



HIV+ **IN INDY**

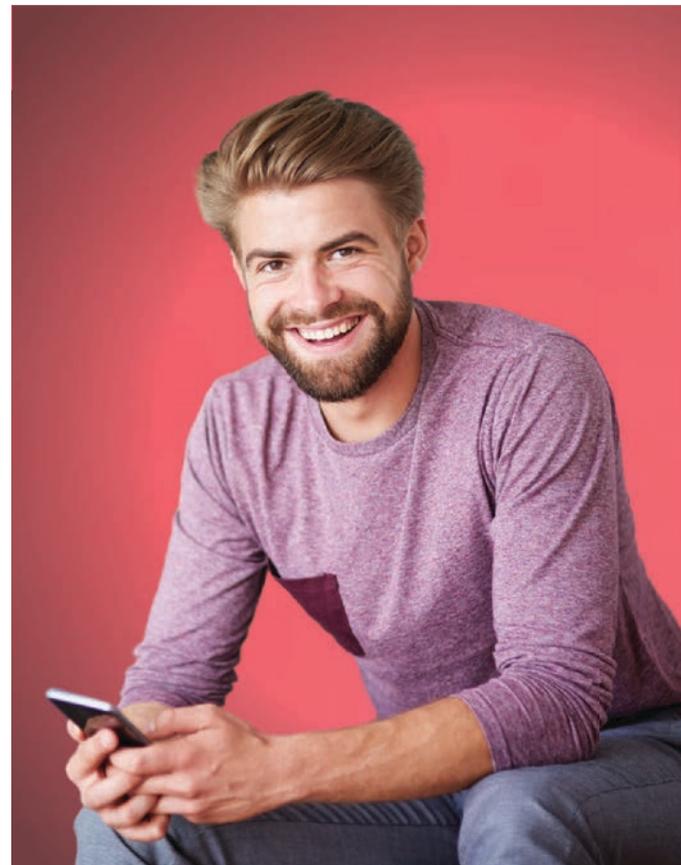
A Supplementary
Report of LGBTQ+
Community Needs
2020 Indianapolis

GATHERING COMMUNITY INPUT

In early 2020, a collaborative group of community partners - including the Damien Center, GenderNexus, Indiana Youth Group (IYG), Indy Pride, Indy Rainbow Chamber, the IUPUI LGBTQ+ Center, and OutCare Health - joined efforts to develop and distribute an LGBTQ+ community needs assessment survey. As a result, 682 LGBTQ+ community members in the Greater Indianapolis area shared their input, helping to inform this group of community partners' shared vision of establishing an LGBTQ+ Community Center designed to meet these needs in Indianapolis. Results of the full LGBTQ+ community needs assessment survey are available in the publication entitled "LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis," released in June 2020.

This supplementary report focuses exclusively on the 7% of survey respondents who self identified as HIV positive.

It is important to note that participating community partners distributed the LGBTQ+ needs assessment survey in February and March of 2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacting the Central Indiana community. It is equally important to note that this survey was distributed primarily through email and social media channels, limiting responses to those with internet access and connection to participating community partners. Based on these limitations, survey responses may not represent the full diversity of the LGBTQ+ community within Greater Indianapolis.



SHARING THE RESULTS

This report presents the following information about the 47 individuals (7% of overall LGBTQ+ community needs assessment survey respondents) who self identified as HIV positive:

- **demographics** (pages 3-5),
- the **greatest needs** that emerged through the survey (page 6), and
- the **comprehensive survey results** (pages 7-15) presented within the five social determinants of health - a set of conditions within the public health framework that are known to influence the overall health of an individual, group, or community - including: Health and Healthcare, Economic Stability, Social and Community Context, Neighborhood and Built Environment, and Education.

Comments shared by HIV positive individuals within the survey are also reflected in quotations throughout this report. It is important to note that these statements were made anonymously by survey respondents and are not affiliated with the individuals pictured.

Recommended Citation

The **community partners** who participated in this effort (page 17) encourage the reproduction or distribution of this report, in whole or in part, provided that it is done so with appropriate citation. This study was funded by the Damien Center. This report was prepared by Taylor Advising. Citation recommendations of various styles include:

Taylor, M., & Witchev, A. (2020). HIV+ In Indy: A Supplementary Report of LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis. Indianapolis, IN: Damien Center.

Taylor, Marla, and Alan Witchev. HIV+ In Indy: A Supplementary Report of LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis. Indianapolis: Damien Center, 2020.

