The Louisiana Stigma Index Project: Results and Next Steps

March 14, 2017
Acknowledgments

1. Project Coordinators
2. HAART & NORAPC
3. Core Group
4. Our amazing interviewers
5. HIV Stakeholders
6. Funders – Office of Adolescent Health, City of New Orleans – Office of Health Policy & AIDS Funding, AIDS United, Office of Minority Health (Grant 6 CPIMP141066)
7. LPHI – especially Ms. Mary Moore who prepared the slides
The U.S. People Living with HIV Stigma Index is a tool used by, as well as for, people living with HIV (PLWH) to measure stigma and discrimination.

The U.S. stigma survey was adopted for Louisiana’s environment to understand stigma and discrimination among PLWH in New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

First full-scale implementation in the U.S.

LA project began in March 2015 and is still ongoing.

Meaningful engagement of PLWH via leadership, input, development, and implementation.

2 project coordinators led the project on the ground.

Twelve (12) peers were trained to conduct interviews with 300 PLWH in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge area (150 from each city).
Why use the HIV Stigma Index?

- High burden of HIV/AIDS in the state
- People living with HIV (PLWH) often face stigma and discrimination that impacts access to care and other key areas of their lives
- Important to document the stigma-related experiences of PLWH to:
  - increase awareness for the purpose of empowering PLWH
  - provide evidence of needed interventions
  - reduce internalized stigma and discrimination
  - develop programs and policies to combat stigma and discrimination
Question: If you have tried to resolve an issue of stigma and discrimination on your own with the assistance of others, briefly describe what the issue was about

Response: “People not understanding what HIV is. People don't do the resource to find out more about HIV”
Data Results: Gender*

**New Orleans**
- Male: 59%
- Female: 35%
- Transgender MTF: 4%
- Transgender FTM: 1%
- Other: 1%

**Baton Rouge**
- Male: 56%
- Female: 39%
- Transgender MTF: 5%
- Transgender FTM: 0%
- Other: 0%

**Total**
- Male: 57%
- Female: 38%
- Transgender MTF: 4%
- Transgender FTM: 0.3%
- Other: 1%

*Other = “Genderqueer” and “Additional Category***
Data Results: Race

New Orleans

- Black: 76%
- White: 16%
- Hispanic/Latino: 6%
- American Indian: 2%

Baton Rouge

- Black: 82%
- White: 16%
- Hispanic/Latino: 1%
- American Indian: 0%

Total

- Black: 79%
- White: 16%
- Hispanic/Latino: 3%
- American Indian: 1%
Data Results: Sexual Orientation*

New Orleans

- MSM: 59%
- Heterosexual: 39%
- Other: 2%

Baton Rouge

- MSM: 54%
- Heterosexual: 42%
- Other: 4%

Total

- MSM: 59%
- Heterosexual: 37%
- Other: 4%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSM</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</tbody>
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*MSM = Men who have sex with men, homosexual, and bisexual men; Other (sexual orientation) = Female lesbian and bisexual; Other (race) = Mixed race, American Indian
Data Results: Age

New Orleans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in years</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
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<td>18-19</td>
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<td>20-24</td>
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<td>25-29</td>
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<td>4%</td>
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<td>30-39</td>
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<td>14%</td>
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<td>40-49</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 or more</td>
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<td>47%</td>
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Baton Rouge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in years</th>
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<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
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<td>50 or more</td>
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<td>32%</td>
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Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in years</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
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<td>18-19</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<td>25-29</td>
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<td>9%</td>
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<td>30-39</td>
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<td>18%</td>
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<td>40-49</td>
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<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 or more</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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</table>
Data Results: Education

**New Orleans**
- Secondary school (grades 9-12) (53%)
- Some college/university (23%)
- Primary school (grades K-8) (13%)
- Graduated from college/university (6%)
- Post-graduate degree (Master’s or PhD) (4%)
- No formal education (0.70%)

