

Stigma of people living with HIV/AIDS

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ABSTRACT

A specific character of HIV/AIDS has caused numerous complications either medical, legal or social. HIV infection exposes its carriers to frequent acts of intolerance or stigma by the healthy part of the population. Negative social consequences found after detection and disclosure of HIV perfectly match the theory of stigma by Goffman. This theory elucidates mechanisms of stigma or self – stigma affecting these members of the society that via their behavior or life style break the basic social, moral and religious norms. Despite numerous achievements, this disease cannot be overcome completely. People living with HIV/AIDS are still stigmatized and discriminated in

the society. They suffer being rejected and isolated by a family, partners and friends. The results demonstrated in the present review, obtained from the examinations conducted among people with HIV/AIDS, in Poland and abroad, attesting stigma, discrimination, low evaluation of the quality of life are the basis for further in-depth studies concerning this issue. This must reinforce educational efforts which will constrain inequality of people with HIV/AIDS, in Poland and abroad.

The aim of this study is to inform and sensitize a recipient about stigma among people with HIV/AIDS.

Key words: HIV/AIDS, stigma
