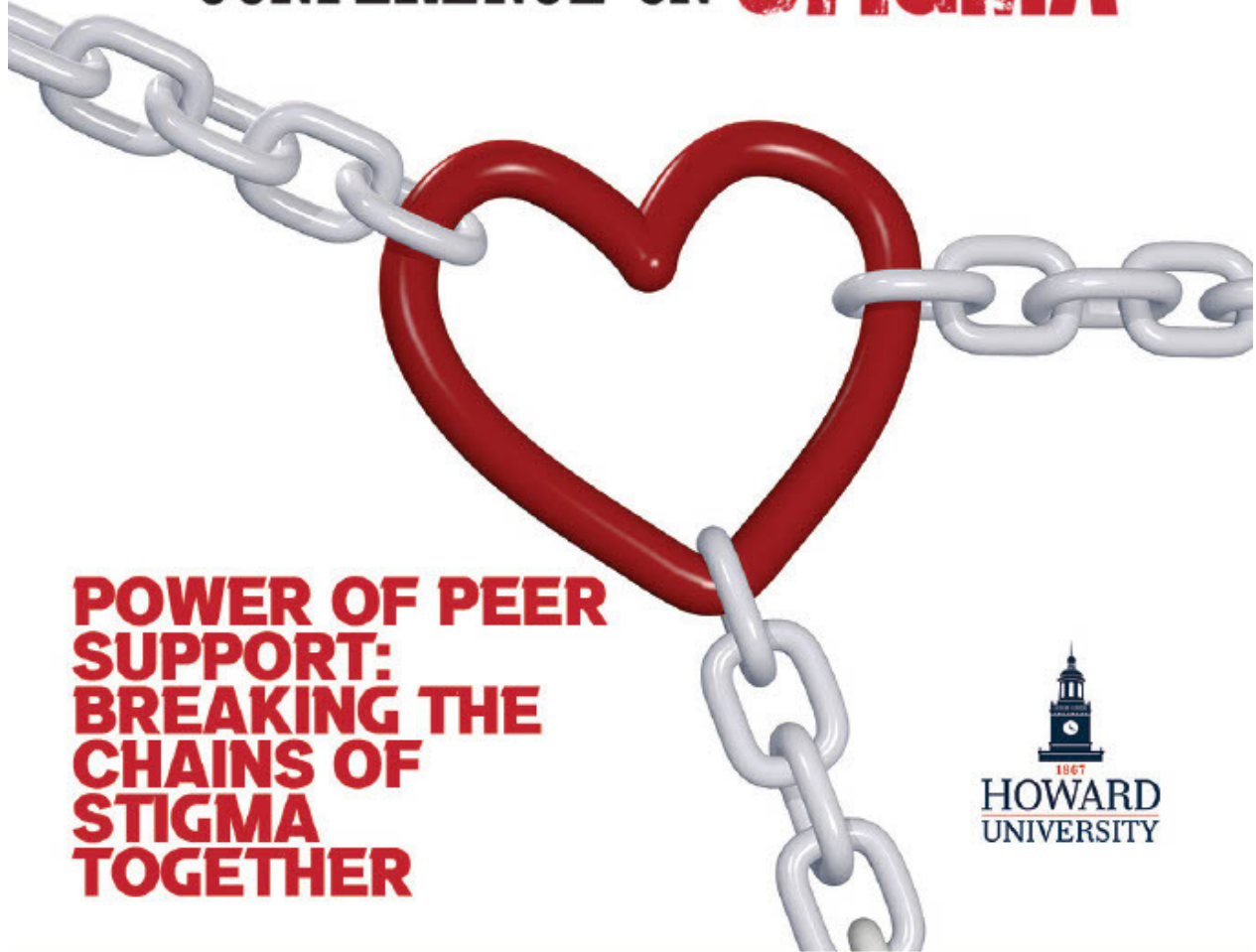


The 13th Annual
**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON STIGMA**



