Addressing HIV-Related Stigma in Florida

Robert L. Cook, MD, MPH

Director, SHARC Center for Translational HIV Research
Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine
University of Florida
Florida Consortium for AIDS Research
Annual Meeting 2018
HIV RELATED STIGMA
What should Florida do to address HIV-related stigma?

How can we use existing data to inform stigma intervention strategies?
Forms of HIV related Stigma

**Anticipated**
- Expectations that other will treat them negatively in the future because of their HIV status

**Enacted**
- Actual experiences of discrimination, devaluation, and prejudice by others because of ones HIV status

**Community**
- Individuals perceptions of the existence and severity of stigmatizing attitudes in the community

**Internalized**
- PLWH endorsement and acceptance of negative assumptions about their character because they have HIV. Experiences of shame, self blame, and embarrassment
Other types of stigma overlapping with HIV

- Intersectional stigma
  - Race
  - Gender
  - Sexual Identity
  - Social class

- Mental illness
- Drug and alcohol use

- PrEP related stigma
Sources of Data

Florida Health – HIV Surveillance - Medical Monitoring Project

Community, anticipated, internalized, and enacted stigma in a Florida sample of adults living with HIV using 2015 MMP data
Florida Cohort

- 1000 HIV-positive
- 50 HIV-negative
- Seek to represent persons with HIV in Florida
- Funding: NIH (Cook PI)
Florida Cohort Recruitment Sites
Participant surveys
Baseline and 6-month

HIV surveillance data
eHARS
Ryan White Services

Medical Record Abstraction

Linked information

FLORIDA COHORT
Community-based data

PrEP-related Stigma
  Survey at community health events (e.g. Pride Day)
  Women’s health summit (Miami) – May 4

Open-ended discussions
  Statewide Florida Stigma Panel
  Local community advisory panels
Discussion questions -

• What critical questions should our research team and stigma panel focus on?
• How to gain input from others addressing this issue in Florida?
SHARC Collaborators and Supporters

NIAAA, NIDA
U Florida
U Miami AIDS Institute
U Miami CFAR
FIU (Miami)
USF

Florida Health
  HIV Surveillance team
  County Health Depts