



Take home messages 1

- People get HIV because of what they or their partners **DO**, not because of **WHO OR WHAT THEY ARE**.

**DO NOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS
ABOUT WHO IS OR WHO IS NOT
INFECTED.**



Session 1

Stigma and Discrimination Related
to HIV and AIDS in Educational
Institutions.



Objectives

- To define stigma and discrimination
- To explore how and why stigma is associated with people living with HIV and AIDS
- To examine how stigma related to HIV and AIDS affects learning for people with HIV and those thought to be HIV positive or at high risk of infection



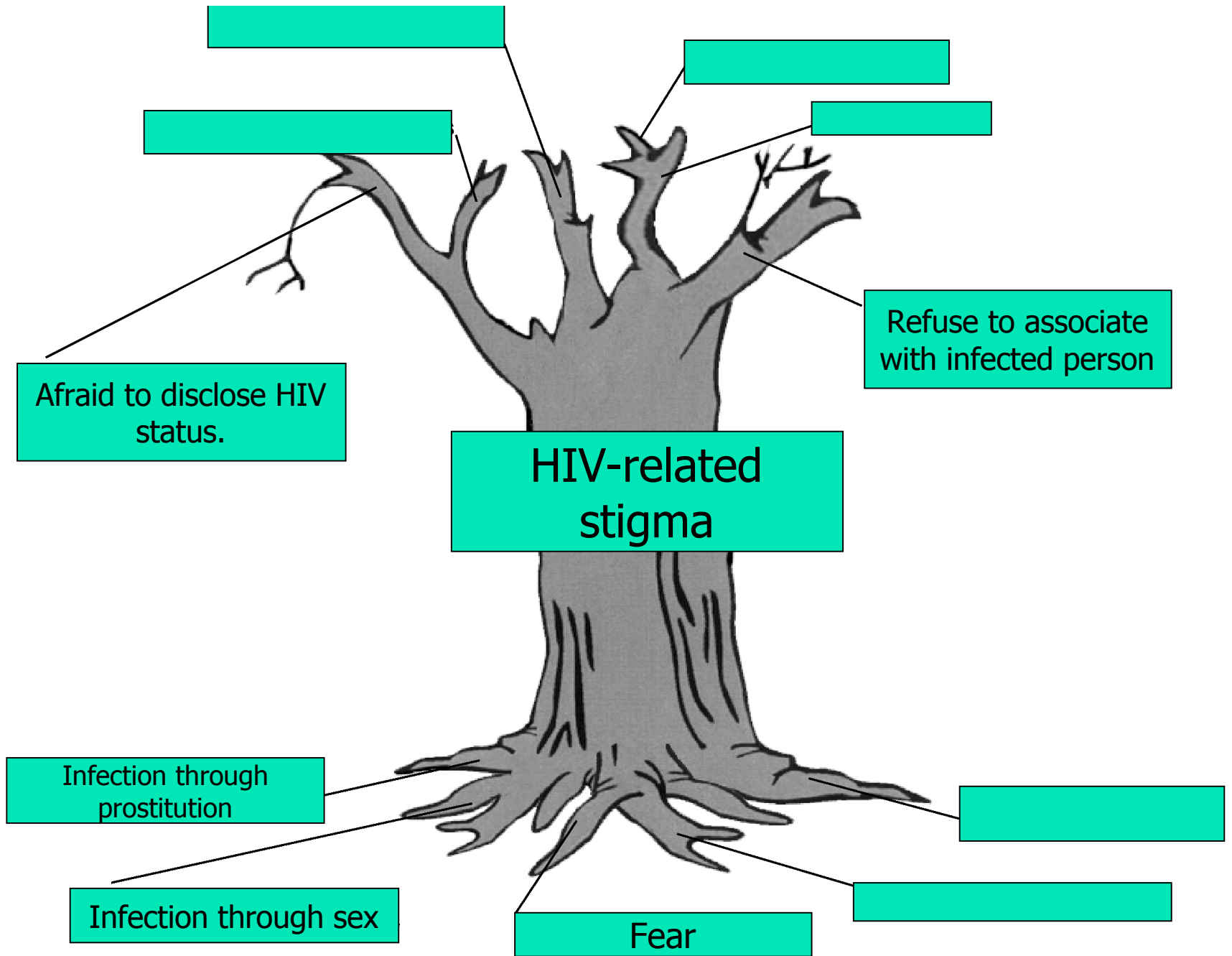
Stigma

An undesirable or discrediting attribute that a person or group possesses that results in the reduction of that person's or group's status in the eyes of society. Stigma can result from a physical characteristic, such as the visible symptoms of a disease, or from negative attitudes toward the behaviour of a group, such as homosexuals or sex workers.



Discrimination

A person is treated unfairly and unjustly simply because they belong, or are thought to belong, to a particular group.





Causes of stigma

- Lack of knowledge about HIV transmission
- AIDS is incurable
- AIDS is closely associated with death and terminal illnesses
- AIDS is associated with prostitution and homosexuality, immorality



Consequences of stigma

- Afraid to disclose their status
- Fear of associating with infected people
- The affected may be denied access to services
- Loss of self worth, depression and despair
- Poor performance others may drop out of campus



Take home messages

- HIV-infected students, those presumed to be infected, and those thought to be at risk for infection, often face stigma, threats of violence, and ostracism in the communities in which they live. It is critical to make the institution a warm, welcoming and non-judgmental place that is open to and respectful of all students & staff, regardless of their HIV status.



Take home messages

- Make sure that university clinic is a place where clients can seek services and information about HIV and AIDS without fearing discrimination from health workers. This includes ensuring privacy and confidentiality.
- Sometimes health workers fear becoming infected while working with HIV-infected clients. Standard precautions to prevent HIV transmission greatly reduce the risk of infections on-the-job.



Understanding what it feels like to be infected with HIV 1

- Briefly describe a situation you have seen, either at your own facility or elsewhere, where a HIV-infected client was treated poorly because of their infection.

Briefly describe a situation you have seen, either at your own facility or elsewhere, where a HIV-infected client was treated well.



Example card 1

- A woman came to the hospital in labour. At a certain point in her care, the doctor found out that she was HIV positive and refused to assist the delivery. He didn't say anything to her, he just left the hospital. She was forced to seek care elsewhere.



Example card 2

A man came to a health post because he had a troublesome cough that would not go away. He worried all the way there about telling the nurse that he is HIV+. He worried that they might tell him to go away. In the end, he told the nurse and she praised him for doing so, as it was important to know. She treated him just as she would any patient, with dignity and respect, in a caring manner.



Session 2

Recognising our own stigmatising
language and discriminatory actions



Objectives

- To identify language and practices used in community that contribute to the stigmatisation of and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS.
- To identify non-stigmatising language to use when talking about HIV and people living with HIV and AIDS
- To identify ways to treat HIV positive students in a non stigmatising and non-discriminatory way.



Stigmatizing language

- Ana mdudu
- AIDS victim
- Slim disease
- AIDS orphan
- AIDS sufferer
- HIV/AIDS



Non-stigmatizing language

- HIV positive person
- Person living with HIV
- Positive living
- HIV and AIDS
- Positive living with HIV or AIDS



Take home messages

- There are many ways to make our institution 'non-stigmatizing and 'non-discriminatory'. By doing so, we can create a safe haven where people living with HIV or AIDS feel welcome and where everyone can access the prevention, care and support services they need.