

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV STIGMA INDEX – FIJI ISLANDS

Final REPORT ON FINDINGS April 6, 2010

Introduction:

The Fiji Network for People Living with HIV AIDS (FJM+) hereby submits this report to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) on the results of the *People Living with HIV Stigma Index* conducted in the Fiji Islands in 2010. This submission is based on interviews conducted in Suva and Lautoka on the Island of Viti Levu and in Labasa on the Island of Vanua Levu.

The conduct of this study required and achieved the approval of the Fiji National Research Ethics Review Committee. This final report follows the preliminary report submitted on the 14th January 2010.

Method:

All interviews were conducted by two key members of FJM+ following a period of data collection training with the Data Manager of the Research Unit of the Fiji School of Medicine, in order to achieve standardized understanding of the questions and of the notations required. The questions and order of the interview were consistent with the International Stigma Index study allowing direct comparability. Completed interviews were entered into the STATA data management tool and frequency distributions were run. This report is essentially descriptive, including only the frequency of responses and a summary of the qualitative responses. Further data analysis of the responses to be conducted within Fiji will seek statistical associations between the responses to questions, and will present data disaggregated by gender and age.

Results:

A sample of 45 People Living with HIV was interviewed, although not all respondents answered all questions. Summary notations on the findings follow each table.

SECTION 1. INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Q1 Sex

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	19	42.2	42.2
Female	26	57.8	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Female respondents outnumbered males.

Q2 How old are you?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<14	1	2.2	2.2
15-19	2	4.4	6.7
20-24	3	6.7	13.3
25-29	10	22.2	35.6
30-39	18	40.0	75.6
40-49	10	22.2	97.8
50+	1	2.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Over 80% of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 49.

Q3 How long have you been living with HIV? (years)

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 0-1	3	6.7	6.7
1-4	17	37.8	44.4
5-9	17	37.8	82.2
10-14	7	15.6	97.8
15+	1	2.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Three quarters of the respondents had been living with HIV for between 1 and 9 years.

Q4 Current Relationship Status

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Partner is currently living in household.	23	51.1	51.1
Married partner is temporarily living away from the household.	3	6.7	57.8
In a relationship	3	6.7	64.4
Single	12	26.7	91.1
Divorced or separated.	3	6.7	97.8
Widow or widower.	1	2.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Half of the respondents are currently co-habiting with husband/wife/partner, while more than one quarter of respondents are of single marital status.

Q5 If you are currently in a relationship how long have you been involved with your husband/wife/partner?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0-1 yr	9	29.0	29.0
1-4 yrs	7	22.6	51.6
5-9 yrs	11	35.5	87.1
10-14 yrs	3	9.7	96.8
15+	1	3.2	100.0
Total	31	100.0	

More than a quarter of respondents are in a new relationship (<1 year) while almost half have been in a relationship for 5 years or more.

Q6 Are you sexually active at the moment?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
yes	37	82.2	82.2
no	8	17.8	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of the respondents are currently sexually active.

Q7 Do you belong to, or have you in the past belonged to, any of the following groups?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
MSM	2	3.7	3.7
G or L	1	1.9	5.6
Sex Work	5	9.3	14.9
Ind.Group	11	20.4	35.3
Migrant W	6	11.1	46.4
Prisoner	6	11.1	57.7
None	23	42.6	100.0
Total	54	100.0	

Multiple responses allowed.

Over 40% had not belonged to any identified group. (The definition indigenous group (IG) may not mean a social sub-group in Fiji as there are 2 major ethnic groups). The low proportions of MSM and of sex workers and prisoners are of interest.

Q8a. Do you have a physical disability of any kind (not including general health related to HIV)?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
no	45	100.0	100.0

None of the respondents reported having a disability.

Q9. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
None	1	2.2	2.2
Primary	10	22.2	24.4
Secondary	23	51.1	75.6
Tertiary	11	24.4	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

One fifth of respondents are educated to the level of primary school while the majority are educated to the level of high school or above.

Q10. Which of these statement best describes your current employment status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
FT	11	24.4	24.4
PT	5	11.3	35.5
Casual	5	11.1	46.6
Unemployed	24	53.3	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

More than half of the respondents are unemployed, over one fifth in Casual or Part Time employment while the remaining quarter is employed.

Q11 How many people currently live in your household in the age categories?

Age	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean
0-14	28	1	9	89	3.18
15-19	28	0	3	30	1.07
20-24	25	0	2	21	.88
25-29	34	0	2	28	.82
30-39	35	0	5	60	1.71
40-49	30	0	5	36	1.20
50+	32	0	2	30	.94

Multiple responses allowed.

Respondents reported a wide range of age groups in the household and the greatest mean number of which were in the age group 0-14 (average 3 per household).

Q12. How many of the children or youth in your household are AIDS orphans?

N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean
15	0	5	13	.87

Fifteen responses produced a mean of less than one per household (but including a maximum of 5 in one household).

