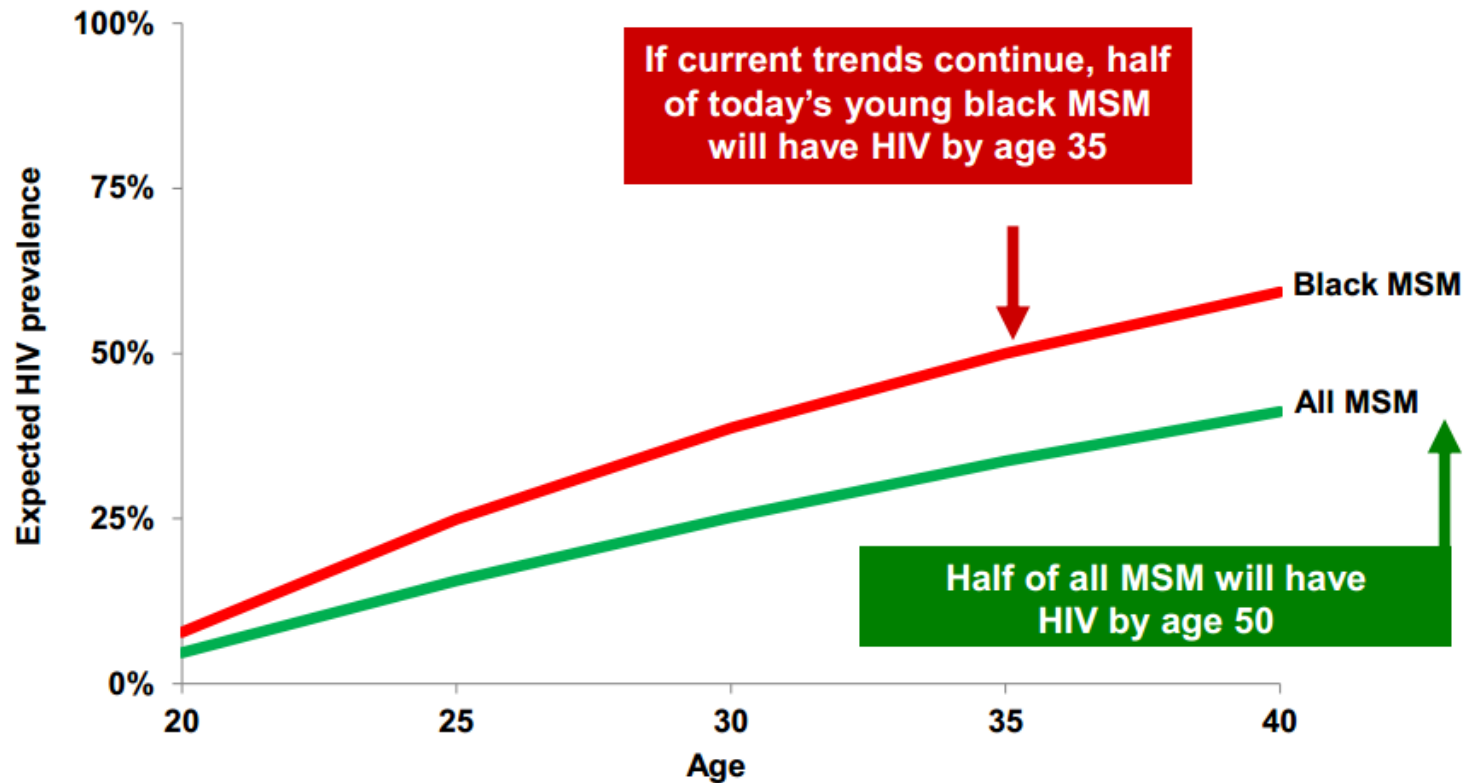




HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG GAY AND BI MEN

In their words

Lifetime Risk of HIV Infection among MSM



Stall R et al. AIDS Behav. 2009 Aug;13(4):615-29