**POWER OF PEER
SUPPORT:
BREAKING THE
CHAINS OF
STIGMA
TOGETHER**



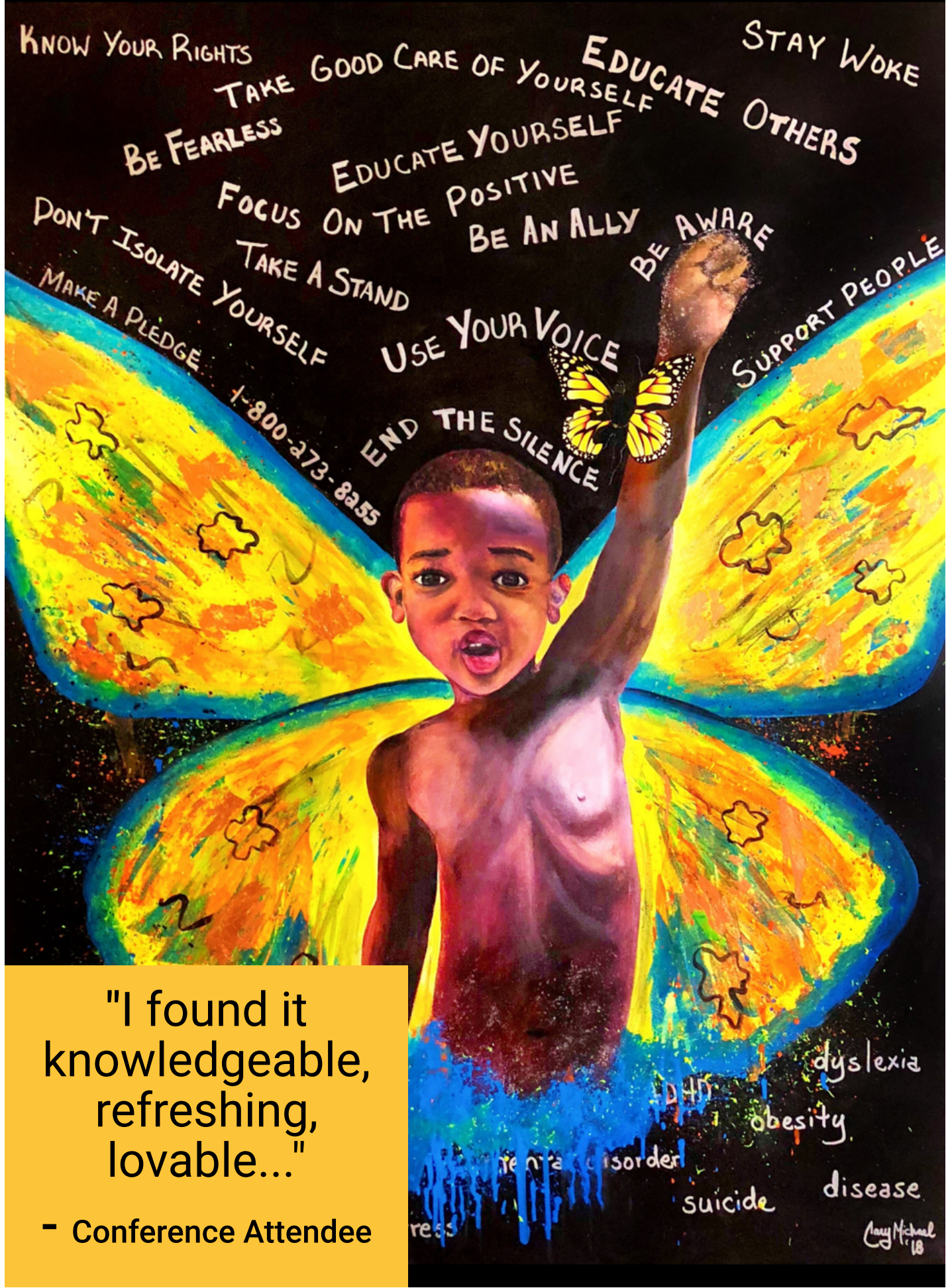
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Contact us at hupeds@howard.edu or 202.865.4578

NOVEMBER 15TH TO 18TH 2022



2022 Conference Summary Report



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF
EDUCATE YOURSELF
STAY WOKE
BE FEARLESS
EDUCATE OTHERS
FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE
DON'T ISOLATE YOURSELF
BE AN ALLY
TAKE A STAND
BE AWARE
MAKE A PLEDGE
1-800-273-8255
USE YOUR VOICE
SUPPORT PEOPLE
END THE SILENCE

"I found it knowledgeable, refreshing, lovable..."

- Conference Attendee

ADHD
mental disorder
suicide
dyslexia
obesity
disease
ress

Loay Michael '18

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The 13th annual International Conference on Stigma was successfully held as a hybrid event through the WHOVA platform and at Howard University. The event was held from November 14, 2022, through November 18, 2022.

