HIV-related stigma within GP practices in the United Kingdom: findings from the STIGMASurveyUK 2015


Background

- The People Living with HIV Stigma Survey UK 2015 is a collaborative community-led initiative that captures the feelings and experiences of living with HIV today.
- A total of 1576 people were recruited from 120 community organisations and 47 HIV clinics throughout the United Kingdom (UK) and completed an anonymous online survey. Responses were stored securely and analysed by Public Health England with community engagement.
- We examine the experiences of people at their general practice focusing on the previous 12 months. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed.

Results

1528 (97%) people completed the healthcare section. In the past year, a third (n=498) of participants reported being worried or concerned about being treated differently to other patients at their GP practice. 13% of people reported being treated differently to other patients at their practice and 14% had avoided care when required.

Experiences of worry, avoidance and refused treatment at the GP practice differed by subgroups (Fig 1).

The majority (88%; 1528) of people reported that their GP was aware of their status and among these over half reported feeling a high level of support (58%) and control (65%) during the disclosure process in this setting.

Fewer Black African or Caribbean people reported feeling supported (47%, 150/319) compared to white British or Irish participants (58%, 552/948; p<0.001). A higher proportion of men who have sex with men (MSM) reported feeling supported during disclosure (59%, 558/952) compared to others (47%, 270/576; p<0.001).

Avoidance of care in the past year was reported more frequently (19%, 59/319) among Black African or Caribbean participants compared to white British or Irish participants (10%; 97/948) (p<0.001).

Conclusions

- People living with HIV in the UK continue to experience stigma and discrimination in the general practice setting; with significant differences by subgroups.
- Despite high levels of awareness of HIV status in the GP practice, a little more than half of people feel in control and supported during disclosure.
- Educational tools for staff within GP practices are recommended to address HIV related stigma and discrimination in this setting.

Who took part?

Participants broadly represented the demography of people accessing HIV care in the UK.

Figure 1: Experiences of worry, avoidance and refused treatment in GP clinics

![Graph showing experiences of worry, avoidance and refused treatment in GP clinics](image)

Figure 2: Awareness and support in GP practice

![Graph showing awareness and support in GP practice](image)

Acknowledgements

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View and download all Findings by key populations and region at www.stigmaindex.org.uk