**Baton Rouge**
- Secondary school (grades 9-12) (57%)
- Some college/university (30%)
- Primary school (grades K-8) (3%)
- Graduated from college/university (9%)
- Post-graduate degree (Master’s or PhD) (1%)
- No formal education (0%)

**Total**
- Secondary school (grades 9-12) (55%)
- Some college/university (26%)
- Primary school (grades K-8) (8%)
- Graduated from college/university (8%)
- Post-graduate degree (Master’s or PhD) (3%)
- No formal education (0.30%)
Data Results: Disability*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Orleans</th>
<th>Baton Rouge</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Disability</td>
<td>Mental Disability</td>
<td>Mental Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with Hepatitis C</td>
<td>Living with Hepatitis C</td>
<td>Living with Hepatitis C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Most Mental Disabilities= Depression, Anxiety, Bipolar, Nerves. Most Physical Disabilities= Arthritis, Asthma, Neuropathy, Joint Pain
Question: What do you see as the MAIN PROBLEM related to HIV testing and diagnosis

Response: “Fear of getting positive test results makes people not want to get tested”
Data Results: Length of Time Living with HIV*

**New Orleans**

- Less than 1 year: 5%
- 1 - 4 years: 11%
- 5 - 9 years: 17%
- 10+ years: 67%

**Baton Rouge**

- Less than 1 year: 5%
- 1 - 4 years: 21%
- 5 - 9 years: 20%
- 10+ years: 54%

**Total**

- Less than 1 year: 5%
- 1 - 4 years: 16%
- 5 - 9 years: 19%
- 10+ years: 60%

*10+ years = 10 - 14 years and 15 or more years; Majority of percentage from 15 or more years*
Data Results: Reactions of People When First Knowing About HIV Status

**New Orleans**

- Very Supportive: 51%
- Supportive: 37%
- Fairly Supportive: 32%
- Packaging Support: 31%
- Not Clear: 27%
- Not Supporting: 21%
- Not Clear to Not Supporting: 13%
- Not Supporting at All: 11%

**Baton Rouge**

- Very Supportive: 51%
- Supportive: 47%
- Fairly Supportive: 45%
- Packaging Support: 41%
- Not Clear: 41%
- Not Supporting: 41%
- Not Clear to Not Supporting: 35%
- Not Supporting at All: 26%
- Not Supporting at All: 25%

**Total**

- Very Supportive: 50%
- Supportive: 48%
- Fairly Supportive: 39%
- Packaging Support: 39%
- Not Clear: 36%
- Not Supporting: 34%
- Not Clear to Not Supporting: 25%
- Not Supporting at All: 23%
- Not Supporting at All: 19%
Data Results: Insurance

**New Orleans**

- Medicare: 58%
- Medicaid/Bayou Health: 35%
- Has dental insurance: 68%

**Baton Rouge**

- Medicare: 44%
- Medicaid/Bayou Health: 31%
- Has dental insurance: 46%

**Total**

- Medicare: 46%
- Medicaid/Bayou Health: 32%
- Has dental insurance: 56%
Data Results: Access to Care

(How long ago since last office visit to receive care related to HIV)

New Orleans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Since Last Visit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within last 3 months</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within last 6 months</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within last year</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than a year ago</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never received care</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baton Rouge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Since Last Visit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within last 3 months</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within last 6 months</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within last year</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than a year ago</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never received care</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Since Last Visit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within last 3 months</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within last 6 months</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within last year</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than a year ago</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never received care</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</table>
Data Results: Treatment
(How long ago since last lab test or bloodwork to measure viral load and CD4 counts)

**New Orleans**
- Within last 3 months: 83%
- Within last 6 months: 10%
- Within last year: 4%
- More than a year ago: 1%
- Never had lab tests done to measure viral load/CD4: 1%
- Don't know: 1%

**Baton Rouge**
- Within last 3 months: 68%
- Within last 6 months: 12%
- More than a year ago: 9%
- Within last year: 6%
- Never had lab tests done to measure viral load/CD4: 2%
- Don't know: 2%

**Total**
- Within last 3 months: 75%
- Within last 6 months: 11%
- More than a year ago: 5%
- Within last year: 5%
- Never had lab tests done to measure viral load/CD4: 1%
- Don't know: 1%
Data Results: Treatment (cont’d.)

