

World AIDS Day: December 1



Stigma and discrimination towards people with HIV is found all over the world. This refers to prejudice, negative attitudes, abuse and maltreatment directed at people living with HIV and AIDS.

The Effects of Stigma

Fear of stigma and discrimination are the main reasons why people are reluctant to be tested, disclose if they are HIV positive (discuss and practice safe sex) and receive treatment. This means that they are more likely to infect others.

An unwillingness to take an HIV test also means that more people are diagnosed late, when the virus has already progressed to AIDS, making treatment less effective and causing early death.

Combating stigma and discrimination against people who are affected by HIV/AIDS is vital to preventing and controlling the global epidemic.

Do you know someone with HIV? What if it was you?

(source: avert.org)