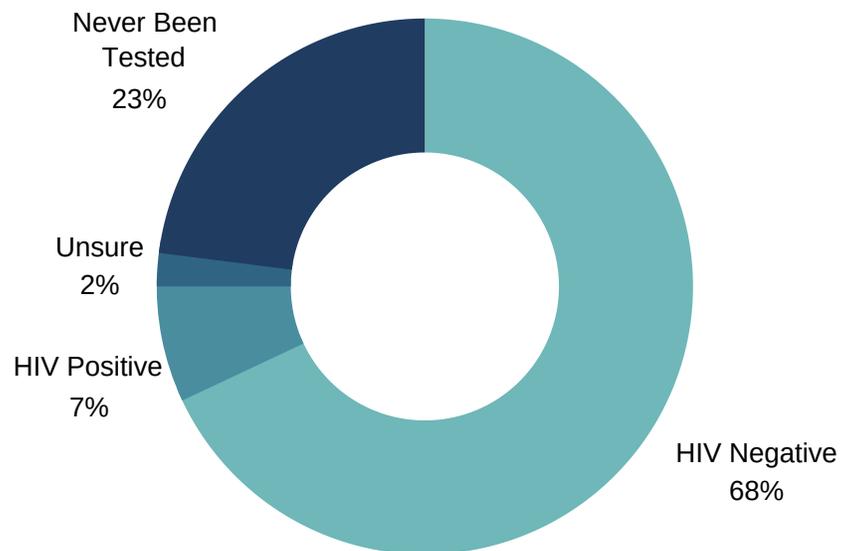
Taylor, M, Witchev A. HIV+ In Indy: A Supplementary Report of LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis. Indianapolis, IN: Damien Center; 2020.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Of these **682 individuals** who completed the 2020 LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment survey...

7%
know they are
HIV positive, yet

1 in 4
are unsure of their
HIV status or have
never been tested



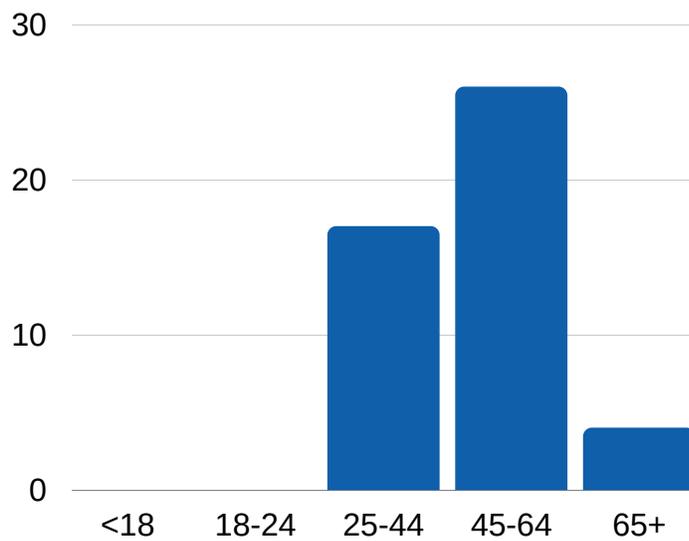
Of the **47 individuals** who self-identified as HIV positive...



57%
are in a
relationship

Of the **47 individuals** who self identified as HIV positive...

Most are adults between 45-64 years old

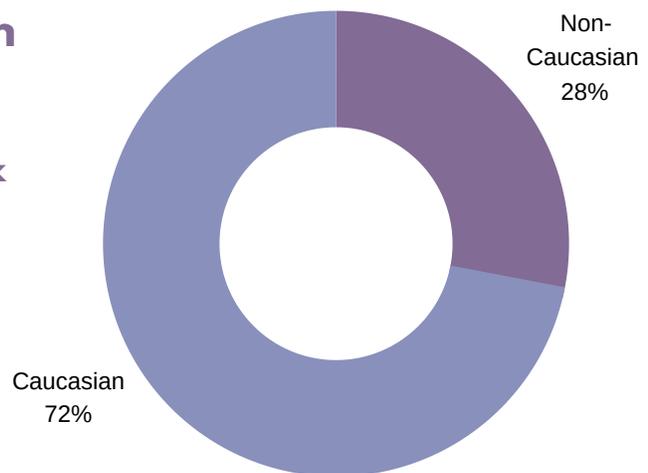


81% live in Marion County



Most identify as Caucasian

- 34** Caucasian
- 2** African American or Black
- 5** Bi-Racial or Multi-Racial
- 2** Latinx
- 1** Middle Eastern
- 0** Asian
- 3** Other



Nearly all identify as cisgender men

45 individuals (96%) identify as cisgender men, 1 identifies as a cisgender woman, and 1 identifies as a transgender woman.

and identify their sexual orientation as...