New Orleans

Currently taking treatment for HIV: 81%
Undetectable results - last viral load test: 79%
Don’t know about results: 11%
Detectable results - last viral load test: 9%

Baton Rouge

Currently taking treatment for HIV: 75%
Undetectable results - last viral load test: 73%
Don’t know about results: 20%
Detectable results - last viral load test: 7%

Total

Currently taking treatment for HIV: 78%
Undetectable results - last viral load test: 76%
Don’t know about results: 15%
Detectable results - last viral load test: 8%
Data Results: Reasons for Gap between Diagnosis and Time Receiving Healthcare for HIV

New Orleans

- 38%: I was not ready to deal with my HIV diagnosis.
- 16%: I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there.
- 9%: I could not afford health care.
- 9%: Didn't get a referral/didn't know where to get HIV care.
- 9%: Afraid to be seen as promiscuous/sex worker/drug user/MSM
- 7%: I had a bad experience with a health care worker previously.
- 5%: Afraid healthcare workers would treat me badly
- 5%: Afraid to be seen as promiscuous/sex worker/drug user/MSM
- 5%: Afraid healthcare workers disclose status without my consent.
- 5%: Worried healthcare workers give name to police/immigration
- 4%: I was refused care.
- 3%: Incarcerated/detained and wasn't able to access HIV care.
- 3%: Would've had to tell husband/wife/partner if I started care.
- 2%: Couldn't get care at work without giving HIV status to...
- 1%: I lack legal status or documentation.
Data Results: Reasons for Gap between Diagnosis and Time Receiving Healthcare for HIV

Baton Rouge

- I was not ready to deal with my HIV diagnosis: 39%
- Didn’t get a referral/didn’t know where to get HIV care: 16%
- Afraid to be seen as promiscuous: 12%
- Afraid healthcare workers would treat me badly: 12%
- Afraid healthcare workers disclose status without my consent: 10%
- I had a bad experience with a healthcare worker previously: 9%
- Worried healthcare workers give name to police/immigration: 7%
- I could not afford health care: 3%
- Difficult to arrange transportation to the clinic or hospital: 2%
- Incarcerated/detained and wasn’t able to access HIV care: 1%
- Couldn’t get care at work without giving HIV status to: 1%
- Would’ve had to tell husband/wife/partner if I started care: 1%
- Other: 1%
Data Results: Reasons for Going More Than 12 Months Since Diagnosis Without Seeing a Healthcare Worker for HIV Care

New Orleans
Data Results: Reasons for Going More Than 12 Months Since Diagnosis Without Seeing a Healthcare Worker for HIV Care

Baton Rouge

- 35% I was not ready to deal with my HIV diagnosis.
- 16% I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there.
- 13% Afraid that the health care workers would treat me badly.
- 12% Didn't get a referral/didn't know where to get HIV care.
- 12% Afraid healthcare workers disclose status without my consent.
- 11% I had a bad experience with a health care worker previously.
- 9% I could not afford health care.
- 9% I had a bad experience with my health care provider.
- 5% Incarcerated/detained and wasn't able to access HIV care.
- 3% Worried healthcare workers give name to police/immigration.
- 2% Would've had to tell husband/wife/partner if I started care.
- 1% I was refused care.
- 1% I was afraid to be seen as promiscuous/sex worker/drug user/MSM.
- 1% Afraid to be seen as promiscuous/sex worker/drug user/MSM.
- 1% Incarcerated/detained and wasn't able to access HIV care.
- 1% Worried healthcare workers give name to police/immigration.
- 1% Would've had to tell husband/wife/partner if I started care.
Question: If you have tried to resolve an issue of stigma and discrimination on your own with the assistance of others, briefly describe what the issue was about.

