

STIGMA

What is it ?

The addiction epidemic is directly fueled by stigma. Stigma is defined as a mark of disgrace or infamy, a stain or reproach, as on one's reputation. Mostly stigma is never based on facts but rather assumptions, perceptions, and generalizations; therefore its impact can be lessened or prevented by education.

Two main factors that affect the burden of stigma placed on a particular disease/disorder: *perceived control* (that the person has over the condition) and *perceived fault* in acquiring conditions.

For individuals and families seeking recovery: Language matters. The words "abuser" and "abuse" can evoke automatic negative thoughts about individuals with substance-related problems.

"Substance abuser" elicits a more punitive implicit cognitive bias whereas the term "person with a substance use disorder" elicits a more therapeutic attitude.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL DISAPPROVAL, MORE THAN ANY OTHER MEDICAL CONDITION.

2.5 MIL

In 2014, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that 21.5 million Americans ages 12 and older had a substance use disorder in the previous year but only 2.5 million received specialized treatment they needed.

\$510 BIL

When people experience stigma, they are less likely to seek treatment, resulting in economic, social, and medical cost. Cost associated with untreated addiction (healthcare, criminal justice, and lost productivity), amounted to \$510 billion back in 2000.

65%

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, in 2010, found that of the more than 2.3 million people incarcerated in the U.S., more 65% of them met criteria for a substance use disorder, yet only 11% received treatment.

"SUFFERING FAMILIES NEED BETTER ACCESS TO TREATMENT BASED IN SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE. WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE WAY WE TALK AND THINK - ABOUT PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS"



Stigma isolates people

People with substance use disorders are often, isolated, outcast, and even imprisoned.



Stigma discourages people from seeking treatment

The shame associated with the disease discourages individuals and families from seeking help when they need it.



Stigma even impacts how health professionals treat patients

Research shows that stigma impacts how health professionals treat patients, resulting in worse care.



Did you know?

Drug overdose is the #1 cause of accidental death in America, passing car crashes. Nearly 9 out of 10 people who need help never received treatment.



Southeast (HHS Region 4)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Information sourced from :

Shatter Proof | [Shatterproof.org](https://shatterproof.org)

Lauren Villa, MPH | drugabuse.com

American Society of Addiction Medicine | asam.org

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | samhsa.gov/capt/

Recovery Research Institute | recoveryanswers.org



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