Exclusively gay
(43 individuals)

Exclusively bisexual
(2 individuals) or

Bisexual and pansexual
(2 individuals)



"[We should be] bringing the community together to stop the segregation."

11%
identify as someone living with a disability

9%
identify as a Veteran

GREATEST NEEDS

While a variety of needs emerged through the community survey, nearly all survey participants who self identified as HIV positive specified the following areas of greatest need when asked to rank the issues of importance to them. (Percentages following each area of need indicate the percentage of HIV positive survey participants who identified this issue as important or extremely important.)

Healthcare and Mental Healthcare

- Access to LGBTQ+ mental health counseling (98%)
- Access to LGBTQ+ sensitive healthcare (98%)
- Substance use prevention and treatment for LGBTQ+ populations (91%)
- Increased services for people living with HIV/AIDS (89%)

Youth Support

- Addressing LGBTQ+ youth homelessness (98%)
- Ensuring schools are safe for LGBTQ+ youth (94%)

Addressing Discrimination

- Hate crime protections for LGBTQ+ populations (94%)
- Addressing racial bias within the LGBTQ+ community (91%)

Basic Needs Support

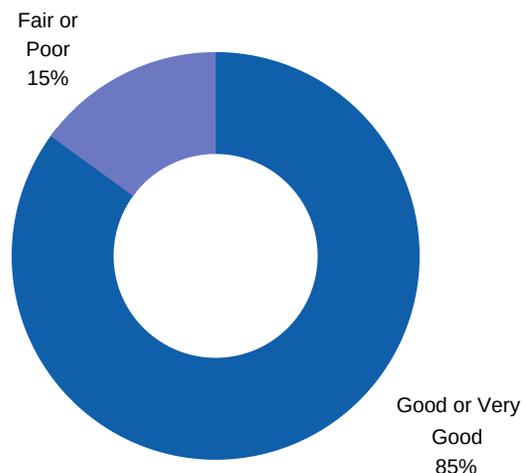
- Employment opportunities for LGBTQ+ populations (91%)
- Access to affordable and safe housing for LGBTQ+ populations (89%)
- Access to adequate food for LGBTQ+ populations (89%)

HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

Of the **47 individuals** who self identified as HIV positive...

15%
rate their overall health
as fair or poor

...in comparison to nearly
one third (29%) of all survey
respondents who rated their
overall health as fair or poor.



**"[We need] non-judgmental
doctors and staff who have
experience with LGBTQ patients."**



Nearly 9 in 10
report that medical care
providers are sensitive to
their needs based on
their HIV status, however

Only 57%
report that medical care
providers are sensitive to
their needs based on
their LGBTQ+ identity

Nearly all HIV positive survey respondents (98%) identify access to LGBTQ+ sensitive health care as important. However, several factors affect their willingness or ability to access medical care when they need it.

**Nearly 1 in 3
are concerned that
health care services
would not be
LGBTQ+ friendly**

43%
**struggle having
enough money to pay
for needed medications**

...in comparison to 27% of all survey respondents who struggle having enough money to pay for needed medications.

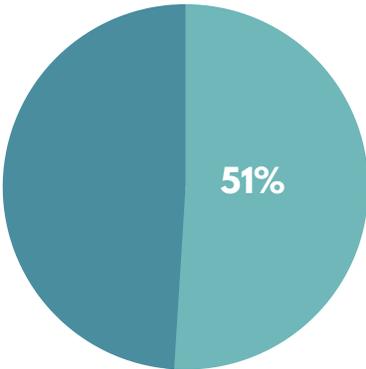
**"[We need] protections from
discrimination or poor treatment of
people living with HIV by health
care professionals."**



36%
**struggle having enough
money to visit a doctor
or get medical care**



**Over half
have been
diagnosed with
depression
and/or anxiety**



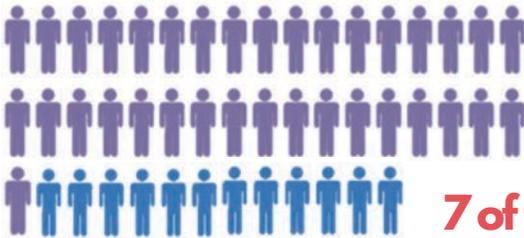
Nearly all (98%) identify access to LGBTQ+ friendly mental health counseling as a critical need. In fact, 3 in 5 have personally accessed mental health services or counseling in the last three years. However, for many HIV positive survey respondents, several factors affect their willingness or ability to access mental health care when they need it.

