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 40%, compared to 27%, among men.

That’s why Shatterproof interviewed over 5,000 women ages 18-59 to hear their thoughts on substance-use disorders, access to treatment, and stigmatization of 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 who’ve been treated for or know someone who has suffered from a substance-use disorder

4 in 5 women who’ve been screened for substance use disorder

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

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

4 in 5 weren’t screened for a current or substance use-disorder at their recent doctor’s appointment

1 in 5 whose unmet needs and faced pain medication difficulties or other societal woes 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 improving their own lives, few feel comfortable discussing substance use disorder with their parents; nearly half of respondents feel the same about talking to their...

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

72% Stigma

72% Cost

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

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This poll was conducted from May 1-7, 2018 among a national sample of 5,063 women ages 18-59. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of women ages 18-59 based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, and region. Results from the national sample were within 8 percentage points (95% confidence level).