

La historia de JP Miami / JP Miami's story

“JP Miami,” an activist-artist who contributed to this exhibition, explained in an interview that he only feels stigmatized when he has to disclose his condition to doctors, some whom have treated him negatively. He gave an example of how he once had to go for a colonoscopy. His primary doctor referred him to another doctor who was considered the best in his area of specialization, but when the doctor saw his HIV status, it was evident there was a negative reaction. The doctor asked why JP was referred to him, as there are plenty of other doctors who could attend to him. However, JP has not felt stigmatized outside of clinical settings, partly because he is careful about disclosing his HIV status. He has only disclosed his status to his friends, but not to his mother or his family members who live abroad. His family is “conservative,” and while he has a close relationship with his mother, he has not disclosed his status to her for fear of “killing her,” in his words. JP has disclosed his status to the few men he has dated in the past and he observed that about “90% of the time” they reject him. He often avoids disclosing his status to anyone who appears to adopt negative views of people living with HIV. Fortunately, JP Miami feels he can count on the support of friends, his personal doctor, his ex-wife, and his psychiatrist. He explained the responsibility and the purpose he has gained through helping and informing others, and hopes his story helps others to be informed about prevention and treatment options.

"JP Miami", un activista-artista que contribuyó a esta exposición, explicó en una entrevista que solo se siente estigmatizado cuando tiene que revelar su condición a los médicos, algunos de los cuales lo han tratado de manera negativa. Dio un ejemplo de cómo una vez tuvo que ir a una colonoscopia y su médico de cabecera lo refirió a otro médico que era considerado el mejor en su área de especialización, pero cuando el médico vio su estado de VIH, fue evidente que hubo una reacción negativa. El médico le preguntó por qué JP fue referido a él, ya que hay muchos otros médicos que podrían atenderlo. Sin embargo, JP no se ha sentido estigmatizado fuera de los entornos clínicos, en parte porque tiene cuidado de revelar su estatus de VIH. Solo ha revelado su estatus a sus amigos, pero no a su madre ni a los miembros de su familia que viven en el extranjero. Su familia es “conservadora,” y aunque él tiene una relación cercana con su madre, no le ha revelado su estatus por temor a “matarla”, según sus palabras. JP ha revelado su estatus a los pocos hombres con los que ha salido en el pasado y observó que alrededor del “90% del tiempo” lo rechazan. Evita revelarlo a cualquiera que parezca que adopta actitudes negativas hacia las personas que viven con el VIH. Afortunadamente, JP Miami siente que puede contar con el apoyo de amigos, su médico personal, su ex esposa y su psiquiatra. Reconoce la responsabilidad y el propósito que ha ganado al ayudar e informar a otros, y espera que su historia ayude a informar a otros sobre las opciones de prevención y tratamiento.