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

In 2020, an indicator measuring experienced stigma was included in an online survey of sex workers in Australia.

647 people
completed the survey

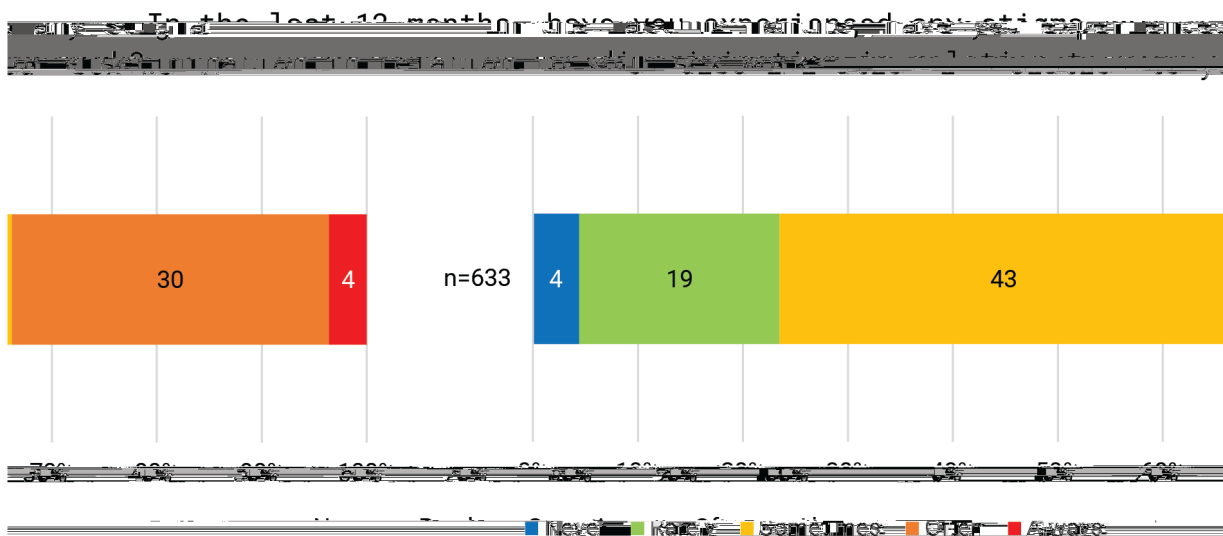
89%
female

80%
aged 35 years or younger

59%
heterosexual

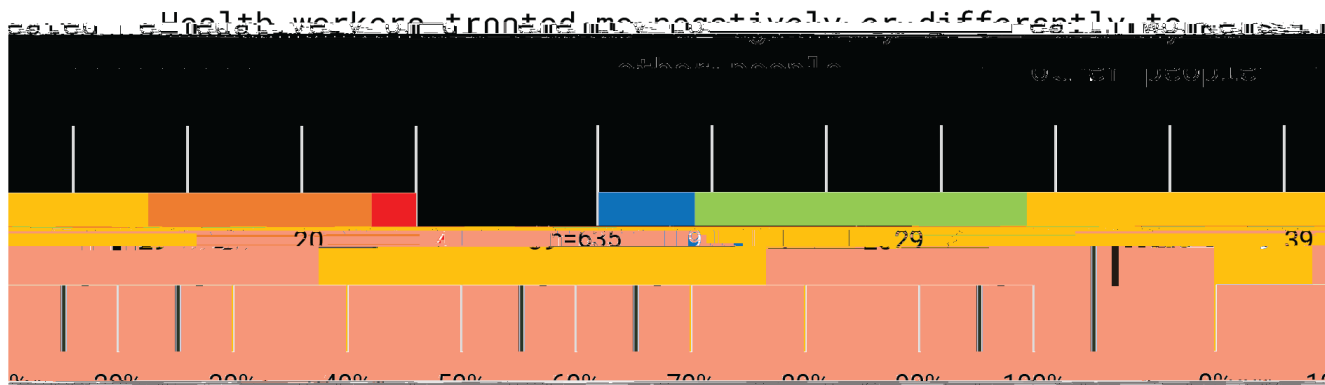
21%
university educated

21%
more than 5 years' experience in Australian sex industry



In 2020, 96% of participants reported experiencing any stigma or discrimination related

Similarly, 91% of participants reported any negative treatment by health workers, including 24% who indicated this 'often' or 'always' happened.



If the results presented here have upset you in any way, we encourage you to seek support from Lifeline (13 11 44) or your state or territory sex worker organisation.

This project was supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health.

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of Scarlet Alliance and thank everyone who completed the survey.

For more information on this project, please see:

