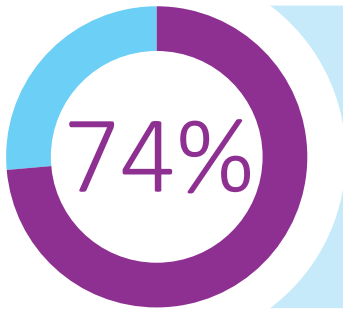
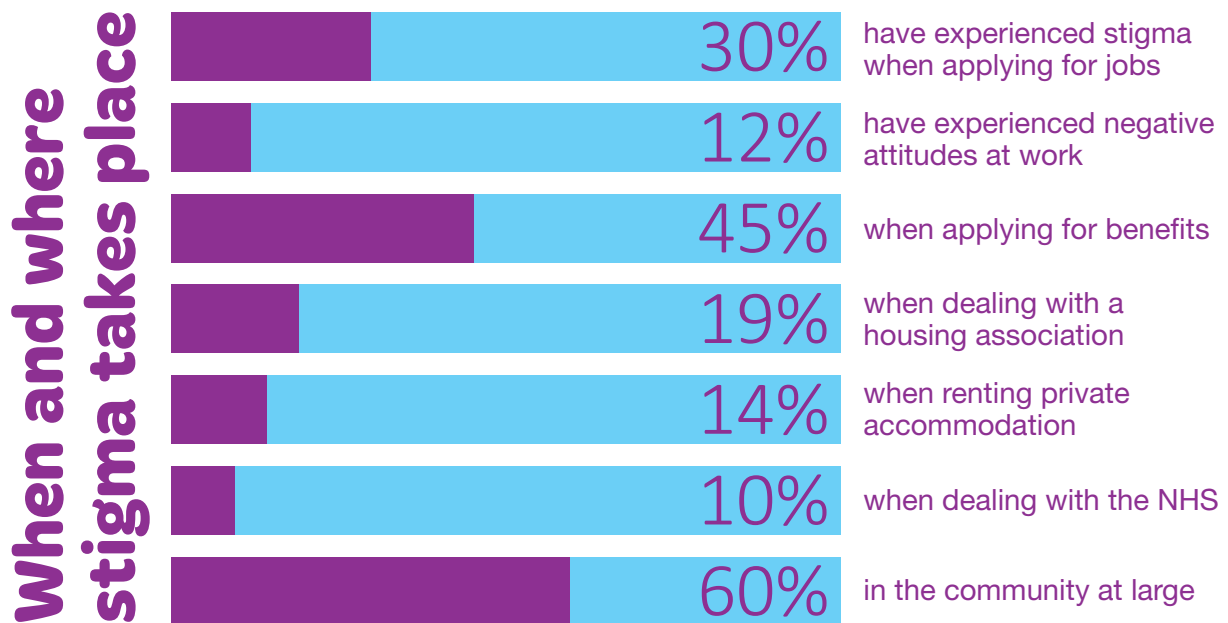




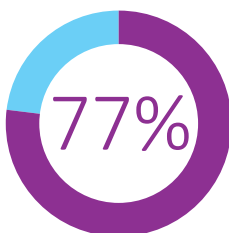
OPFS survey results: Single Parents and Stigma



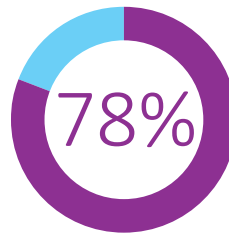
The Single Parents and Stigma survey¹ by One Parent Families Scotland reveals that three in four (74%) single parents have experienced negative attitudes or stigma in the last two years.



Stigma on the rise...



believe that stigma against single parents has increased in the media over the last two years



believe that stigma against single parents is generally on the rise.

1. Online and paper based survey carried out in November 2014. 129 Respondents were self-selecting and largely drawn from OPFS's membership and clients.

What do Single Parents think OPFS could do to challenge stigma?

OPFS believes that as one in four families are headed by a single parent, they are a normal part of family life today and it is high time we changed the way society perceives and talks about them. We should all be celebrating the incredible work that they do.

The survey shows 85% of single parents say they want OPFS to campaign on stigma to challenge the myths portrayed about single parents in the media by communicating the facts.

It is poverty and our social and economic structure that makes parenthood difficult for single parents not the fact that they may be parenting without a partner.

Single parent myth busting



There are 170,000 single parents looking after 291,000 children. That's 1 in 4 families.² The majority of single parents have one child.³



The average (median) age of a single parent is 38.⁴ Fewer than 2% are teenagers.⁴



92% of single parents are mothers. 8% are fathers.²



59% of single parents are in work and the overwhelming majority of the rest want to work.⁵

The key challenges for single parents are the structural barriers they face – things we can change such as transforming childcare; a social security system which prevents poverty and treats people with dignity and respect; and the introduction of the Living Wage. An unacceptably high number of children in single parent families live in poverty.

Over the coming years OPFS will prioritise challenging the stigma around single parenthood and will campaign, with single parents, to eradicate child poverty and enable families headed by one parent to achieve their potential.



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2. National Records of Scotland, 2011 Census: Aggregate data (Scotland)

3. ONS Families and Households, 2013

4. Annual Population Survey (APS), (Labour Force Survey plus boost), 2009 data

5. Working & Workless Households, 2012, Table P. ONS Statistical Bulletin, Aug 2012