Q13. Is your household? (Location)

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rural	13	28.9	28.9
Small town/village	26	57.8	86.7
Large town/urban	6	13.3	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of respondents report living in rural or small town/village areas.

Q14. What is the average income of your household per month over the past 12 months?

		N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean
	Average income per month	39	45	6400	45026	1154.51
	Annual income	39	540	50400	442636	11349.64

Data is not representative of the group as it is skewed by high level responses. Tables 14a and 14b expand this finding further by excluding outliers to reveal that 21 people (53.8% of the sample) earned less than \$500 per month.

Q14a. What is the average income of your household per month over the past 12 months?

Average income per month	N	percentage	Mean
<\$500	21	53.8	\$241.76
\$501-\$1000	5	12.8	\$777.20
>\$1001	13	33.3	\$2774.08

Q15. In the last month how many days has any member of your household not had enough to eat?

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean
Response	22	0	7	38	1.73

Of the 22 respondents the average number of days was reported as more than one.

SECTION 2A. YOUR EXPERIENCE OF STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION FROM OTHER PEOPLE

1a. In the last 12 months, how often have you been excluded from social gatherings or activities (e.g. weddings, funerals, parties, clubs)?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	39	86.7	86.7
Once	2	4.4	91.1
A few	2	4.4	95.6
Often	2	4.4	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of respondents had never been excluded.

1b. If so, was this ...

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	4	57.1	40.0
Another	1	14.3	80.0
Both	1	14.3	100.0
Not sure	1	14.3	100.0
Total	7	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status plus another reason.

The majority of those who had been excluded felt it was because of their HIV status.

2a. In the last 12 months, how often have you been excluded from religious activities or places of worship?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	42	93.3	93.3
A few	3	6.7	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of respondents had never been excluded.

2b. If so, was this..

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	2	40.0	40.0
Another	2	40.0	80.0
Both	1	20.0	100.0
Total	5	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status plus another reason.

Those who had been excluded felt it was because of their HIV status.

3a. In the last 12 months, how often have you been excluded from family activities (e.g. cooking, eating together, sleeping in the same room?)

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	36	81.8	81.8
Once	1	2.3	84.1
A few	3	6.8	90.9
Often	4	9.1	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority of respondents had never been excluded, although a minority stated 'often'.

3b. If so, was this

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	5	50.0	50.0
Another	1	10.0	60.0
Both	2	20.0	80.0
Not Sure	2	20.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status plus another reason.

Those who had been excluded felt it was because of their HIV status.

4a. In the last 12 months, how often have you been aware of being gossiped about?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	11	24.4	24.4
A few	26	57.8	82.2
Often	8	17.8	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Three quarters of respondents reported having been aware they were being gossiped about.

4b. If so, was this ...

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	15	48.4	48.4
Another	4	12.9	61.3
Both	11	35.5	96.8
Not Sure	1	3.2	100.0
Total	12	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status plus another reason.

Those who reported having been gossiped about were divided about it being because of their HIV status or their HIV status and another reason. .

5a In the last 12 months, how often have you been verbally insulted, harassed and or threatened?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	31	68.9	68.9
Once	5	11.1	80.0
A few	6	13.3	93.3
Often	3	6.7	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

While the majority reported never, a fifth reported having been verbally insulted, harassed and or threatened more than once in the last 12 months.

5b If so, was this ..

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	5	35.7	35.7
Another	2	14.3	50.0
Both	7	50.0	100.0
Total	14	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status plus another reason.

Those who reported having been verbally insulted, harassed and or threatened felt it was because of their HIV status and another reason.

6a In the last 12 months, how often have you been physically harassed and or threatened?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Never	37	82.2	82.2
Once	5	11.1	93.3
A few	3	6.7	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

While the majority reported never, a minority reported having been physically harassed and or threatened more than once in the last 12 months.

6b If so, was this ..

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	1	11.1	11.1
Another	5	55.6	66.7
Both	3	33.3	100.0
Total	9	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status plus another reason.

More than half of those who reported having been physically harassed and or threatened felt it was because of another reason.

7a In the last 12 months, how often have you been physically assaulted?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	37	82.2	82.2
Once	3	6.7	88.9
A few	5	11.1	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

One fifth reported having been physically assaulted in the last 12 months.

7b If so, was this ..

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	1	10.0	10.0
Another	6	60.0	70.0
Both	3	30.0	100.0
Total	8	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status plus another reason.

Sixty percent of those who reported having been physically assaulted felt it was because of another reason.

7c If so, who physically assaulted you?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
H/W/P	2	22.2	22.2
Home	3	33.3	55.6
Known	4	44.4	100.0
Total	9	100.0	

H/W/P is husband wife or partner

Of those who reported having been physically assaulted over 55% stated it was by a person in the home or in an H/W/P relationship with them.

8a. In questions 1-7, if you experienced stigma and/or discrimination for reasons other than your HIV status, please choose one category that best explains why you felt you were stigmatized and/or discriminated against.