Response: “I had a job cleaning house for over a year and the house owner had a friend who knew me and decided to tell the owner I had HIV not knowing my status for sure and they just fired me.”
Data Results: Employment

New Orleans

- Unemployed: 62%
- Looking for work: 13%
- Part-time: 9%
- Full-time: 6%
- Self-employed full-time: 4%
- Self-employed part-time: 4%
- Under the table: 3%

Baton Rouge

- Unemployed: 44%
- Full-time: 27%
- Part-time: 11%
- Self-employed part-time: 7%
- Self-employed full-time: 6%
- Looking for work: 5%
- Under the table: 0.7%

Total

- Unemployed: 53%
- Full-time: 17%
- Part-time: 10%
- Self-employed part-time: 9%
- Self-employed full-time: 5%
- Looking for work: 5%
- Under the table: 2%
Data Results: Income (per month)

New Orleans
- ≤$1000: 62%
- $1001 - $2000: 23%
- $2001 - $3000: 3%
- $3001 - $4000: 3%
- > $4000: 3%

Baton Rouge
- ≤$1000: 37%
- $1001 - $2000: 42%
- $2001 - $3000: 14%
- $3001 - $4000: 5%
- > $4000: 1%

Total
- ≤$1000: 50%
- $1001 - $2000: 32%
- $2001 - $3000: 9%
- $3001 - $4000: 4%
- > $4000: 2%
Data Results: Experiences (now or ever)

**New Orleans**
- Homeless: 56%
- Drug Use: 20%
- Incarcerated, detained or confined: 14%
- Sex Work: 7%

**Baton Rouge**
- Homeless: 41%
- Drug Use: 27%
- Incarcerated, detained or confined: 16%
- Sex Work: 12%

**Total**
- Homeless: 49%
- Drug Use: 23%
- Incarcerated, detained or confined: 15%
- Sex Work: 10%
Data Results: Confinement (In last 12 months)

**New Orleans**
- Jail (6%)
- Prison (1%)
- None of these (77%)
- Other place of confinement (1%)
- Skipped (15%)

**Baton Rouge**
- Jail (5%)
- Prison (1%)
- None of these (85%)
- Skipped (9%)

**Total**
- Jail (5%)
- Prison (1%)
- None of these (81%)
- Skipped (12%)
Data Results: People Who Provide the Most Support

New Orleans

- Healthcare worker: 30%
- Social worker: 30%
- Friend who’s HIV+: 21%
- Parent: 18%
- Religious leader: 17%
- Spouse or Partner: 14%
- Friend who’s HIV-: 14%
- Child: 11%
- Other: 7%

Baton Rouge

- Healthcare worker: 34%
- Social worker: 31%
- Friend who’s HIV+: 28%
- Parent: 27%
- Religious leader: 25%
- Spouse or Partner: 21%
- Friend who’s HIV-: 17%
- Child: 7%

Total

- Healthcare worker: 30%
- Social worker: 29%
- Friend who’s HIV+: 26%
- Parent: 24%
- Religious leader: 22%
- Spouse or Partner: 21%
- Friend who’s HIV-: 18%
- Child: 14%
- Other: 7%
Data Results: Overall Level of Social Support*

New Orleans
- Low Support (21%)
- Moderate Support (28%)
- High Support (51%)

Baton Rouge
- Low Support (11%)
- Moderate Support (25%)
- High Support (65%)

Total
- Low Support (16%)
- Moderate Support (27%)
- High Support (58%)

*Social Support = Advice, Assistance, Care, Leisure Time, Affection, and Information
Data Results: Referrals

### New Orleans

- Housing Service: 27%
- Dental Insurance: 23%
- Employment Service: 19%
- Legal Services: 13%
- Health Care: 12%
- Support Group or Mental Services: 7%

### Baton Rouge

- Dental Insurance: 20%
- Health Care: 13%
- Housing Service: 10%
- Employment Service: 9%
- Legal Services: 3%
- Support Group or Mental Services: 3%

### Total

- Dental Insurance: 21%
- Housing Service: 18%
- Employment Service: 16%
- Legal Services: 8%
- Health Care: 8%
- Support Group or Mental Services: 7%
Question: How has HIV-related stigma and discrimination affected you?