- This was an action-packed week of research plenary sessions, panels, workshops, networking, entertainment, and more.
- Howard University Provost Dr. Anthony Wutoh and Associate Dean for Research Dr. Celia Maxwell welcomed guests.
- 4 raffles were held over the course of the week and prizes were given for scientific abstracts and artwork.
- Exhibitors included: DC CFAR, Denver Prevention Training Center, Howard University School of Social Work, QCare, Rana Pediatric Fund, EMD Serono, RDCT, RTI International, The Assistance Fund, ViiV Healthcare, Gilead, Theratechnologies, AIDS United, NASTAD, NMAC, Foundations for Living, Gilead, HealthHIV, WeThink4AChange, CryOut Teen Organization, Priorities on Rights and Sexual Health.
- **Conference learning objectives were:**
 - **To organize an outstanding international event to share research on HIV and other health-related stigma and facilitate dialogue and interaction between academia and the community.**
 - **To promote innovative programs and research on stigma interventions, especially those incorporating innovative peer support practices.**
 - **Provide leadership training to empower participants to become advocates for change and participate in interventions for stigma reduction.**

ATTENDANCE AND SESSIONS

625 registrants

There were 41% in-person and 59% remote attendees during this hybrid conference.

Workshops

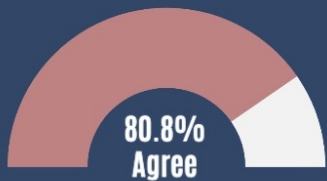
55% of participants said that the workshops were their favorite type of session.

Live stream

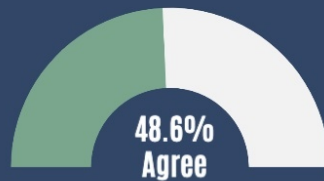
Attendees viewed the conference from at least 9 countries.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STIGMA

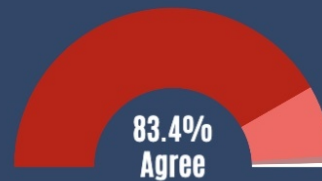
Attendee Survey Results



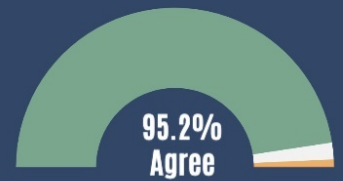
Are people more willing to share their diagnosis (HIV, Mental Illness, Sickle Cell Disease, etc) now than they were in the past?



Do you think stigma has decreased in the past few years?



My understanding of peer support has increased after attending this event



This event was beneficial to my personal and professional life and I would attend again.

- 59.6% of attendees were female and 31.8% were male. The remainder of attendees identified as transgender or non-binary.
- All age groups were well represented, with the largest group being >55 years (25.8%).
- 11.9% of attendees identified in the Latinx population.

72% of attendees
were persons of color

**Who
Attended?**



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STIGMA



FEEDBACK

"I loved the conference. It was very informative and engaging."

"Thanks to the team for showing hope and courage to the people affected with stigma"

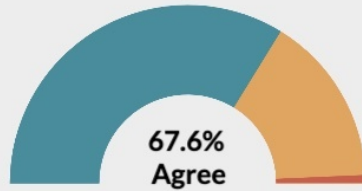
"I thank the organizers for giving us a platform to speak."

"This was my first time being a part of the International Stigma Conference. I found it knowledgeable, refreshing, lovable, a source of information and a diverse conversation. It was excellent."

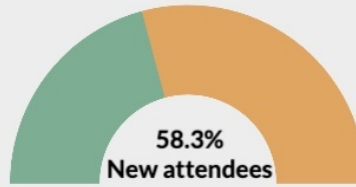
"Each of the groups had wonderful information and I thank everyone for sharing this with me to make me stronger."

Common areas of improvement noted on surveys included: technical problems with the video platforms and user friendliness, not enough in person days, and not all workshops were live webcast.

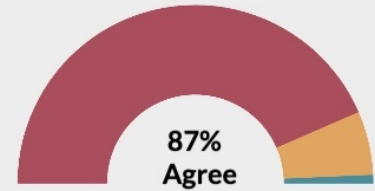
More Survey Results



I will make changes to my practice, organization or personal life after attending this event.



Have you attended this conference in a previous year?



I would like supplemental events throughout the year

Virtual or In-Person?

More than 74% of attendees liked the hybrid format with some sessions virtual and some in person.

The event offered up to 28.5 hours of social work CEU...



WINNING ARTWORK



1st

J.O.Y. Jubilation-Oppresses-Yearning
by Cary Michael Robinson



2nd

*Mental Health is
Community Health*

by Kristy McCarthy, Felix Guzman and
members of the East Harlem based
Psychosocial Clubhouse Chelton Loft, NY



Breaking Stigma with Peer Support
Video by Born Talented Achievers, Uganda

3rd

CONFERENCE OUTLINE AND PROCEEDINGS

Monday, November 14th (Virtual)

Workgroups and Partner Pre-events

The Meaning of Mental Health First Aid Training in Interfaith Communities

Speaker: Rukhsana (Moona) Chaudhry

Ms. Chaudhry gave an overview of Mental Health First Aid training and discussed the role of faith communities. This was followed by enthusiastic group discussion with attendees.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Presenter: Ameican Muslim Health Professionals

Participants learned risk factors and warning signs of common mental health conditions like anxiety, depression, substance use disorder and bipolar disorder. Role-playing and other instruction methods were used to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis and provide initial help. Participants completing all tasks received a certification.

Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health Workgroup

Session Coordinators: Carlene Valentine, Haley Deutsch, Sandy Noel

Attendees discussed current efforts moving towards health equity in their localities as well as what is needed to develop actionable items towards addressing health inequity.

Internalized Stigma Workgroup

Co-Moderators: Alicia Lucksted, Joe DeLuca, Emily Petti

This was an open session for the Internalized Stigma Workgroup, giving attendees a chance to introduce themselves, get to know other members and see how the group can help support them in their work addressing internalized stigma.

Spilling the Tea! A real conversation with trans and cisgender women

Presented by WeThink4AChange

This was a frank and open conversation addressing interactions and attitudes between cis and trans women, and how improvements can be made in communication.

Reducing Disparities and Improving Health Outcomes in the HIV Care Continuum

Speaker: Angele Moss-Baker

This workshop highlighted the success of national efforts, including the District of Columbia, and best practices for the successful implementation of a comprehensive HIV system of care designed to provide services critical to the reduction of health disparities and improve health outcomes.

NMAC ESCALATE – Stigma Reduction as an Approach to Ending the HIV Epidemic

Coordinators: Terrell Parker and Christopher LaRose,

Presenters: Christopher La Rose, Caressa J Harding, Esther Ross, Charlyn Buford, Rhonda Harris

Ending Stigma through Collaboration and Lifting All to Empowerment (ESCALATE) is an innovative approach to addressing the impact of stigma throughout the Ryan White Care system. Presenters shared their goals and progress on this effort.

Tuesday, November 15th (Virtual)

Plenary Session 1: Stigma: What have we learned?

Internalized Stigma: What we know, where are we headed?

Moderator: Ken Pettigrew

Speakers: Ellie Moffatt, Duncan Short

Over the last 40 years, there have been great advances made in treatment and prevention that have dramatically altered the course of HIV. Although there have been significant advances, stigma remains a barrier to people benefitting from effective treatment.

Serious Question: Can we end the HIV Epidemic in the US without Ending Stigma?

Speaker: Terrell Parker

Parker spoke on the purpose of NMAC ESCALATE, which is to reduce stigma for PLWH on multiple levels throughout the healthcare system. He also talked about the impact of stigma on health outcomes. He talked about forms of HIV-related stigma in healthcare facilities that serve as a barrier in ending the HIV epidemic in the US.

Patient Reported Mental Health & Stigma among People with HIV in DC Cohort

Speaker: Lauren O'Connor

O'Connor presented a study on the evaluation of stigma among participants in the DC Cohort study and the factors associated with stigma.

Up To Me: Reducing Self-Stigma Through Strategic Disclosure

Speaker: Kristin Kosyluk

Kosyluk presented her team's research looking at mental illness among college students and its impact. Her data reported a significant level of stress around stigma including a loss of self-esteem, and self-efficacy as a result of internalized stigma.

Other Virtual Sessions

Scientific Abstracts Session

Speakers: Victoria Hoverman, Joshua Stout, Ikenna Nwakanma

Dr. Hoverman announced the scientific abstracts awards and two of the winners presented.

Transforming the Story: Addressing Faith-Based HIV Stigma in the US South (Gilead Sponsored Keynote Address)

Speaker: Allison Matthews

This keynote explored the role of faith communities in addressing HIV stigma and breaking the silence around HIV. She shared information on the collaborative efforts of the Gilead Compass Initiative Faith Coordinating Center in this area.

Faith Session One—Syndemics, Stigma, and Spirituality: The Intersections of HIV, COVID, MPox & Faith

Speakers: Sohail Rana, George S. Kerr III, Ulysses Burley III, Kirk D. Myers-Hill, Tonyka McKinney

This discussion explored various community and faith-based interventions in the intersection of HIV, COVID-19, and MonkeyPox with a focus on the role of faith communities and addressing the inherent stigma and the response to these colliding public health crises.

Town Hall- For the People By the People

Moderator: Alecia Tramel-McIntyre

Participants: Khafre Kujichagulia Abif, Tori Cooper, Bryan C. Jones, Alecia Tramel-McIntyre

This was a town hall led by people with lived experiences, about the impact of HIV. They asked thought-provoking questions and opened up the floor to the audience for an engaging conversation.