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Sexual Orientation	2	4.9	4.9
Sex Worker	4	9.8	14.6
Indigenous Group	4	9.8	24.4
Migrant Worker	4	9.8	34.1
Prisoner	2	4.9	39.0
None of above	25	61.0	100.0
Total	41	100.0	

Of those who reported stigma / discrimination the majority felt it was for some other reason than belonging to a sub group.

8b. If you chose NONE of the above please explain why you think you were stigmatized or discriminated against.

Respondents' comments: '*Because I have HIV. Because of our living conditions*'.

9. In the last 12 months, how often have you been subjected to psychological pressure or manipulation by your husband/wife or partner in which your HIV-positive status was used against you?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	23	63.9	63.9
Once	1	2.8	66.7
A few times	10	27.8	94.4
Often	2	5.6	100.0
Total	36	100.0	

While the majority reported that this had not occurred, one third had experienced this 'a few times' or 'often' in the last 12 months.

10. In the last 12 months, how often have you experienced sexual rejection as a result of your HIV positive status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	33	76.7	76.7
Once	2	4.7	81.4
A few	7	16.3	97.7
Often	1	2.3	100.0
Total	43	100.0	

Almost one quarter had experienced sexual rejection in the last 12 months.

11. In the last 12 months, how often have you been discriminated against by other people living with HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	39	86.7	86.7
Once	2	4.4	91.1
A few	3	6.7	97.8
Often	1	2.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

While the majority had not experienced discrimination by other people living with HIV a minority had.

12. In the last 12 months, how often has your wife/husband or partner, or any members of your household experienced discrimination as a result of your HIV-positive status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	25	58.1	58.1
Once	2	4.7	62.8
A few times	12	27.9	90.7
Often	4	9.3	100.0
Total	43	100.0	

Over one third of other household members experienced discrimination 'a few times' or 'often' in the last 12 months.

13. If you have experienced some form of HIV-related stigma and or discrimination in the last 12 months, why do you think this is?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fear	14	17.9	17.9
No Understanding	31	39.7	57.6
HIV is shameful	15	19.2	76.8
Religious beliefs	6	7.7	84.5
People disapprove	3	3.8	88.3
I look sick	4	5.1	93.4
Don't know not sure of reasons	5	6.4	100.0
Total	78	100.0	

Multiple responses allowed.

Respondents were divided on the reasons for discrimination against them, reporting lack of understanding and fear as being the primary reasons.

SECTION 2B YOUR ACCESS TO WORK AND HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES

1a. In the last 12 months, how often have you been forced to change your place of residence, or been unable to rent accommodation?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	36	80.0	80.0
Once	6	13.3	93.3
A few	2	4.4	97.8
Often	1	2.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

A small proportion of respondents had the experience of housing insecurity, while the majority had not. .

1b. If so, was this...?'

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	5	31.3	31.3
Another reason	5	31.3	62.5
Both	5	31.3	93.8
Not sure	1	6.3	100.0
Total	16	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status and another reason

Of those who answered this question almost one third attributed housing insecurity to their HIV status alone.

2a. In the last 12 months, how often have you lost a job (if employed) or another source of income (if self-employed or an informal/casual worker)?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	21	75.0	75.0
Once	3	10.7	85.7
A few	3	10.7	96.4
Often	1	3.6	100.0
Total	28	100.0	

Of the respondents who answered this question one quarter had experienced loss of job or income.

2b. If so, was this...?'

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
HIV stat	2	18.2	18.2
Another reason	3	27.3	45.5
Both	3	27.3	72.7
Not sure	3	27.3	100.0
Total	11	100.0	

'Both' refers to HIV status and another reason

Loss of job or income was attributed to a combination of reasons and some uncertainty.

2c. If because of HIV status (wholly or partly), did you lose your work/income...?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Discrimination	3	18.8	18.8
Poor Health	1	6.3	25.0
Both	2	12.5	37.5
Other	10	62.5	100.0
Total	16	100.0	

'Both' refers to discrimination and poor health

Two thirds of respondents attributed loss of job or income to other reasons.

3. In the last 12 months, have you been refused employment or a work opportunity because of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	5	13.9	13.9
No	31	86.1	100.0
Total	36	100.0	

A minority of respondents claim to have lost employment or work opportunities due to their HIV status.

4a. In the last 12 months, how often has your job description or the nature of your work changed, or have you been refused promotion, as a result of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	22	91.7	91.7
Once	1	4.2	95.8
A few times	1	4.2	100.0
Total	24	100.0	

The majority of respondents had not experienced job description change or been refused promotion.

4b. If so, did this happen...?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Discrimination	1	16.7	16.7
Both	2	33.3	50.0
Other	3	50.0	100.0
Total	6	100.0	

'Both' refers to discrimination and poor health

Of those who also answered this question half connected it to their HIV status.

5. In the last 12 months, how often have you been dismissed, suspended or prevented from attending an educational institution because of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	38	84.4	84.4
NA	7	15.6	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of respondents had not been denied access to educational services.