Response: “I don't want others to know my HIV status. I pray to God that I am cleansed of HIV. People look down on me once they know I am HIV+. I feel separated from others because of HIV”
Data Results: **Stigma**

**New Orleans**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Been aware of being gossiped about</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been verbally insulted, harassed, and/or threatened</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluded from social gatherings or activities</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluded from family activities</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been physically harassed and/or threatened</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced sexual rejection as a result of HIV status</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminated against by other people living with HIV</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminated against by someone who works for an HIV/AIDS service organization</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In last 12 months
Data Results: **Stigma** (New Orleans)

**REASONS FOR HIV-RELATED STIGMA/DISCRIMINATION IN LAST 12 MONTHS**

- People are afraid of contracting HIV from me (19%)
- People don't understand how HIV is transmitted and are afraid they will contract HIV through casual contact (28%)
- People think that having HIV is shameful and they should not be associated with me (24%)
- Religious beliefs or judgements (10%)
- People disapprove of my lifestyle or behavior (15%)
- I look sick with symptoms associated with HIV (6%)
- I don't know/ not sure of the reasons (34%)
Data Results: Stigma
(New Orleans)

Experienced As a Result of Stigma/Discrimination

- Depression: 68%
- Anxiety: 59%
- Withdrawing from family/friends: 33%
- Income loss: 24%
- Skipped doses of medication: 23%
- Increased drug or alcohol intake: 22%
- Withdrawing from faith-based or spiritual support: 16%
- Avoiding health care: 14%
- Avoiding social support: 11%
- Reduced exercise, physical activity, or sleep: 11%
- Missed days at work or school: 9%
HEALTHCARE WORKERS THAT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST PARTICIPANTS IN LAST 12 MONTHS

- Office Staff (7%)
- Infectious Disease Doctor (1%)
- Infectious Disease Nurse (3%)
- General Practitioner (2%)
- Emergency Room Doctor (1%)
- Emergency Room Nurse (1%)
- Obstetrics/Gynecology Doctor (15%)
- Obstetrics/Gynecology Nurse (15%)
- Dentist (15%)
- Dental Hygienist (15%)
- Other (5%)
Question: Do you feel that your community has developed particular strengths through addressing the HIV epidemic?

Response: “In my community (community of color) there has been a lack of moral intelligence that has prevented a decrease of diagnosis because of the stigma of the virus”
### Data Results: Stigma

#### Baton Rouge

In last 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Been aware of being gossiped about</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been verbally insulted, harassed, and/or threatened</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluded from social gatherings or activities</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced sexual rejection as a result of HIV status</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjected to mental/emotional pressure/manipulation by husband/wife/partner who used your HIV status against you</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluded from family activities</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminated against by other people living with HIV</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife/husband/partner or any household members experienced discrimination because of your HIV status</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discerned against by someone who works for HIV/AIDS Organization</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Results: Stigma

(Baton Rouge)

REASONS FOR HIV-RELATED STIGMA/DISCRIMINATION IN LAST 12 MONTHS

- People are afraid of contracting HIV from me (17%)
- People don't understand how HIV is transmitted and are afraid they will contract HIV through casual contact (37%)
- People think that having HIV is shameful and they should not be associated with me (26%)
- Religious beliefs or judgements (10%)
- People disapprove of my lifestyle or behavior (19%)
- I look sick with symptoms associated with HIV (3%)
- I don't know/ not sure of the reasons (15%)
Data Results: **Stigma** (Baton Rouge)

