

Barriers to Successful Programs

Overcoming the Stigma of Needle Syringe Use

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Health



80% of PWID have experienced
discrimination within a health
care setting



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Discrimination: Treating someone differently (generally unfairly) than other people because they have a particular characteristic

Stigma: General negative attitude that is directed at people because of their beliefs or behaviours



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What are some words that you've heard to describe people who use/inject drugs?



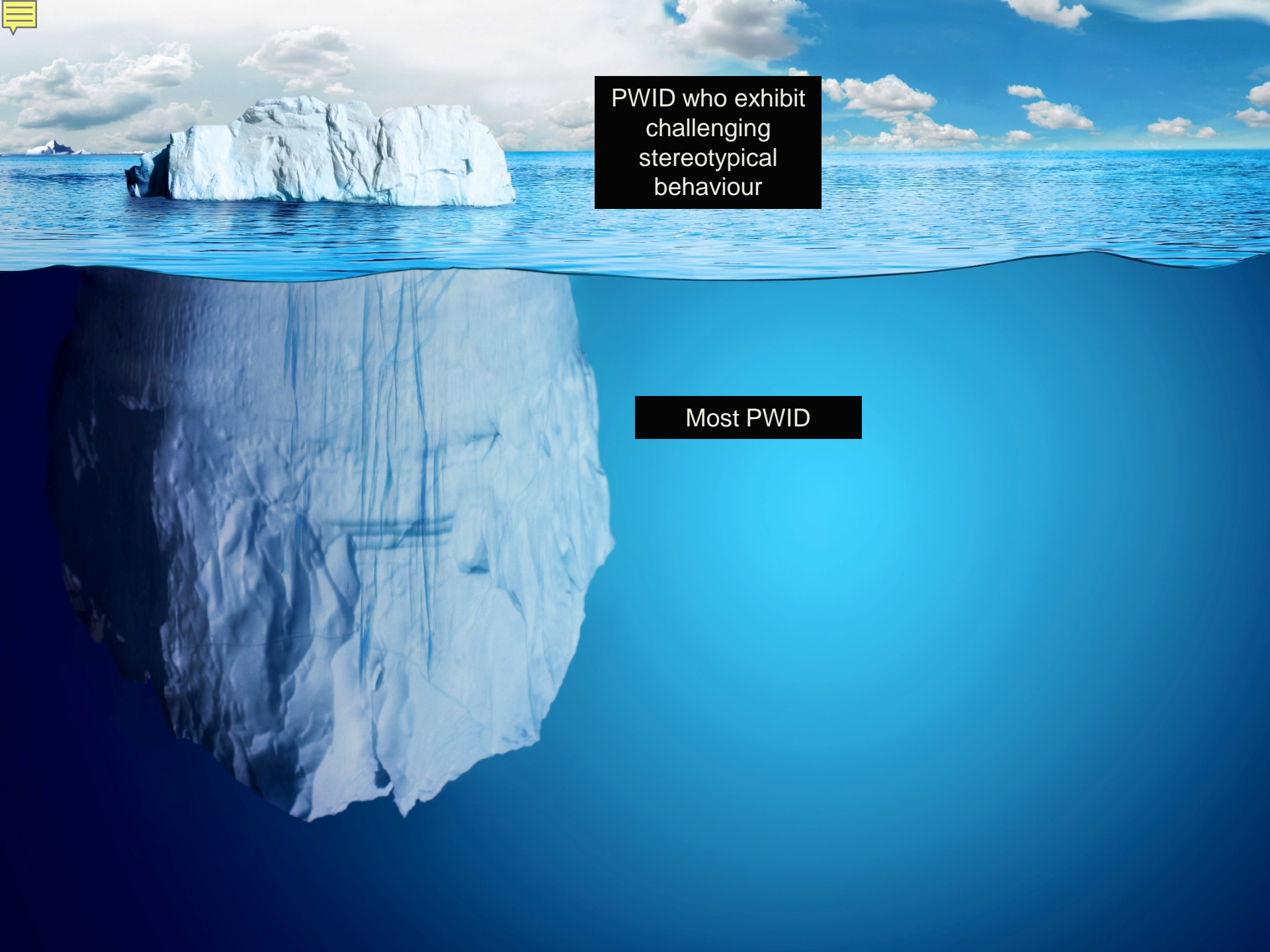
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PWID who exhibit
challenging
stereotypical
behaviour

Most PWID



Video Part 1



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Impacts of Stigma on the Individual

- Direct impact on physical health from chronic stress
- Avoidance of Services:
 - Fear of poor treatment
 - Hide drug use
 - Reduce accurate reporting of health issues
- Physical health impacts, i.e. abscess, mental health, dental, etc



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Impacts of Stigma on the Community

- Fundamental cause of population inequalities
 - Influences physical and mental health outcomes for significant portion of community
 - Disrupts access to protective factors against poor health
 - Creates new mechanisms for reproduction of health inequalities



Myths about Stigma

- Belief that stigma is useful as a deterrent to drug use



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Myths about Stigma

- Belief that stigma is useful as a deterrent to drug use

Evidence

Stigma causes individual and community level harm



No Evidence

Stigma is an effective deterrent

Factors that Impact Health

- Being able to trust a service is a remarkable/uncommon event for PWID/PLWHCV
- Trust is important for better service outcomes
- A service that recognises the rights of people to access services and maintain their health without fear of repercussion



Video Part 2



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What does a **PWID**
attending a health service
demonstrate?



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Why haven't more pharmacists
participated in needle and syringe
distribution?



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What **support** would you **need** to **participate** in needle and syringe distribution?



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Thank you

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Assessment

1) What percentage of PWID have experienced discrimination within a healthcare setting?

- a) 30%
- b) 50%
- c) 80%
- d) None of the above



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Assessment

2) How old was Sue (video) when she first started using drugs?

- a) 9 years old
- b) 16 years old
- c) 21 years old
- d) 30 years old



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Assessment

3) What are some of the impacts of stigma on the individual?

- a) no impact
- b) avoidance of services
- c) stress, avoidance of services, physical health impacts
- d) physical health impacts

Assessment

4) Based on the research, is stigma a deterrent to drug use?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe
- d) No evidence

Assessment

5) What factor generates better service outcomes for PWID?

- a) Efficiency
- b) Friendliness
- c) Trust
- d) Reliability



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