6. In the last 12 months, how often has your child/children been dismissed, suspended or prevented from attending an educational institution because of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	39	86.7	86.7
A few	1	2.2	88.9
NA	5	11.1	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of respondents had not experienced any effect on their children's access to education.

7. In the last 12 months, how often have you been denied health services, including dental care, because of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Never	37	82.2	82.2
Once	3	6.7	88.9
A few times	3	6.7	95.6
NA	2	4.4	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of respondents had not been denied access to services although 13% of the sample claimed they had.

8. In the last 12 months, have you been denied family planning services because of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	5	11.4	11.4
No	23	52.3	63.6
NA	16	36.4	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

A minority of respondents claim to have been denied access to family planning services while the majority had not.

9. In the last 12 months, have you been denied sexual and reproductive health services because of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	2	4.4	4.5
No	42	95.5	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority of respondents had not been denied access to reproductive health services.

SECTION 2C. INTERNAL STIGMA (THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR FEARS)

1. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following feelings because of your HIV status?

	Yes	Percent	No	Percent
I feel ashamed	27	15.4	18	12.9
I feel guilty	33	18.9	12	8.6
I blame myself	36	20.6	9	6.4
I blame others	16	9.1	29	20.7
I have low self-esteem	30	17.1	15	10.7
I feel I should be punished	19	10.9	26	18.6
I feel suicidal	14	8.0	31	22.1
Total	175	100	140	100.0

Multiple responses allowed.

Negative feelings of self blame, guilt, low self esteem and shame are common, and suicidal ideation was also expressed.

2. In the last 12 months, have you done any of the following things because of your HIV status?

	Yes	Percent	No	Percent
I have chosen not to attend social gathering(s)	22	14.8	23	7.8
I have isolated myself from my family and/or friends	20	13.4	25	8.4
I took the decision to stop working	14	9.4	30	10.1
I decided not to apply for a job/work or for a promotion	12	8.1	32	10.8
I withdrew from education/training or did not take up an opportunity for education/training	6	4.0	39	13.2
I decided not to get married	15	10.0	29	9.8
I decided not to have sex	10	6.7	34	11.5
I decided not to have (more) children	24	16.1	20	6.8
I avoided going to a local clinic when I needed to	15	10.1	30	10.1
I avoided going to a hospital when I needed to	11	7.4	34	11.5
Total	149	100	296	100.0

Multiple responses allowed.

The range of responses suggests that respondents are resilient and have made predominantly positive decisions on these issues; however, a third of Yes responses suggest signs of withdrawal from social engagement and almost a fifth had avoided clinical contact..

3. In the last 12 months, have you been fearful of any of the following things happening to you - whether or not they actually have happened to you?

	Yes	Percent	No	Percent
Being gossiped about	30	30.3	14	19.2
Being verbally insulted, harassed and/or threatened	27	27.3	16	21.9
Being physically harassed and/or threatened	21	21.2	22	30.1
Being physically assaulted	21	21.2	21	28.8
Total	99	100.0	73	100.0

Multiple responses allowed.

The respondents indicate their greatest concerns are for being gossiped about and being verbally insulted and/or threatened, while also harbouring a significant fear of physical assault.

4. In the last 12 months, have you been afraid that someone would not want to be sexually intimate with you because of your HIV-positive status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	22	51.2	51.2
No	21	48.8	100.0
Total	43	100.0	

Over half of the respondents expressed the fear that someone would not want to be sexually intimate with them because of their HIV-positive status.

SECTION 2D RIGHTS, LAWS AND POLICIES

1a. Have you heard of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which protects the rights of people living with HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	8	17.8	17.8
No	37	82.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority had not heard of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

1b. If yes, have you ever read or discussed the content of this Declaration?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	2	11.8	11.8
No	15	88.2	100.0
Total	17	100.0	

The majority who had heard of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS had not read it.

2a. Have you heard of the HIV Decree*

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	13	31.0	31.0
No	29	69.0	100.0
Total	42	100.0	

HIV Decree #19 2008 promulgated by the Interim Government of Fiji

The majority had not heard of the recent HIV Decree.

2b. If yes, have you ever read or discussed the content of the HIV Decree?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	6	22.2	22.2
No	21	77.8	100.0
Total	27	100.0	

The majority had not read or discussed the HIV Decree.

3. In the last 12 months, have any of the following things happened to you because of your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Forced to submit to medical procedure	5	11.1	11.1
Denied health or life insurance	3	6.7	17.8
Had to disclose to enter another country	2	4.4	22.2
Detained/quarantined/isolated/ segregated	1	2.2	24.4
None	34	75.6	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

One quarter of respondents reported an adverse experience in the last 12 months including being forced to submit to a medical procedure..

4a. In the last 12 months, have any of your rights as a person living with HIV been abused?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	14	31.8	31.8
No	23	52.3	84.1
Not sure	7	15.9	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

Almost a third felt their rights had been violated and an additional 16% were not sure.

4b. If yes, have you tried to get legal redress for any abuse of your rights as a person living with HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	2	13.3	13.3
No	13	86.7	100.0
Total	15	100.0	

The majority did not seek legal redress.

