

Stigma and AIDS

COERCIVE POLICIES

- People with AIDS should be legally separated from others to protect the public health:

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1999</u>
agree strongly/somewhat:	34.4%	16.6%	12.0%

BLAME

- People who got AIDS through sex or drug use have gotten what they deserve:

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1999</u>
agree strongly/somewhat:	20.3%	28.1%	24.8%

RESPONSIBILITY

- Most people with AIDS don't care if they infect other people with the AIDS virus:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1999</u>
agree strongly/somewhat:	25.5%	21.8%

FEELINGS TOWARD PWAS:

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1999</u>
Afraid (very/somewhat):	34.6%	20.0%	20.2%
Disgusted (very/somewhat):	26.6%	18.3%	16.0%

AVOIDANT INTENTIONS:

Suppose you worked in an office where one of the men working with you developed AIDS.

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1999</u>
avoid office worker	18.6%	11.7%	9.1%

Suppose you found out that the owner of a small neighborhood grocery store where you liked to shop had AIDS.

avoid shopping	45.2%	32.2%	29.3%
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Do people with AIDS NOW face a great deal of unfair persecution, some, a little bit, or no unfair persecution at all?

A great deal:	21.9%
Some:	55.3%

If you were going to be tested in the future for some reason, how concerned would you be that you might be treated differently or discriminated against if your test result were to come out positive for the AIDS virus?

Very concerned:	38.7%
Somewhat concerned:	29.2%

How much would your level of concern affect your decision to be tested?

A great deal:	13.1%
Some:	19.0%
A little:	12.1%
No effect:	55.8%

Would you favor or oppose a law that required doctors to report the names and addresses of anyone who tests positive for the AIDS virus to the federal government?

Favor:	24.7%
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Would you favor or oppose a law that required doctors to report statistical information, but not names, about anyone who tests positive for the AIDS virus to the federal government?

Favor:	71.5%
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source: Herek & Capitanio, 1993; Herek, Capitanio, Widaman, 2002; 2003