34%
**don't know
how or where to
access mental
health services**

43%
**are concerned
they wouldn't be
able to afford mental
health services**

For those who identify as HIV positive and *have* accessed mental health services, 1 in 4 report that their mental health care providers were *not* sensitive to their needs as an LGBTQ+ identified person.

25%
**have acted on
thoughts of suicide at
some time in their life**



**7 of these individuals
have considered acting
on thoughts of suicide
in the past year**

These responses indicate a significantly higher prevalence of depression, anxiety, and acting on thoughts of suicide than is found in the general population. Public health data indicates that roughly 17-20% of individuals in the United States are diagnosed with a depressive disorder and roughly 30% are diagnosed with anxiety some point in their lives. Public health data also indicates that roughly 3% of individuals in the United States have acted on thoughts of suicide at some time in their life while roughly 4% of individuals in the United States had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year¹

ECONOMIC STABILITY

Of the **47 individuals** who self identified as HIV positive...

77%
are currently
employed, and

17%
earn less than
\$20,000 a year

However, challenges were present for HIV positive survey respondents across all income levels.



annual income levels



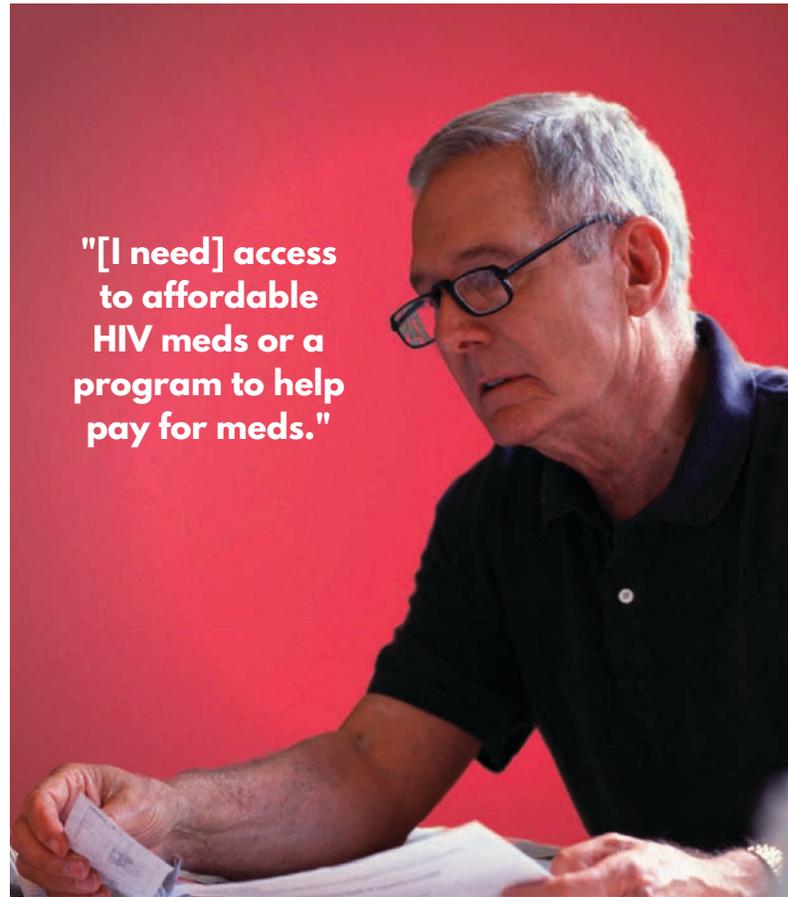
21%
struggle getting a job or a
better job with a living wage
due to their **LGBTQ+** identity

...in comparison to 16% of all
survey respondents who
reported this same struggle.

1 in 4
struggle to earn
enough money to
pay their bills

28%
need financial
assistance to pay
for their utilities,
rent, or mortgage

1 in 3
need help planning
for retirement



**"[I need] access
to affordable
HIV meds or a
program to help
pay for meds."**

83%
live in their own
housing, but



1 in 5
have experienced
homelessness at some point

5 individuals
have had no place to sleep at night at some
point in the last year

This specific data point is often overlooked when experiences of homelessness in the general population are reported, therefore opportunities for comparison are limited.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Of the **47 individuals** who self identified as HIV positive...

""[We] need more social events and venues for LGBTQ [people]."