4c. Has this process begun in the last 12 months?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	2	100.0	100.0

The two who were seeking legal redress commenced the process in the last 12 months.

4d. What was the result?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
In process	1	33.3	33.3
Nothing	2	66.7	100.0
Total	3	100.0	

Three respondents responded with the majority answering 'nothing'.

4e. If the response to question 4b was NO or NOT SURE, what was the reason for not trying to get legal redress?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Insufficient. Financial Resources	2	11.1	11.1
Process too bureaucratic	2	11.1	22.2
Felt intimidated/scared	6	33.3	55.5
Advised against taking action	1	5.6	60.1
Not confident of success	4	22.2	82.3
None of above	3	16.7	100.0
Total	18	100.0	

Although no respondent answered No or Not Sure to 4b, the 18 people who responded to this question had a range of explanations but were predominantly scared or intimidated and not sufficiently confident of success to engage in the processes of legal redress.

5. Have you tried to get a government employee(s) to take action against an abuse of your rights as a person living with HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	1	5.9	5.9
No	16	94.1	100.0
Total	17	100.0	

The majority had not tried get a government employee(s) to take action against an abuse.

5b. Did this happen in the last 12 months?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	1	100.0	100.0

The respondent who had tried had done so in the last 12 months.

5c. What was the result?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Nothing	1	100.0	100.0

The respondent who had tried had no result.

6a. Have you tried to get a local or national politician to take action against an abuse of your rights as a person living with HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	1	5.9	5.9
No	16	94.1	100.0
Total	17	100.0	

Note: FJN+ has a national politician on its Board of Directors

The majority had not tried get a local or national politician to take action.

6b. Did this happen in the last 12 months?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	1	100.0	100.0

The respondent who had tried had done so in the last 12 months.

6c. What was the result?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
In process	1	100.0	100.0

The respondent who had tried has their issue still in process. .

SECTION 2E. EFFECTIVE CHANGE

1. In the last 12 months, have you confronted, challenged or educated someone who was stigmatizing and/or discriminating against you?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	29	64.4	64.4
No	16	35.6	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Two thirds of respondents had confronted, challenged or educated someone who was stigmatizing and/or discriminating against them.

2a. Do you know of any organizations or groups that you can go to for help if you experience stigma or discrimination?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	38	84.4	84.4
No	7	15.6	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Most respondents knew of an organization or group they could go to for help if they experienced stigma or discrimination.

2b. If yes, which kinds of organizations or groups do you know about?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
People living with HIV support group	33	21.3	21.3
Network of people living with HIV	36	23.2	44.5
Local non-governmental organization	10	6.5	51.0
Faith-based organization	17	11.0	62.0
A legal practice	7	4.5	66.5
A human rights organization	11	7.1	73.6
National non-governmental organization	6	3.9	77.5
National AIDS council or committee	16	10.3	87.8
International NGO	4	2.6	90.4
UN organization	14	9.0	99.4
Other	1	0.6	100.0
Total	155	100.0	

Respondents identified a range of organizations they could go to for help. Over 40% of all responses identifying a support group or network of people living with HIV.

2c. If you ticked OTHER please describe the kind of organization or group you are referring to:

The 'other' noted above was the Hub Centre at Lautoka.

3. Have you sought help from any of the above organizations or groups to resolve an issue of stigma or discrimination?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	19	44.2	44.2
No	24	55.8	100.0
Total	43	100.0	

Respondents were divided with the majority stating they had not sought support.

4. If you have tried to resolve an issue of stigma and discrimination either on your own or with the assistance of others, briefly describe what the issue was about, who - if anyone- helped you, and how you and/or others tried to resolve the matter.

4a . What was the issue of stigma and discrimination about?

Responses included: *“Married to non HIV and relatives find it hard to accept, my profession, rejection from community, first known in the village, transmission to my partner, I was hospitalized and sickly so people at the village felt afraid and unsafe, breach of confidentiality to my husband's village, brother-in-law won't share eating utensils, food, bathroom, discriminated when hospitalized, rejection by church youth”.*

4b. If others helped you resolve the matter - who helped you?

Responses included: *“People living with HIV and network, Social Welfare Department, Pacific Counseling and Social Services (PCSS - NGO), family, clinic nurse, nobody, husband, PIAFF, Ministry of Health”.*

4c. How did you (and, if appropriate, others) try to resolve the matter (i.e. what specifically did you and/or others do)?

Responses included: *“Encouragement from the group, provide housing assistance, counseling to help change mind set, apologies and prayer, positive mental attitude, coping, sharing, educate relatives, counseling and training by FJN+ and PIAF, visit the community leader and conduct reconciliation”.*

5. In the last 12 months, have you supported other people living with HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	32	71.1	71.1
No	13	28.9	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority of respondents had provided support to other people living with HIV.

5b. If YES, what types of support did you provide?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Emotional Support	30	46.9	46.9
Physical Support	22	34.4	81.3
Referral to service	12	18.8	100.0
Total	64	100.0	

Multiple responses allowed.