**Experienced As a Result of Stigma/Discrimination**

- Depression: 57%
- Anxiety: 49%
- Withdrawing from family/friends: 31%
- Increased drug or alcohol intake: 23%
- Skipped doses of medication: 22%
- Avoiding social support: 22%
- Avoiding health care: 17%
- Missed days at work or school: 16%
- Withdrawing from faith-based or spiritual support: 14%
- Reduced exercise, physical activity, or sleep: 9%
- Income loss: 9%
HEALTHCARE WORKERS THAT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST PARTICIPANTS IN LAST 12 MONTHS

- Office Staff (5%)
- Infectious Disease Doctor (1%)
- Infectious Disease Nurse (13%)
- General Practitioner (13%)
- Emergency Room Doctor (2%)
- Emergency Room Nurse (3%)
- Obstetrics/Gynecology Doctor (13%)
- Obstetrics/Gynecology Nurse (13%)
- Dentist (13%)
- Dental Hygienist (3%)
- Other (13%)
Question: If you have tried to resolve an issue of stigma and discrimination on your own with the assistance of others, briefly describe what the issue was about.

Response: “One of my friends and I had a conversation. My friend asked if she can drink out of my cup, ‘You don't have AIDS do you? Only gay people get it’ ”
Data Results: Layered Stigma

Experienced Discrimination/Stigma Reasons Other Than HIV Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>New Orleans</th>
<th>Baton Rouge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gay man, a man who has sex with men, or a lesbian</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injecting drug use</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person with disability</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless person</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displaced because of natural disaster</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex worker</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial minority</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender person</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Results: Facing Stigma/Discrimination
(In last 12 months)

New Orleans

- Sought help from organizations/groups to resolve stigma/discrimination issue: 23%
- Confronted, challenged, or educated someone who was stigmatizing/discriminating against you: 29%
- Confronted, challenged, or educated someone who was stigmatizing/discriminating against another person with HIV: 37%
- Know of organizations/groups you can go to if experience stigma or discrimination: 71%

Baton Rouge

- Sought help from organizations/groups to resolve stigma/discrimination issue: 24%
- Confronted, challenged, or educated someone who was stigmatizing/discriminating against you: 49%
- Confronted, challenged, or educated someone who was stigmatizing/discriminating against another person with HIV: 53%
- Know of organizations/groups you can go to if experience stigma or discrimination: 85%

Total

- Sought help from organizations/groups to resolve stigma/discrimination issue: 23%
- Confronted, challenged, or educated someone who was stigmatizing/discriminating against you: 39%
- Confronted, challenged, or educated someone who was stigmatizing/discriminating against another person with HIV: 45%
- Know of organizations/groups you can go to if experience stigma or discrimination: 78%
Data Results: Affecting Change - Organizations Known

New Orleans

- Local HIV/AIDS service: 43%
- People living with HIV support group: 40%
- Network of people living with HIV: 32%
- A LGBT rights organization: 28%
- A legal practice specializing in HIV/AIDS cases: 25%
- National AIDS council or committee: 23%
- National non-profit: 23%
- National AIDS council or committee: 23%
- Human rights organization: 21%
- Civil rights focused on racial/ethnic justice: 19%
- Faith-based: 17%
- International non-governmental: 14%
- UN organization: 7%
- UV organization: 3%
Data Results: Affecting Change - Organizations Known

Baton Rouge

- Local HIV/AIDS service: 78%
- People living with HIV support group: 65%
- Network of people living with HIV: 48%
- Faith-based: 38%
- A legal practice: 31%
- National non-profit: 27%
- Human rights organization: 24%
- A LGBT rights organization: 22%
- National AIDS council or committee: 16%
- Civil rights focused on racial/ethnic justice: 16%
- UN organization: 13%
- International nongovernmental: 3%
- Other: 2%
- Faith-based: 1%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%
Data Results: Involvement

