

ABSTRACT

HIV and AIDS-Related Stigma and Discrimination Among Principals of Primary and Secondary Schools in Two Districts in Suriname

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This study sought to survey the level of HIV-related stigma and discrimination displayed by principals from primary and secondary schools in selected regions of Suriname. Additionally, it sought to identify the factors that promoted these discriminatory practices. Data were collected through a questionnaire administered to 193 principals from the districts of Paramaribo (the capital) and Commewijne. Findings indicate that, to some extent, the principals harboured stigmatising and discriminatory attitudes against seropositive persons, and that these attitudes appeared to be driven mainly by shame and judgement, while fear of contact with persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) or their body fluids played a minor role.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS; Principal attitudes; Primary school principals; Secondary school principals; Stigma; Discrimination; Student welfare; PLHA; Suriname