Faith Session Two—Experience of Local Faith Communities in Addressing HIV-Related Stigma

Speakers: David Barstow and John Blevins

Faith leaders and communities play a critical role in stigma reduction because faith communities are everywhere. This session discussed various positive ways that faith communities deal with stigma. During the session, multiple stories about the involvement of local congregations and their positive involvement in stigma reduction were shared.

Wednesday, November 16th (Virtual)

International Session and Workshop Day

International Session

Moderator: Chris Duncombe

*More Than Just a Friend: "Shielding from Stigma Through Social Support"-
An example of poor Bangladeshi women living with HIV*

Speakers: Shirin Sultana, Jemel Aguilar

Dr. Sultana and Dr. Aguilar presented their 2nd place abstract during this session. Poor Bangladeshi women living with HIV face difficulties related to religion, gender-related discrimination, and HIV-related stigma which leads to lower self-esteem and depression. Increasing social support on an individual, peer, and systematic level had a positive impact on mental health.

*Stigma, Antiretroviral Therapy Adherence (ART) and Coping Mechanisms
among Ugandan Adolescents Living with HIV: A Mixed Methods Study*

Speaker: Robert Kairania

Dr. Kairania presented his research from Uganda during this session. He reported that HIV-related stigma was strongly associated with non-adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART). However, positive coping strategies included sharing experiences with peers. This accountability helped to improve adherence to ART. He concluded that there is a need to screen for stigma during clinic visits.

The Well-Being of Orphans and Vulnerable Children: Breaking the Stigma

Speaker: Zeenat Yassin

This was a six-year longitudinal study done by Dr. Yassin. The study looked at the psychological and psychosocial well-being of vulnerable children and orphans impacted by HIV-related stigma. Every manifestation of HIV-related stigma seemed to affect a different domain of well-being. She concluded that the only way to combat stigma is to keep on chipping away at it; keep on raising awareness and talking about it.

Zero HIV Stigma Day

Speaker: Calvin Pugh

Stigma manifests itself in the forms of criminalization of substance abuse, sex work, and HIV. July 21 was chosen as Zero HIV Stigma Day to commemorate the late South African HIV Activist Prudence Mabele. She was the first known black woman to share her HIV status. Her work amplified the message that improved outcomes in sexual health and HIV can only be achieved when we tackle stigma, equity, and equality across society.

The stigma free spaces project in Jamaica

Speaker: Jaemar Johnson

This presentation was on efforts by the Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+) to create stigma free spaces in Jamaica and fight stigma and discrimination.

Workshops

Black HIV Workgroup

Moderators: Bryan C. Jones, Sheila Alinda, Jerry Washington

This was an open discussion about the things that affect the black community in relation to HIV and other systemic issues.

Internalized Stigma and the Environment: A Photo-Narrative Project,

Internalized Stigma Interest Group

Rick Guasco, Kristin Kosyluk, Alicia Lucksted, Emily Petti, Joseph DeLuca

This project showed photos of people (or art) and the story behind each photo. The speakers or attendees talked about what each photo represents to the artist or the person. The goal of this project was to use art and address people's perceptions as a way to reduce stigma.

Ronpiendo Barreras (Breaking Barriers) IN SPANISH

Moderator: Eddie Orozco

Panelists: Alberto Pérez Bermudez, Mycah Lee Arellano

This session, which was the first ever in Spanish at this event, created conversations about how to diminish HIV-related stigma in the Hispanic community by breaking barriers in the community.

HIV, Mental Health, and Wellness

Speaker: Mable Taplin

Ms. Taplin spoke about the importance of mental health, the signs and symptoms, and strategies to fight HIV-related stigma. The life expectancy of people living with HIV (PLWH) is increasingly becoming the same as people living without the virus. However, PLWH continue to struggle with their mental health (i.e. untreated depression or loneliness), substance use, or taking their medication regularly, potentially impacting their quality of life.

Beyond the Barbershop: A Conversation on Men, Sex, Sexuality, and Stigma

Moderator: Terrell Long

Panelists: Rodney McCoy, Aaziah Anthony, Louis Shackelford

This session was a critical conversation on how stigma impacts men in different lived experiences. They talked about how they are constantly attacked and under review as black men in society. Rodney McCoy: "The definition of sexuality for black men is not a good one."

Substance Use Disorder and Social Stigma: Research and Dissemination Efforts at Penn State University

Moderator: Weston Kensinger

Panelists: Övgü Kaynak, Christopher Whipple, Erica Saylor, Brenda Russell, Nathan Kruis, Jennifer Murphy, Erin Bergner, Glenn Sterner

This was a series of presentations by Penn State University professors. Stigma can impact those with substance use disorder from diagnosis to recovery. The speakers spoke about how substance abuse disorder stigma affects an individual and their families. It impacts families through shame, social isolation, not seeking help, and a lack of resources. Stigma is a barrier to treatment availability, initiation, and utilization. Storytelling could be used as a possible intervention to reduce self-stigma for substance abuse.