Respondents indicated they had predominantly provided emotional and physical support to other people living with HIV.

6. Are you currently a member of a people living with HIV support group and/or network?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	34	75.6	75.6
No	11	24.4	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Three quarters stated that they are current members of a people living with HIV support group.

7. In the last 12 months, have you been involved, either as a volunteer or as an employee, in any programme or project (either government or non-governmental) that provides assistance to people living with HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	31	70.5	70.5
No	13	29.5	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority stated that they had been involved in projects that provide assistance to people living with HIV.

8. In the last 12 months have you been involved in any efforts to develop legislation, policies or guidelines related to HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	11	25.6	25.6
No	32	74.4	100.0
Total	43	100.0	

The majority had not been involved in efforts to develop legislation, policies or guidelines related to HIV.

9. Do you feel that you have the power to influence decisions in any of the following aspects?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Legal/ rights matters	14	18.7	18.7
Local Govt. policy	9	12.0	30.7
Local projects	13	17.3	48.0
National Govt. policy	5	6.7	54.7
National programs	10	13.3	68.0
None	24	32.0	100.0
Total	75	100.0	

Multiple responses allowed.

Responses indicate that, among those who felt they had some power, they felt they had the greatest power to influence legal/rights matters and local projects.

10. There are a number of organizations of people living with HIV working against stigma and discrimination. If one of them asked you, "What is the most important thing we should be doing as an organization to address stigma and discrimination?" what would you recommend?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Advocating rights of PLWHIV	13	30.2	30.2
Providing support	7	16.3	46.5
Advocating rights of sub-groups	2	4.7	51.2
Raising Awareness and knowledge	21	48.8	100.0
Total	43	100.0	

The respondents favoured raising awareness and knowledge, advocacy for rights and providing support.

SECTION 3A TESTING/DIANOSIS

1. Why were you tested for HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Pregnancy	5	10.6	10.6
Referred for STI	1	2.1	12.7
Referred due related symptoms	10	21.3	34.0
H/W/P/F* tested positive	13	27.7	61.7
Illness or death of H/W/P/F	14	29.8	91.5
Just wanted to know	2	4.3	95.8
Other	2	4.3	100.0
Total	47	100.0	

H/W/P/F = husband/ wife/ partner/ family member

Over half of respondents were tested because of a positive test, illness or death of a husband/wife/partner or family member. More than one fifth were tested following a referral for STI or HIV related symptoms while 10% were detected during pregnancy (HIV testing in Antenatal Clinics is routine in Fiji).

2. Was the decision to be tested for HIV up to you?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes, voluntary	23	52.3	52.3
Yes, under pressure	12	27.3	79.5
I was made to take and HIV test	1	2.3	81.8
I was tested without my knowledge	8	18.2	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

Almost half of the respondents were tested under some degree of pressure or compulsion.

3. Did you receive counseling when you were tested for HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Both Pre and Post- test	10	22.7	22.7
Only Pre-Test	1	2.3	25.0
Only Post Test	6	13.6	38.6
No counseling	27	61.4	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority received no counseling, while almost a quarter received both pre and post test counseling.

SECTION 3B DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. For each of the following people or groups of people, please describe how they were first told about your HIV status, if they have been told.

	I told them	%	Told with consent	%	Told without consent	%	They don't know	%	NA	%	Tot	%
Husband/wife/partner	16	35.6	5	11.1	6	13.3	3	6.7	15	37.3	45	100
Other adult family members	20	45.5	7	15.9	13	29.5	3	6.8	1	2.3	44	100
Children in your family	14	31.8	2	4.5	8	18.2	15	34.1	5	11.4	44	100
Friends/neighbours	15	34.9	1	2.3	14	32.6	11	25.6	2	4.7	43	100
Other PLWHIV	32	72.7	5	11.4	4	9.1	2	4.5	1	2.3	44	100
People who you work with	12	26.7	-	-	2	4.4	10	22.2	21	46.7	45	100
Employer(s)/boss	12	26.7	-	-	2	4.4	9	20.0	22	48.9	45	100
Clients	2	4.5	-	-	-	-	3	6.8	39	88.7	44	100
I.D. partners	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.3	43	97.7	44	100
Religious leaders	17	38.6	-	-	5	11.4	19	43.2	3	6.8	44	100
Community leaders	15	34.1	-	-	12	27.3	15	34.1	2	4.5	44	100
Health care workers	16	36.4	7	15.9	18	40.9	2	4.5	1	2.3	44	100
Social workers/counselors	22	50.0	3	6.8	4	9.1	7	15.9	8	18.2	44	100
Teachers	5	11.6	1	2.3	-	-	9	20.9	28	65.1	43	100
Govt. officials	9	20.9	1	2.3	5	11.6	17	39.5	11	25.6	43	100
The media	13	30.2	1	2.3	-	-	25	58.1	4	9.3	43	100
Total	220		33		93		151		205		703	100

Multiple responses allowed.

