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## Measuring PLHIV Stigma and discrimination to program Kyiv city response

### Objectives

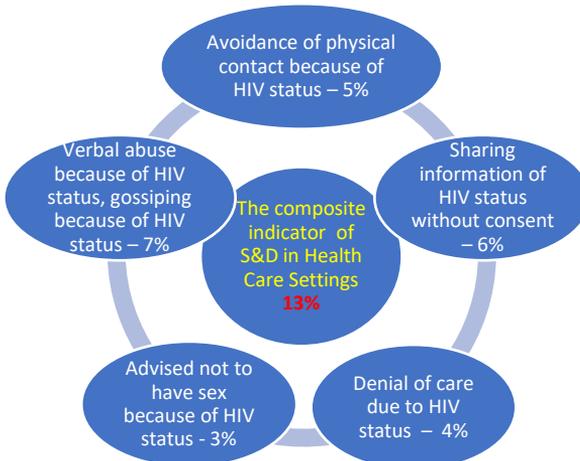
The "PLHIV Stigma index – Kyiv" Study was aimed at the obtaining baseline data on the stigma and discrimination (S&D) towards PLHIV in various settings: health care, social relations, employment, the HIV status disclosure, experience of ART to inform Fast Track programming in Kyiv city.

### Methods

PLHIV Stigma Study in Kyiv city was conducted in 2020 within the fourth wave of the national wide study The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0 – Ukraine.  
Data collection was performed by PLHIV trained activists based on the method of structured face-to-face interview with PLHIV using tablets.  
The type of sampling is representative for Kyiv, proportional for share of individual PLHIV, who actively enrolled into care HIV, and PLHIV, who are HIV treatment hesitant, gender and age, as well as parts of representatives of key populations. The total sample size of the respondents age 18+ for Kyiv city is 400.

### Results and Conclusions

For an assessment of the level of stigma and discrimination in the medical settings, the integrated indicator of was calculated. According to the study, 13% of PLHIV faced discrimination against HIV in health care facilities.



Representatives of key populations are twice as likely to face with S&D by health professionals: 18% of them reported this experience, comparing with 9% of non-representatives.

The study also identified some problems with late presentation to treatment, low adherence to ART. More than half (56%) of PLHIV stated that they postponed the start of medical care and treatment after receiving a positive test result. In the last 12 months, among those PLHIV, who had ever started ART, 32% had problems with adherence to treatment.

S&D in health care settings remain on of the most serious barriers for PLHIV in seeking health care, and while in care – corrupt treatment adherence, and negatively affect treatment success.

### Take home message

Based on Study results, it is important to expand the programs of ongoing training for health care providers to prevent S&D towards PLHIV and of adherence support among PLHIV.

The study was conducted within the UNAIDS-IAPAC Project "Fast-Tracking the Response to the HIV Epidemic in Priority Cities to Attain the 90-90-90 Treatment, Zero Stigma and Quality of Care Targets by 2020", for which UNAIDS has received a financial contribution from the USAID.