



HIV STIGMA

- HIV stigma is negative attitudes and beliefs about people with HIV. It is the prejudice that comes with labeling an individual as part of a group that is believed to be socially unacceptable. Stigma is rooted in fear.
- A few examples of HIV stigma:
 - Believing that only certain groups of people can get HIV
 - Making moral judgments about people who take steps to prevent HIV transmission (use PrEP, don't use condoms)
 - Feeling that people deserve to get HIV because of their choices

THE STIGMA HAS NOT YET CAUGHT UP WITH THE SCIENCE

- Terminology matters: Use person-first terminology like people living with HIV, avoid terms like infected
- People with HIV are surviving & thriving. They can have HIV negative children and lead normal lives
- HIV is no longer a death sentence; persons with HIV can have a normal life expectancy if on treatment
- We have tools including PrEP, PEP, and U=U to prevent new infections

TAKING ACTION AGAINST STIGMA

- Talk about HIV and prevention options
- Normalize HIV testing

"All people living with HIV have a right to accurate information about their social, sexual, and reproductive health. Stigma is killing us. HIV stigma is a public health emergency and U=U is an immediate and effective response to begin to dismantle stigma." – Dr. Carrie Foote at 2019 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections