

HIV stigma as a social determinant of health in Puerto Rico

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HIV stigma as a social determinant of health

- Hispanics/Latinos in the US are disproportionately affected by HIV.
- Puerto Rico has some of the most worrisome HIV/AIDS statistics in the US and its territories.
- Stigmatization is a social condition. Stigma should be addressed from the structural social determinants that create and support it.
- HIV stigma impacts HIV prevention and access to care.

Challenges

- Social-construction of HIV as a negative condition.
- HIV stigma poses a major health risk.
- Healthcare professionals stigmatizing attitudes.
- Socio-structural barriers to develop inclusive policies.

Accomplishments

- Development of culturally appropriate research and interventions.
- Examples:



Lessons learned

- **Multisectorial response**
 - Populations made vulnerable in the forefront
 - Culturally appropriate interventions
 - Evidence-based
 - Laws and policies require revisions
- **Transdisciplinary collaborations**
 - Inclusion of public health scientists, economists, planners, law experts, among others
- **Capacity building**
 - Across disciplines
 - Impact in curricula