HIV and Stigma: Why is this still a problem? 40 years later

Panelists:

Naimah O'Neal, Michelle Jackson Rollins, Tina Marbury

The United States has made enormous strides in the treatment and prevention of HIV. However, progress has stalled and part of the issue is that people still have old myths about HIV. The speakers discussed some of the myths that people still have 40 years after the HIV epidemic. They also spoke about HIV criminalization and the surrounding stigma which, among other things, may prevent people from getting tested.

Transcend Wellness Workshop: A Healing and Wellness Space for People of Trans Experience

Moderator: Aaziah Anthony

Panelists: Ezra Conklin, Jessica Zyrie

This was a discussion and activity-based workshop for people of trans experience. Each participant in the panel discussed the link between trauma and trans identity. Jessica: "Trauma is always centered in our stories and we take away the healing aspect of that." Ezra: "Healing is different than health and wellness. Healing is an interpersonal process and it is not necessarily individual."

Film

"And We Rest On Giants"

Director: Kevin Anderson

This is a 14-minute exploration into the lives of long-term HIV thrivers. "As stigma continues to ravish communities of color, this short film not only looks at the journey of thrivers but also provides an unapologetic first-hand account of their journey." This premiere was followed by a candid conversation with the director and thrivers.

Thursday, November 17th (Virtual)

Poster Presenter Live Session

The following participants presented their accepted posters: **Dhruvi Chauhan, Kelsey Isman, Vanessa Castro, Vinita Saxena, Ja'Mel Ware**

Friday, November 19th (In-Person and Streaming)

Theratechnologies Inc. Sponsored Keynote

Champions Break Chains: The Power of Storytelling in Ending Stigma

Speaker: Mable Taplin with Introduction by Pete Thomas

Mable Taplin spoke about the power of storytelling in ending stigma. Taplin compared champions to everyday people who resonated with the same character traits as celebrity athletes such as Michael Jordan. She provoked the crowd to think about how they should treat others as if they are their close loved ones with HIV. This is essential because it leads not only to sympathy, but more importantly to empathy. The testimonial she discussed revealed that those with conditions such as HIV who face adversities can conquer achievements such as founding a non-profit organization, finishing a master's degree, and making a podcast.

Plenary Session 2: Power of Peer Support: Breaking the Chains of Stigma Together

Moderator: Lisa Fager Bediako

Speakers discussed opening up more services to people from different language backgrounds and participating in outreach in more cities. In the Q&A, they touched on the power of peer support.

Peers at HIPS: The Importance of Lived Experience in Public Health

Panelist: Phyllis Bijole

Bijole spoke on hiring staff with a checkered history from experience they have in the issues they want to impact. The mission of her organization is also based on giving a helping hand to those who are stigmatized.

Seeing Me In You, A Change in Our Perspective

Panelist: Mark Robinson

Robinson spoke on his organization contributing to works in the LGBTQ community in the DMV area. Homelessness is a huge issue found in youth LGBTQ individuals that can lead to sex work, mental trauma, and abuse.

Workforce Development Through Peer Education

Panelist: Mario Gray

This session addressed training and capacity building work done by Us Helping Us.

Art Expression

A closed art session was held for members of the StoryTIME project.

Rana Family Speaker Series on Social Justice in Health

Yearning to Breathe: Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

Speaker: Altaf Husain with Introduction by Sandra Edmonds Crew

Dr. Husain spoke on the social impact of family health. Through social work we see there are systems in place in Washington, DC and around the country that refuse to acknowledge certain groups of people. People are not broken, the system is broken. In Q and A, internalized stigma, the criminalization of charity, and companies holding monopolies on the nation's health were discussed.

Afternoon Workshops

The Power of Peer Support: Breaking the Chains of Stigma

Together as we Age with HIV: Pain Shared is Pain Lessened

Moderator: Derrick Robinson

Panelists: Alberto Pérez Bermudez, Larry Bryant, Derek Canas(D-REK), Shawn Mark, Clayton Siem

A panel of heterosexual men from the HU Positive Entrempowerment group, with various life experiences in the field of HIV, spoke about the issues they had with their friends and family regarding their HIV status. They discussed the conflicts of having relationships and children during the time of their new diagnosis. Sharing stories and experiences empowers and builds comfort and confidence with those around us.

