



Stigma Snapshot

People living with hepatitis C 2021

Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs). The Australian Government Department of Health strategies for BBVs and STIs explicitly aim to “eliminate the negative impact of stigma, discrimination, and legal and human rights issues on people’s health”.

In 2021, a survey of people who inject drugs was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma. Participants who had ever been diagnosed with hepatitis C were asked about their experiences of stigma in relation to their hepatitis C. This followed on from previous surveys of people who inject drugs and had been diagnosed with hepatitis C, conducted since 2016.

280 people completed the 2021 survey

60% male – 70% heterosexual – 22% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
46% completed high school – 23% had received HCV treatment before 2016
51% had received HCV treatment since 2016

Note: N/A was not provided as a response option after 2016.

In 2021, more than half of participants (52%) reported experiencing stigma within the last 12 months in relation to their hepatitis C,



In 2021, 56% of participants reported any negative treatment by health workers, including 7

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