

policy

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MEASURING HIV
STIGMA AND
DISCRIMINATION
AMONG HEALTH
FACILITY STAFF

STANDARDIZED
BRIEF
QUESTIONNAIRE
SHORT VERSION

This tool was prepared by the Health Policy Project.



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¹ Health Policy Project. 2012. “Measuring HIV Stigma and Discrimination among Health Facility Staff: Field-tested questionnaire.” Available at: www.healthpolicyproject.com.

INTRODUCTION

New Globally Tested Tool for Measuring HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination in Health Facilities

For people living with and affected by HIV, stigma and discrimination within health facilities are serious barriers to healthcare access and engagement. Researchers have documented numerous instances worldwide of people living with HIV receiving substandard care or being deterred from seeking care. Although progress has been made in training and other interventions to reduce HIV-related stigma in healthcare facilities, these programs have not been institutionalized as routine practice or implemented on a large scale. Moreover, the tools for measuring stigma tend to be overly long and time-consuming to administer, thus infeasible for use in facilities.

In an effort to address these issues, an international team of researchers developed a brief, globally standardized questionnaire for measuring stigma and discrimination in health facilities. This tool can help facilitate routine monitoring of HIV-related stigma as well as the expansion and improvement of programming and policies at the health-facility level.

The questionnaire was developed and tested through a collaborative, deliberative process that involved experts from multiple countries. The experts agreed to focus on four areas that are especially relevant to stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings: 1) fear of HIV infection among health facility staff; 2) stereotypes and prejudice related to people living with or thought to be living with HIV; 3) observed and secondary stigma and discrimination; and 4) policy and work environment.

A questionnaire was created and researchers field-tested it in China (n=300), Dominica (n=335), Egypt (n=300), Kenya (n=350), Puerto Rico (n=301), and St. Kitts/Nevis (n=307). The testing involved administration to clinical and nonclinical staff members, with a mix of self- and interviewer-administered modes. After the field testing, the research team gathered to consider the survey items' performance across the six sites, examining psychometric properties and contextual issues.

The resulting questionnaire measures programmatically actionable drivers of HIV-related stigma and discrimination among healthcare facility staff. It also captures observations of HIV-related stigma and discrimination within the facility and the extent to which providers experience stigma and discrimination as a result of providing care to people living with or believed to be living with HIV.

Two questionnaires are publicly available: a brief version for program evaluation and a comprehensive version for research purposes. Each questionnaire can be used for high-prevalence or low-prevalence settings.

More information for implementation will be available in a forthcoming guidance document. For further information, please contact Laura Nyblade at lnyblade@rti.org.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

First we will ask about your background.

1. How old were you at your last birthday? years

2. What is your sex?

- Female Male

3. What is your current job?

(Adjust as appropriate for country context by adding or deleting categories according to sample.)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accountant | <input type="checkbox"/> Cashier | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dentist | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental Technician/Hygienist | | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educator | <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory Technician | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Health Worker/Peer Educator | | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records Personnel | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Technician | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacist | <input type="checkbox"/> Receptionist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security Guard | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Attendant | <input type="checkbox"/> Phlebotomist | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="text"/> | | |

4. If low prevalence use question 4a. If high prevalence use question 4b.

a. *In the past 12 months*, approximately how many HIV-positive patients did you provide with care or services?

b. *In a typical week*, approximately how many HIV-positive patients do you provide with care or services?

5. Have you ever received training in the following subjects? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. HIV stigma and discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Infection control and universal precautions
(including post-exposure prophylaxis) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Patients' informed consent, privacy, and confidentiality | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Key population stigma and discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECTION 2: INFECTION CONTROL

Now we will ask you about infection concerns in your health facility.

6. If low prevalence use question 6a. If high prevalence use question 6b.

a. How worried would you be about getting HIV if you did the following?

If any of the following is not one of your job responsibilities, please select “Not applicable.”

- i. Touched the clothing or bedding of a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable
- ii. Dressed the wounds of a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable
- iii. Drew blood from a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable
- iv. Took the temperature of a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable

b. How worried would you be about getting HIV if you did the following?

If any of the following is not one of your job responsibilities or you are living with HIV, please select “Not applicable.”

- i. Touched the clothing or bedding of a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable
- ii. Dressed the wounds of a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable
- iii. Drew blood from a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable
- iv. Took the temperature of a patient living with HIV
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried Not applicable

7. Do you typically use any of the following measures when providing care or services for a patient living with HIV?

a. Avoid physical contact

- Yes No Not applicable

b. Wear double gloves

- Yes No Not applicable

c. Use any special infection-control measures with patients living with HIV that you do not use with other patients

- Yes No Not applicable

SECTION 3: HEALTH FACILITY ENVIRONMENT

Now we will ask about practices in your health facility and your experiences working in a facility that provides care to people living with HIV.

8. In the past 12 months have you seen a person living with HIV in your health facility?

- Yes → go to question 9
- No → skip to question 10
- Don't know → skip to question 10

9. *In the past 12 months*, how often have you observed the following in your health facility?

