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U3 Multimodal Project

Twitter Thread: The Persistent Stigma of HIV/AIDS

1) December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month. The 80s AIDS epidemic left a lasting impact. Lack of resources and education led to enduring stigma. Today, despite medical progress, fear and misconceptions persist. Let's explore #HIVeducation and #HIVstigma.

2) HIV was initially perceived in the 80s as a death sentence and wrongly associated with the gay community. This not only effected the gay community but instilled fear and isolation onto the sexually active. Misconceptions about HIV continue to this day, resulting in low awareness.

3) Today HIV/AIDS stigma can still impact various aspects of life, making it a daily challenge from social settings to healthcare. Beyond just historical legacy, factors such as lack of awareness, cultural biases, mental health, and social inequality all contribute.

4) Share your experiences. Have you witnessed HIV/AIDS stigma? What are the factors contributing to its persistence?

5) Click the link to learn more about how we can enhance our understanding and contribute to ending the stigma around HIV/AIDS: https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/making-a-difference/standing-up-to-stigma/

6) The stigma surrounding HIV stems from misconceptions and a lack of understanding about the disease often make individuals feel responsible for their condition. Access to healthcare for those with lower income or otherwise can also be hindered by the fear of infection.

7) The CDC recommends everyone between the ages 13-64 at least once as part of routine health check. Click the link for more information about HIV testing and prevention: https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-testing/learn-about-hiv-testing/who-should-get-tested/

8) As we continue to share experiences and insights during #HIV/AIDSAwarenessMonth, I urge readers to further educate themselves on HIV stigma and healthcare options and to collectively combat stigma to build a more inclusive outlook towards HIV/AIDS.