High proportions of others being told of their HIV status without consent surrounds health care workers, other adult family members, community leaders and friends and neighbours. Significant proportions of those who don't know are among religious and community leaders, children, workmates and employers.

2a. How often did you feel pressure from other individuals living with HIV or from groups/networks of people living with HIV to disclose your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Often	1	2.4	2.4
A few times	2	4.9	7.3
Once	2	4.9	12.2
Never	36	87.8	100.0
Total	41	100.0	

The majority stated they had never felt pressured to reveal their HIV status.

2b. How often did you feel pressure from other individuals not living with HIV (e.g. family members, social workers, non-governmental organization employees) to disclose your HIV status?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Often	3	6.8	6.8
A few times	3	6.8	13.6
Once	1	2.3	15.9
Never	37	84.1	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority stated they were they had never felt pressured.

3. Has a health care professional (for example, a doctor, nurse, counselor, laboratory technician) ever told other people about your HIV status without your consent?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	9	20.5	20.5
No	27	61.4	81.8
Not Sure	8	18.2	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

A fifth of respondents stated their HIV status had been revealed to other people without their consent and a similar proportion of respondents were unsure.

4. How confidential do you think the medical records relating to your HIV status are?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
I am Sure	24	54.5	54.5
I don't know	14	31.8	86.4
It's clear they are not kept confidentially	6	13.6	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

Almost half of all respondents either didn't know or were sure their records were not being kept confidentially.

5. How would you describe the reactions of these people (in general) when they first knew about your HIV status?

	V. Disc	%	Disc	%	N. Diff	%	Supp	%	V. Supp	%	NA	%	n	%
Husband/wife/partner	3	6.7	4	8.9	6	13.3	5	11.1	10	22.2	17	37.8	45	100
Other adult family members	2	4.4	10	22.2	-	-	22	48.9	6	13.3	5	11.1	45	100
Children in your family	-	-	5	11.1	5	11.1	10	22.2	4	8.9	21	46.7	45	100
Friends/neighbours	2	4.4	15	33.3	1	2.2	10	22.2	5	11.1	12	26.7	45	100
Other PLWHIV	-	-	-	-	2	4.4	25	55.6	16	35.6	2	4.4	45	100
People who you work with	1	2.2	3	6.7	1	2.2	5	11.1	7	15.6	28	62.2	45	100
Employer(s)/boss	1	2.2	3	6.7	3	6.7	3	6.7	6	13.3	29	64.4	45	100
Clients	-	-	-	-	1	2.2	-	-	1	2.2	43	95.6	45	100
I.D. partners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	100	44	100
Religious leaders	1	2.2	2	4.4	4	8.9	14	51.1	3	6.7	21	46.7	45	100
Community leaders	3	6.8	6	13.6	3	6.8	13	29.5	3	6.8	16	36.4	44	100
Health care workers	2	4.4	11	24.4	5	11.1	11	24.4	6	13.3	10	23.2	45	100
Social workers/counselors	1	2.2	1	2.2	1	2.2	21	46.7	4	8.9	17	37.8	45	100
Teachers	-	-	-	-	1	2.2	2	4.4	2	4.4	40	88.9	45	100
Govt. officials	1	2.2	5	11.1	1	2.2	5	11.1	2	4.4	31	68.9	45	100
The media	1	2.2	1	2.2	1	2.2	8	17.5	1	2.2	33	75.3	45	100
Total	18		66		35		154		76		368		718	100

Multiple responses allowed.

Respondents report a wide range of responses. Overall the weight of evidence is for supportive relationships, however discrimination was found among family members, friends and neighbours, and health care workers.

6. Did you find the disclosure of your HIV status an empowering experience?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	40	90.9	90.9
No	1	2.3	93.2
Not applicable	3	6.8	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority reported that disclosing their HIV status was an empowering experience.

SECTION 3C TREATMENT

1. In general, how would you describe your health at the moment?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Excellent	16	35.6	35.6
Very Good	11	24.4	60.0
Good	13	28.9	88.9
Fair	4	8.9	97.8
Poor	1	2.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

The majority (89%) of respondents described their health as excellent, very good or good.

2a. Are you currently taking antiretroviral treatment?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	35	77.8	77.8
No	10	22.2	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

More than three quarters of respondents are currently taking antiretroviral treatment.

2b. Do you have access to antiretroviral treatment, even if you are not currently taking it?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	44	100.0	100.0

All respondents thought they had access to antiretroviral treatment.

3a. Are you currently taking any medication to prevent or to treat opportunistic infections?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	29	64.4	64.4
No	16	35.6	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Almost two thirds are currently taking medication to prevent or treat opportunistic infections.

3b. Do you have access to medication for opportunistic infections, even if you are not currently taking it?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	36	81.8	81.8
No	4	9.1	90.9
Don't know	4	9.1	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority of respondents thought they had access to medication for opportunistic infections.