Faith Session 3: Help Me Tell My Story

Moderator: Sande Bailey-Gwinn

Panelists: Ulysses Burley III, Cynthia Belt, Tammy Kinney

The participants spoke about the intersection between HIV and faith through storytelling. They presented a 25-minute documentary called "My Faith, My Story." The documentary begins by discussing statistics regarding the percentage of the Southern region's population diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the United States compared to other regions, and the percentage of religious Black Americans in the country. Afterward, a man's story is shared with the audience, describing how being diagnosed with HIV has helped him find a profound faith in God and a passion to help others with the same diagnosis. There were common themes around the stories on stigma and not losing faith during your darkest moments. After the documentary, there was open discussion for the audience to share their takeaways. Finally, there was a very engaging panel discussion with real-life examples of how HIV can have a positive impact on your life if you overcome stigma.

Becoming a Supportive Peer

Speaker: Phronie Jackson

The presentation used interactive and engaging activities, such as creating a peer superhero, to define the five roles of a peer educator. The speaker talked about the common traps of a peer educator. Dr. Jackson and participants discussed real-life examples of these traps. The conversation then shifted to a self-care action plan and the importance of practicing self-care as an adult on the frontline of helping others.

Intersections and Reflections: the Impact of Monkeypox, COVID, and HIV Stigma on Mental Health

Moderator: Andre D. Rosario

Panelists: Rodman Turpin, Ekwenzi Gray, Yao E. Odamtten, Lauren James

Howard University staff teamed up with other local health professionals to discuss whether intersecting public health threats made our society: More stigma-prone? Moodier? Less cooperative and trusting? How do these stigmas intersect and reinforce negative health outcomes? The panel tackled this nuanced topic and discussed ways to move forward.

Health Literacy: The Silent Epidemic

Co-Presenters: Rebecca Vargas-Jackson and Sergio Rimola

Dr. Rebecca Vargas-Jackson started the presentation with the definitions of health, health literacy, and peer and their association. She broke down the basic concepts of health literacy (e.g., social determinants of health, bias, stigma, and racial diversity) and the health literacy gaps evident in society. She defined health literacy as “representing the cognitive and social skills which determine the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to, understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health.” The speakers also recommend to the audience how to improve health literacy and the importance of doing so to limit stigma and health literacy gaps.

Enough is Enough!: Breaking through the Common

Misconceptions Sickle Cell Warriors Face

Coordinators: Teanika Hoffman, Cynthia Gipson

Moderator: Teanika Hoffman

Panelists: Jimi Olaghere, Ayana Johnson, Nicklaine Paul

The session starts with a video on the stigma and the hardships patients endure physically, emotionally, and mentally when battling sickle cell disease. The individuals in the video spoke on the challenges they have with medical staff in their treatment. The speakers spoke on certain issues they have in their day-to-day lives living with sickle cell whether it's physical or mental. They also touched on the various and harmful racial disparities with those seeking care. Panelist spoke about how exhausting it gets after mistreatment keeps occurring. Parents were advised on ways to support and raise their children that have sickle cell disease. In the Q&A, one panelist urged everyone to believe sickle cell individuals when they are in pain, both children and adults.

StoryTIME: Youth Workshop

Moderators: Lisa Fager Bediako, Kendall L. Moody

Participants: Larry Bryant; Francesca Schumann; Cederick Taylor, Grayson Ross

Project staff from the ViiV funded StoryTIME project discussed this special program to fight internalized stigma for young adults and how it incorporates the PhotoVoice Intervention.

Women Celebrating Life Through the Storm from a Peer's Perspective

Moderator: Rhonda L Johnson

Panelists: Lynda Ottey, Canise Robertson, Jenise Jo Patterson, Aracelis Quinones

This session was a panel discussion with four members of the "Peer Movement." The mission of the "Peer Movement" involves advocating, spreading awareness, and working together to erase stigma, especially as it related to addiction. Each panelist shared their experiences, influences, and skills to help others move forward in 2023 with the stigma and challenges they may face. There is an overlapping theme of self-awareness, endurance, and advocacy to break the stigma which stems from insecurities. These themes are translated into strategies to overcome hardships, such as perseverance, gratitude, learning how to "dance in the storm," and faith. The discussion ends with advice to have self-compassion before helping others, not be afraid to ask for help and check in with those you trust. Without change, stigma will prevent society from progressing because it will continue to trap people in the broken system.

Congratulations to our 2022 Stigma Warriors Awardees!

In Grateful Appreciation for Outstanding Vision, Dedication, Service and Commitment to Excellence in the Field of Stigma.

