

Stigma Snapshot

People who inject drugs 2021

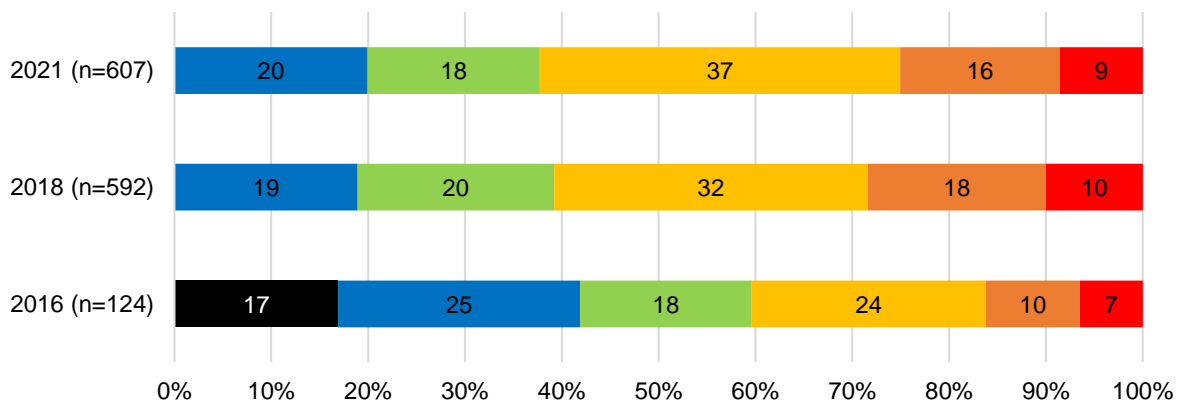
Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs). The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) has funded a series of surveys to investigate the experiences of people who inject drugs (PWID) with stigma and discrimination. This survey was conducted in 2021, following surveys in 2016 and 2018.

In 2021, a survey of people who inject drugs was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma in relation to their injecting drug use. This followed on from previous surveys of people who inject drugs, conducted in 2016 in 2018.

614 people completed the 2021 survey

56% male . 67% heterosexual . 20% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
54% completed high school . 38% employed

In the last 12 months, have you experienced any stigma or discrimination

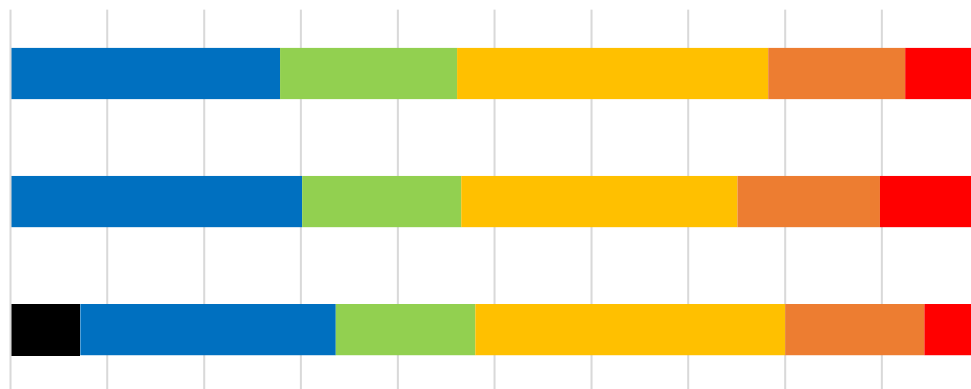


Note: N/A was not provided as a response option after 2016.

In 2021, four out of five participants (80%) reported experiencing stigma within the last 12 months in relation to their injecting drug use, including 25% from other people, 18% from health services, 37% from community, 16% from family and friends, and 9% from no stigma or discrimination. This is significantly different to those reported in 2018.



In 2021, nearly three-quarters of participants (72%) reported any negative treatment by health workers, including 22% who reported negative treatment from health workers. This was slightly higher than in 2018, when 70% of participants reported negative treatment from health workers, though the difference was not statistically significant.



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

Participants were asked additional questions about steps they had taken to avoid being treated negatively by health services.

Most participants indicated that at some point in the past 12 months, they had not told health workers about their drug use (75