4. In the last 12 months, have you had a constructive discussion with a health care professional(s) on the subject of your HIV-related treatment options?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	24	55.8	55.8
No	19	44.2	100.0
Total	43	100.0	

Over half of the respondents reported having a constructive discussion with a health care professional on the subject of their HIV-related treatment options. .

5. In the last 12 months, have you had a constructive discussion with a health care professional(s) - on other subjects such as your sexual and reproductive health, sexual relationship(s), emotional well-being, drug use, etc?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	22	50.0	50.0
No	22	50.0	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

Half of respondents had a constructive discussion with a health care professional in the last 12 months.

SECTION 3D HAVING CHILDREN

1a. Do you have a child or children?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	29	68.9	65.9
No	15	34.1	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

Over two thirds of respondents have a child or children.

1b. If Yes, are any of these children known to be HIV-positive?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	2	6.7	6.7
No	28	93.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	

The majority of their children are not HIV positive.

2. Since being diagnosed as HIV-positive, have you ever received counseling about your reproductive options?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	15	34.1	34.1
No	26	59.1	93.2
NA	3	6.8	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority had not received counseling about their reproductive options, while one third had.

3. Has a health care professional ever advised you not to have a child since you were diagnosed as HIV-positive?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	8	19.0	19.0
No	32	76.2	95.2
NA	2	4.8	100.0
Total	42	100.0	

Almost one fifth had been advised by a health care worker not to have a child.

4. Has a health care professional ever coerced you into being sterilized since you were diagnosed as HIV-positive?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	4	9.1	9.1
No	36	81.8	90.9
NA	4	9.1	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

Some individuals reported having being coerced into being sterilized.

5. Is your ability to obtain antiretroviral treatment conditional on the use of certain forms of contraception?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	3	6.8	6.8
No	11	25.0	31.8
NA	9	20.5	52.3
Don't Know	21	47.7	100.0
Total	44	100.0	

The majority did not know of this issue or felt it did not apply to them.

6. In the last 12 months, have you been coerced by a health care professional in relation to any of the following because of your HIV status?

	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	NA	Percent
Termination of Pregnancy	-	-	8	36.4	22	33.3
Method of giving birth	-	-	8	36.4	22	33.3
Infant feeding practices	2	100	6	27.3	22	33.3
Total	2	100	22	100	66	100

Two respondents felt they had been coerced over infant feeding practices.

7a. Have you ever been given antiretroviral treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV during pregnancy?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	8	47.1	47.1
No – I was not HIV+ when pregnant	9	52.9	100.0
Total	17	100.0	

Eight of 17 respondents reported having received anti-retroviral treatment to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.

7b. If yes, were you also given information about healthy pregnancy and motherhood as part of the Programme to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV?

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	5	62.5	62.5
No	3	37.5	100.0
Total	8	100.0	

The majority of those who had been given antiretroviral treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV during pregnancy were also given information on healthy pregnancy.

SECTION 3E PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

What do you see as the MAIN PROBLEMS and CHALLENGES in relation to:

1. Testing and diagnosis:

Respondents' comments included:

"People are going to hide their true identity, fear of stigma, discrimination; delay in starting treatment; ashamed to go for HIV test, limited testing sites, first test was not a good experience wasn't told that I was screening for HIV; The mobility of staff and lab technicians at HIV and STI clinic; Don't want to know the result; lack of counseling contributing to being so in denial; pre-testing counseling was not done before my blood testing; No cure, Can't face the consequences of tested with results as HIV+; delayed results from hub clinic, faxing blood results are not confidential".

2. Disclosure and confidentiality about being HIV-positive:

Respondents' comments included:

"Health setting to keep confidentiality, disclosure of status without consent; lack of knowledge about confidentiality. pressure to identify people with HIV; what comes after either accept or neglect?., small clinical system keeping records; people won't accept you in public, work and promotion; disclosure guidelines at national level, too many hands on process of results; told not to disclose, therefore a lot barriers challenges when seek assistance; exchange of staff weakens the trust of confidentiality; HIV+ going public for wrong reasons, main problem would be restriction to education and I will lose my friends; discourages people to access health facilities and services".

3. Antiretroviral treatment:

Respondents' comments included:

"Dr not having time to make constructive discussions on my treatment options; Build up resistance due to misdiagnosis and lack of follow up and medication; Location of the clinic, poverty and taking medicine, fearing of side effects; Changing of ARV combination at times, side effect of ARV, access to ARV; side effects of drugs, worried about taking medication on day-to-day basis; taking optional herbal medicine which is not allowed by Dr; Drugs out of stock; Hard day to day commitment; Very difficult to collect drugs

too far; out of stock on ARV treatment and long time side effects cannot be corrected; to take every day and what will happen in 5 years time, will it be still free?"

4. Having children when you are HIV-positive:

Respondents' comments included:

"Fear of infecting the baby; don't know what to expect, keep alive, reaction from public; don't know if people will care for child or reject them ; my children don't know my sickness and it is hard to tell them; who will look after your children; Lack of financial support; main problem will be the well fare of the child; fear for the unknown whether the child will be free of HIV"

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April 6, 2010**