Tyrone Banister

Tariro Kutadza

Davina Otalor

Janice Shirley

Darwin Thompson

Dr. Ahmar Zaidi



WINNING ABSTRACT

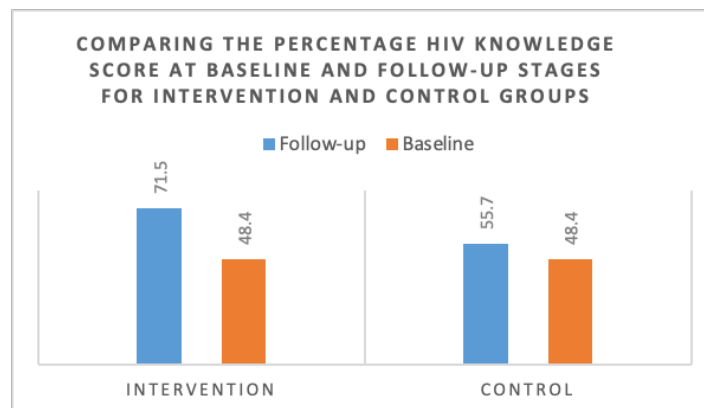
Mitigating HIV-Related Stigma through Faith Leaders Led Community Engagements: Evidence from an Impacted Assessment of an Intervention in Nigeria by Ikenna Nwakamma, Amber Erinmwinhe, Obele Oluchukwu, INERELA+ Nigeria, Christian Aid UK, Nigeria

Background: Stigma against persons living with HIV (PLHIV) has continually been reinforced by some erroneous religious narratives and stances. It contributes to feelings of guilt, default in treatment, denial, and shame. Stigma also leads to defensive behavior, fatalism, and mental health co-morbidity among PLHIV. The project's objectives were to empower faith communities with the right information on HIV to address faith interferences to HIV service uptake and also to empower faith leaders to work as advocates of HIV stigma mitigation. The intervention leveraged the moral authority of faith leaders to shape opinions, address stigmatizing narratives, and improved HIV literacy in faith congregations. In the project, a simplified version of the National HIV anti-discrimination Act was developed using verses from the Bible and Quran and a sermon guide was produced also. Using both tools, a three-day capacity building was done for selected religious leaders on HIV-related stigma mitigation through sermons, HIV knowledge improvement, and transformational messaging. The faith leaders were supported to hold dialogues with different groups in their congregations. They also facilitated HIV testing and set up confidential support groups for PLHIV in their congregations.

Methods: The study compared data from a representative survey of 510 congregants in 20 intervention congregations and 500 in 20 control congregations in the same locations, and the baseline data. The outcomes of interest were: willingness to accept HIV results if tested positive, willingness to receive communion with PLHIV, knowledge of HIV prevention at baseline, project close, and follow-up.

Results: There were a total of 1010 respondents (52.6% female) in the post-follow-up survey and 430 (female 51.2%) in the baseline survey. There was a 26.7% increase in the likelihood to accept HIV-positive results at the stage of follow-up and an 18.3% increase in the control group at follow-up. There was a significant increase in willingness to receive communion with PLHIV in the intervention group (OR 0.6445, 95% CI: 0.5245 to 0.7920, P=0.0001).

Conclusion: The intervention was able to achieve a positive attitudinal shift and a significant impact in improving HIV literacy and in reducing community-level stigma. Replication of the initiative in other communities and for public health response is recommended.



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Other Partners



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CryOut Teen Organization,
WeThink4AChange, Rhonda
Johnson, Howard University School
of Social Work, Health HIV

Collaborators: Digital Conventions, Food by Sodexo; Sohail and Gila Rana, Patricia McDougal Photos, Promising Futures, RAHMA.

Special Thanks to the musicians, artists, and participants who provided their personal stories and entertainment throughout various lunch sessions and breaks:

Vocal Selection, **Alaysia Lawson**

Dancers, **Da Most Versatile, Ayana Johnson**

Saxophone, **Brian Lenair**

Drumming and Dance, **Mojo Saga Everything**

Music Video, **Crystal Cali**

Music Video, **Jean Albert Renaud**

Video Uganda, **Born Talented Achievers**

Short Film, **Kevin Anderson**

Stigma Story, Nigeria, **Kemi Oguntimehi**

Stigma Story, Uganda, **Hajarah Asimwe, Tinah Nazziwa, William Matovu**

Stigma Story, Indonesia, **Maruli Togatorop**

Stigma Story, Sierra Leone, **Margaret Cassell**

Stigma Story, Kenya, **Anonymous**

Stigma Story, USA, **Bryan C. Jones, Shonte Daniels, Frances Ashley, Michelle Harris,**

Special Thanks To Our Committee . . .

Conference Directors: Sohail Rana, Patricia Houston and Saher Iqbal

Logistics: **Patricia Houston**, Cynthia Gipson, Saher Iqbal, Lasan Coger, Zeyna Diallo, St. Elmo Crawford, Ewurakua Winful, Javed Khan, Joanne Adelberg

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