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## The Experiences of Familial Mental Illness Stigma Among Individuals Living with Mental Illnesses

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## **The Experiences of Familial Mental Illness Stigma Among Individuals Living with Mental Illnesses**

This study captured diverse forms of familial mental illness stigma that are the most hidden types of stigma. Familial mental illness stigma is simply family members or close relatives perpetrating stigma against their loved ones with mental health problems. Family members' participants blamed the increasing stigma within the family system on the inadequate social and community services to support the well-being of affected persons, beside public stigma. Familial education by persons with mental illnesses was considered imperative to family members understanding of the complex interplay of mental illness stigma and the need for both emotional and practical support toward their recovery. Family members' perceptions of this form of stigma will be useful in shaping existing policy interventions to create supportive environments necessary to sustain families and permit the inclusiveness of all persons. Family members involvement in this study helped in creating knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon to inspire future research-to-action.