Only 43% feel connected to the LGBTQ+ community in Central Indiana

...in comparison to 38% of all survey respondents who report feeling connected.

3 in 5 would like more opportunities to socialize with people their own age

...and half of those who indicated this are age 55+.



Half have difficulty meeting other LGBTQ+ individuals for friendship in Central Indiana

...in comparison to 7 in 10 of all survey respondents who report difficulty meeting other LGBTQ+ individuals.

NEIGHBORHOOD & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Of the **47 individuals** who self identified as HIV positive...



40%
have been harassed,
threatened, or attacked in the
last year for being LGBTQ+

Less than half
feel safe expressing themselves as
LGBTQ+ in their neighborhood or
in public spaces like parks, stores,
or restaurants

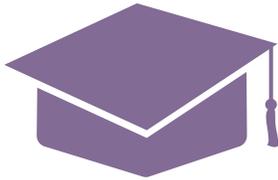


Only 32%
feel safe expressing
themselves as
LGBTQ+ when
interacting with
police or law
enforcement officers

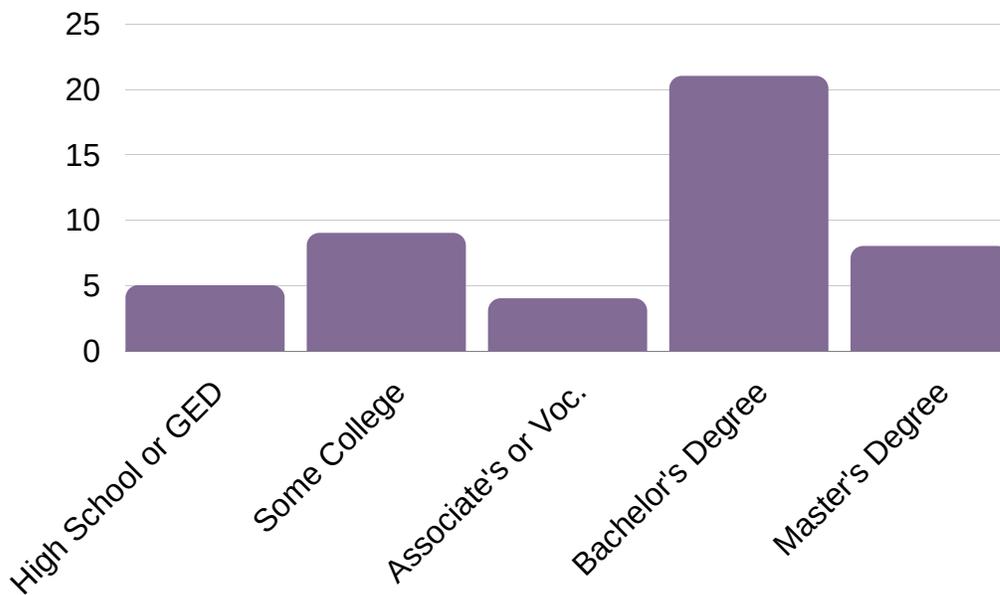
EDUCATION

Of the **47 individuals** who self identified as HIV positive...

94%
believe it is
important to ensure
schools are safe for
LGBTQ+ youth



Most
are college educated



PUBLIC HEALTH REFERENCES

¹Sources of comparative data noted within this report include:

Hasin, D.S., Sarvet, A.L., Meyers, J.L., et al. (2018). Epidemiology of adult DSM-5 major depressive disorder and its specifiers in the United States. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 75(4), 336-346. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2017.4602>

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National Institute of Mental Health. (2017, November). Any Anxiety Disorder. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/any-anxiety-disorder.shtml>

Nock, M.K., Borges, G., Bromet, E.J., et al. (2008). Cross-national prevalence and risk factors for suicidal ideation, plans and attempts. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 192(2), 98-105. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.107.040113>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/cbhsq-reports/NSDUHNationalFindingsReport2018/NSDUHNationalFindingsReport2018.pdf>

Taylor, M., Nowaski, D.Z., & Witchey, A. (2020). *LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis*. Indianapolis, IN: Damien Center.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to all of the Central Indiana-based organizations whose efforts were critical in gathering community input through the LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment survey in early 2020. The continued collaboration and leadership of these community partners and many others will pave the way toward bringing the vision of an LGBTQ+ Community Center in Indianapolis to life.



For more information about this study or the efforts of this group, please contact the Damien Center President and CEO Alan Witchey at awitchey@damien.org or 317-632-0123.

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