers to prevention, testing, treatment, and support for people living with HIV (PLWH) or at risk of HIV. PLWH may encounter stigma in a variety of situations including being shunned by family and friends; receiving poor health care treatment; and experiencing insults or harassment. HIV-related stigma can have a negative impact on health since it can prevent individuals from learning their HIV status, disclosing their

status to sexual partners, and/or getting medical care and treatment.

HIV stigma in health care settings can be a barrier to the HIV response. It can occur between clients and staff, amongst staff, and within an organization's processes and policies. It is important for providers to be aware of the potential bias HIV stigma can cause within health care because it can affect an individual's access to treatment and quality of care.



HIV STIGMA: BY THE NUMBERS



9 in 10 Americans believe that there is still stigma around HIV

88% of Americans agree that "people are quick to judge those with HIV"

51% of non-LGBTQ Americans reported feeling knowledgeable about HIV

*State of HIV Stigma Survey 2020, GLAAD
www.glaad.org/endhivstigma*

HIV STIGMA TODAY

HIV stigma continues to be a worldwide issue. Some of the same fears surrounding HIV in the 1980s are still around today. According to a survey on HIV stigma by GLAAD*, about 9 in 10 Americans believe "there is still stigma around HIV". The survey also showed that 88% of Americans agree that "people are quick to judge those with HIV." A majority of Americans still do not know a lot about HIV including how it gets transmitted and that it is treatable. The State of HIV Stigma Study* found that only half of Americans feel knowledgeable about HIV.

**State of HIV Stigma Survey 2020, GLAAD*

WHAT CAN PROVIDERS DO ABOUT HIV STIGMA?

When we support PLWH, we can help make it easier for them to lead healthy lives. As a provider, if you are wondering how you can help end HIV stigma, here are some ideas:

HIV STIGMA EDUCATION

Ongoing education and training on HIV stigma is an effective way to help overcome potential bias among providers. It is important to provide stigma education and training to all staff within the organization. By doing so, all staff members can help reduce stigma and any potential bias within the health care setting.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Involve PLWH in the delivery of HIV stigma training, e.g. have PLWH as facilitators
- Develop strong organizational policies and procedures that promote safe working environments and zero tolerance against discrimination
- Identify individuals who hold influence to be champions of the anti-stigma message within the organization
- Learn how to talk about HIV and stigma in a supportive way using the Stigma Language Guide.
www.cdc.gov/stophivtogether/hiv-stigma/ways-to-stop

RESOURCES

OC Anti-Stigma Campaign

www.ochealthinfo.com/about-hca/public-health-services/services/diseases-conditions/disease-information/hiv-planning-6

OC Mental Health Resources for PLWH

www.ochealthinfo.com/about-hca/public-health-services/services/diseases-conditions/disease-information/hiv-planning-1#mental

Training Guide for a Stigma-Free Health Facility

www.healthpolicyproject.com/index.cfm?id=publications&get=pubID&pubID=281



NOT SURE WHAT
HIV STIGMA
LOOKS LIKE?

Here are some examples:

1. Believing that only certain groups of people can get HIV
2. Refusing casual contact with someone living with HIV
3. Socially isolating a member of a community because they are HIV positive

#StopHIVtogether

ACT AGAINST AIDS

ORANGE COUNTY HIV QUALITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This is a project of the Orange County HIV Quality Management Committee and HIV Client Advocacy Committee. The HIV Quality Management Committee works to improve the quality of Ryan White services. If you have feedback or suggestions for future newsletters, please contact Kristin Alix at KAlix@ochca.com.

