Stigmatisation of steroid users

Steroid use is stigmatised like all other forms of illicit drug use.

The media portrays steroid users negatively: They associate users with cheating, aggression, violence and criminality. For many steroid users the main purpose of their steroid use is to **improve physical appearance and muscularity**.

They do not often compete in professional sport.



Steroid **users feel discriminated and ridiculed.** Users feel stigmatised from healthcare professionals.

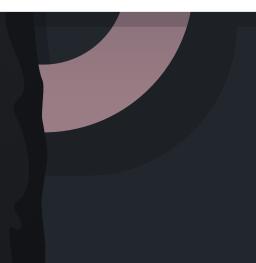
As a result, most **do not trust healthcare** professional's knowledge about steroids.

Effect?

The physical and psychological harms associated with steroids use **may go untreated if help is not sought** when needed.

Healthcare professionals

Access to healthcare service is reduced due to stigmatization. Also, healthcare professionals have little guidance on steroid treatment.



Design: Human Enhancement Drugs Network, Birmingham City University, Public Health Institute (LJMU) and Aalborg Antidoping (Aalborg Municipality, DK) Reference: Griffiths et al. 2016. Journal of Drug Issues, 46(4) and Hildebrandt & Lanzieri. 2015. Body Image, 15

More information is available at www.humanenhancementdrugs.com