

For women, stigma is a barrier to addiction screening and treatment

Increasing awareness for substance use disorder and seeking seeking practical solutions to improve care

Drug overdose is now the number one cause of accidental death in the United States, making it clear that substance use disorder is a public health crisis we can no longer ignore. According to the National Women's Health Network, overdose deaths among women have increased 400%, compared to 237% among men.

That's why Shatterproof interviewed over 1,000 women ages 25-59 to hear their thoughts on substance use disorders, access to treatment, and shattering the stigma of addiction. Here's what they said:

Even though addiction is very common in America, it continues to carry significant stigma.

1 IN 3

women have a family member or know someone who has suffered from a substance use disorder.

4 IN 5

say there is shame or stigma associated with substance use disorder.

Many women do not know they may be at risk.

75%

of women do not consider themselves 'at all' at risk for substance use disorder—even those more likely to be prescribed pain medication.

The majority of women haven't been screened for substance use disorder.

At their most recent check-up, the majority of women reported receiving a mammogram, pap smear, or clinical breast exam — but not an addiction screening.

4 IN 5


haven't been screened for opioid or substance use disorder at their recent doctor's appointment

1 IN 5

who underwent surgery and required pain medication after the procedure say they were screened for substance use disorder via consultation of their patient history

When it comes to substance use disorder, stigma discourages women from seeking help when they need it.

While women overwhelmingly agree that openly discussing substance use disorder is key to ending the stigma, there is still hesitance. **Most would feel uncomfortable discussing substance use disorder with their parents; nearly half of respondents feel the same about talking to their...**

 **45%**
Siblings

 **45%**
Friends

Women identify stigma and lack of access as barriers to treatment.

Women polled recognize both social and economic barriers to treatment in equal measure. They consider the three biggest obstacles to be:

 **77%**

Information

lack of knowledge on where or how to find care

 **72%**

Stigma

fear of what people may think

 **72%**

Cost

affordability of accessing treatment

To save lives and improve treatment, we must shatter the stigma of addiction.

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