- a. Healthcare workers unwilling to care for a patient living with or thought to be living with HIV
 Never Once or twice Several times Most of the time
- b. Healthcare workers providing poorer quality of care to a patient living with or thought to be living with HIV than to other patients
 Never Once or twice Several times Most of the time
- c. Healthcare workers talking badly about people living with or thought to be living with HIV
 Never Once or twice Several times Most of the time

10. If low prevalence use question 10a. If high prevalence use question 10b.

- a. How worried are you about:
 - i. People talking badly about you because you care for patients living with HIV?
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried
 - ii. Friends and family avoiding you because you care for patients living with HIV?
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried
 - iii. Colleagues avoiding you because of your work caring for patients living with HIV?
 Not worried A little worried Worried Very worried
- b. *In the past 12 months*, how often have you:
 - i. Experienced people talking badly about you because you care for patients living with HIV?
 Never Once or twice Several times Most of the time
 - ii. Been avoided by friends and family because you care for patients living with HIV?
 Never Once or twice Several times Most of the time
 - iii. Been avoided by colleagues because of your work caring for patients living with HIV?
 Never Once or twice Several times Most of the time

11. How hesitant are healthcare workers in this facility to work alongside a co-worker living with HIV regardless of their duties?

- Not hesitant A little hesitant Somewhat hesitant Very hesitant

SECTION 4: HEALTH FACILITY POLICIES

Now we are going to ask about the institutional policy and work environment in your facility.

12. In my facility it is not acceptable to test a patient for HIV without their knowledge.

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

13. I will get in trouble at work if I discriminate against patients living with HIV.

- Yes No Don't Know

14. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?

a. There are adequate supplies in my health facility that reduce my risk of becoming infected with HIV.

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

b. There are standardized procedures/protocols in my health facility that reduce my risk of becoming infected with HIV.

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

15. My health facility has written guidelines to protect patients living with HIV from discrimination.

- Yes No Don't Know

SECTION 5: OPINIONS ABOUT PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Now we are going to ask about opinions related to people living with HIV.

16. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?

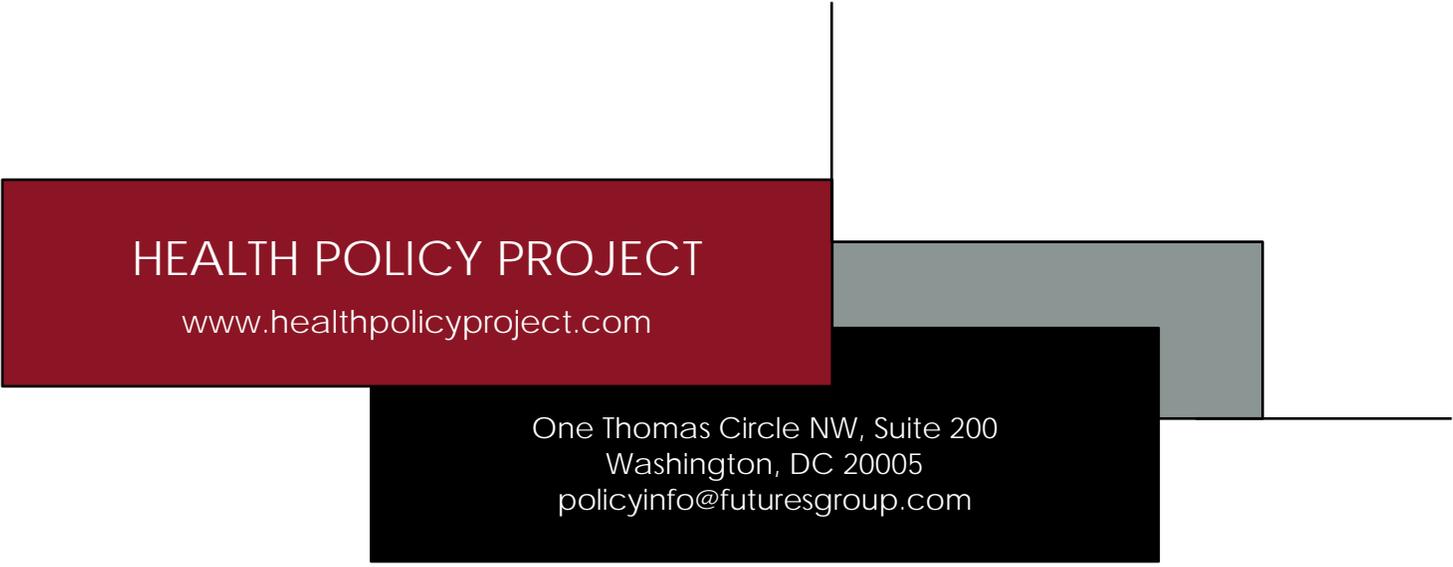
- a. Most people living with HIV do not care if they infect other people.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
- b. People living with HIV should feel ashamed of themselves.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
- c. Most people living with HIV have had many sexual partners.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
- d. People get infected with HIV because they engage in irresponsible behaviors.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

17. Women living with HIV should be allowed to have babies if they wish.

- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

18. Please tell us if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.

- a. If I had a choice, I would prefer not to provide services to people who inject illegal drugs.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
- b. If I had a choice, I would prefer not to provide services to men who have sex with men.
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
- c. If I had a choice, I would prefer not to provide services to sex workers
(specify: male or females or both, depending on context).
 Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree



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