An intergenerational comparison of stigma and discrimination in non-HIV healthcare settings across the UK

The Young People Living with HIV Stigma Survey UK 2017

Background

- The People Living with HIV Stigma Surveys UK were co-produced by people living with HIV (PLWH), clinicians and researchers. They are collaborative, community-led initiatives that capture the feelings and experiences of living with HIV within the last 12 months.
- Two cross-sectional studies [2015: adults aged 18+] and [2017: young people (YP) aged 15-24] were conducted in the United Kingdom.
- Participants recruited through HIV clinics and community organisations completed an anonymous online survey.
- We report intergenerational differences of experiences in healthcare settings outside HIV clinics among adults and young people (YP) living with HIV in the UK. Descriptive and multivariate analyses are presented.
- Quotes presented below are by participants from both studies, identified by year.

Results

- 1,450 adults and 300 YP took part in the study with median (IQR) ages 45 years (37,52) and 20 years (17,22), respectively.
- In the last 12 months, young people were less likely than adults to worry about being treated differently; report negative experiences in non-HIV healthcare settings; or avoid seeking care when needed (Figure and Table: unadjusted OR column).
- These associations remained after accounting for any differences between groups in demographics, ART use, depressive symptoms and self-image score (Table, Adjusted OR column).
- Young people were less likely to report any negative experiences in non-HIV care compared to adults (OR=0.16, 95%CI 0.11-0.23) and this may explain differences in avoiding care between the two groups (after additional adjustment aOR=1, 95% CI 0.68-1.47).
- A high positive self-image score is associated with avoiding care but does not explain young people’s lower avoidance compared to adults in the last 12 months.

Conclusions & Recommendations

- Young people report experiencing significantly less worry and negative experiences within non-HIV healthcare settings compared to adults living with HIV in the UK.
- Young people were less likely to avoid seeking care compared to adults living with HIV in the UK.
- Further exploration is required into how non-HIV healthcare settings can provide more stigma-free care to all people living with HIV to ensure continued engagement with services.

Experiences in non-HIV healthcare settings - Uni and multivariables analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Adults (N=1,450)</th>
<th>Young People (N=300)</th>
<th>Unadjusted OR (95% CI) * YP vs adults</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (95% CI) * YP vs adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worry about being treated differently</td>
<td>773 (53.3%)</td>
<td>63 (21%)</td>
<td>0.2 (0.15-0.27)</td>
<td>0.21 (0.15-0.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heard negative comments</td>
<td>200 (13.8%)</td>
<td>16 (5.3%)</td>
<td>0.33 (0.19-0.55)</td>
<td>0.37 (0.22-0.65)</td>
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<tr>
<td>See use of excess barriers</td>
<td>306 (21.1%)</td>
<td>27 (9.0%)</td>
<td>0.34 (0.23-0.52)</td>
<td>0.36 (0.24-0.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused or delayed care</td>
<td>243 (16.8%)</td>
<td>9 (3.0%)</td>
<td>0.14 (0.07-0.27)</td>
<td>0.14 (0.06-0.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated differently</td>
<td>441 (30.4%)</td>
<td>15 (5.0%)</td>
<td>0.11 (0.06-0.18)</td>
<td>0.11 (0.06-0.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid seeking care</td>
<td>396 (27.3%)</td>
<td>50 (16.7%)</td>
<td>0.48 (0.35-0.66)</td>
<td>0.51 (0.35-0.71)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A distinct multivariable model was used for each outcome (row); adjusted for demographic characteristics, whether participants were currently on ART, a high PHQ2 score, a high positive self-image score.