New Orleans

- Ryan White Planning Council (20%)
- A community advisory board (8%)
- Krewe (3%)
- HIV Advocacy Day (11%)
- AIDSWatch in Washington, D.C. (8%)
- Write a letter, email, or call a legislator (11%)
- None of these (73%)

Baton Rouge

- Ryan White Planning Council (35%)
- A community advisory board (44%)
- Krewe (7%)
- HIV Advocacy Day (33%)
- AIDSWatch in Washington, D.C. (3%)
- Write a letter, email, or call a legislator (13%)
- None of these (47%)

Total

- Ryan White Planning Council (27%)
- A community advisory board (26%)
- Krewe (5%)
- HIV Advocacy Day (22%)
- AIDSWatch in Washington, D.C. (6%)
- Write a letter, email, or call a legislator (12%)
- None of these (60%)
Data Results: Recommendations for an Organization of PLWH to Address Stigma/Discrimination

**New Orleans**
- Address poverty, homelessness, & trauma: 49%
- Build networks & supporting advocacy efforts: 16%
- Advocate rights & provide support for MSM, transgender, sex workers, incarcerated, & injecting drug users: 13%
- Providing emotional/physical/referral support: 13%
- Educating PLWH about living with HIV: 12%

**Baton Rouge**
- Address poverty, homelessness, & trauma: 61%
- Providing emotional/physical/referral support: 19%
- Advocate rights & provide support for MSM, transgender, sex workers, incarcerated, & injecting drug users: 11%
- Educating PLWH about living with HIV: 8%
- Build networks & supporting advocacy efforts: 7%

**Total**
- Address poverty, homelessness, & trauma: 39%
- Providing emotional/physical/referral support: 14%
- Advocate rights & provide support for MSM, transgender, sex workers, incarcerated, & injecting drug users: 11%
- Educating PLWH about living with HIV: 10%
- Raise awareness & knowledge of the public about HIV: 8%
Data Recap

- Participants recruited aligned with our surveillance data by Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation
- Most participants were in HIV care
- Many participants had multiple co-occurring health conditions (e.g., Hep C)
- Most participants have lived with HIV for 15 or more years
- The majority of participants were African American MSM
- Most participants were unemployed and had limited income and education
Data Recap

- Almost half of all participants were or had been homeless – higher in New Orleans

- Top three referrals were dental insurance, housing, and support group/mental health

- The most common stigma experiences were being gossiped about followed by being verbally insulted/harassed/threatened

- Depression and anxiety were common consequences of stigma and discrimination

- Participants experienced layered stigma – stigma tied to HIV status, sexual orientation, and other behaviors/experiences
Main reasons for experienced stigma/discrimination were related to misunderstandings of HIV, shame, and fear of being contracted - in that order.

Surprising low numbers of people who were excluded from religious places of worship or withdrew. Most participants skipped this question.

The greatest amount of support was provided by social/healthcare workers and other persons living with HIV but they were also the same groups that inflicted stigma/discrimination.

Most participants knew of organizations that assisted with fighting stigma and discrimination but very few sought help from such establishments.
Data Limitations

- The major age group interviewed was 50 years and older; better distribution of results if we had a larger group of younger participants.

- Most participants were in HIV care.

- Majority of support provided is from “healthcare workers” when they are first told about participant’s HIV status but unsure of which type of health care worker.

- Most participants recruited from New Orleans and Baton Rouge city limits.

- These findings cannot be generalized to all PLWH in New Orleans or Baton Rouge, but this is still a substantial number of PLWH.
Question: If you have tried to resolve an issue of stigma and discrimination on your own with the assistance of others, briefly describe what the issue was about

Response: “I've educated others who were afraid of contracting HIV from being intimate with me on their actual risk factors and how viral suppression and PrEP can both greatly reduce risk, making serodiscordant relationships possible”
Thank you!

Questions?
Next Steps

- Discussion
- Recommendations Development
- Recommendations Prioritization