MSM, Men who have sex with men

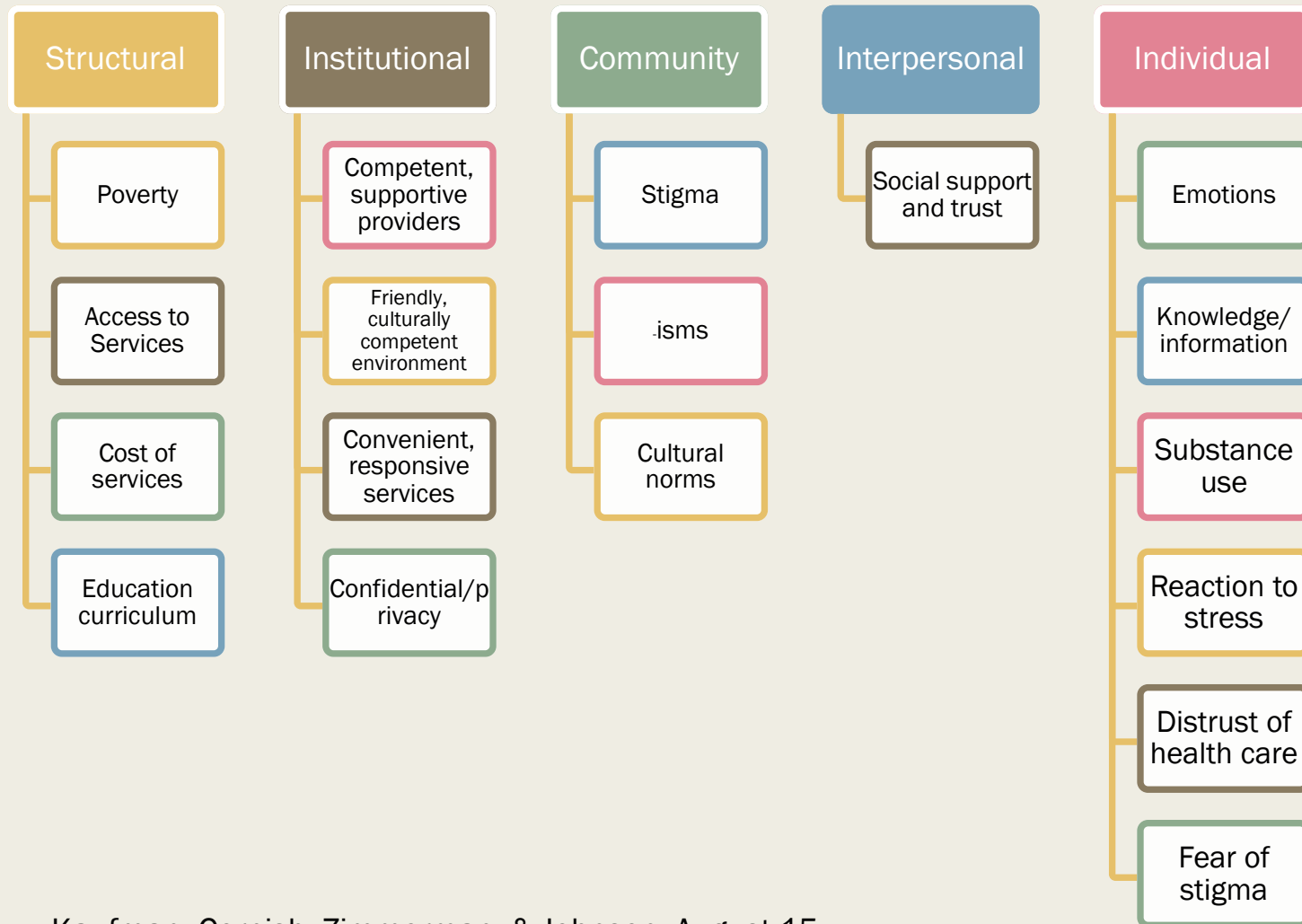
Overview

- Purpose of study
- Use of results
- Methodology
- Limitations
- Demographics of participants

Socio-ecological model



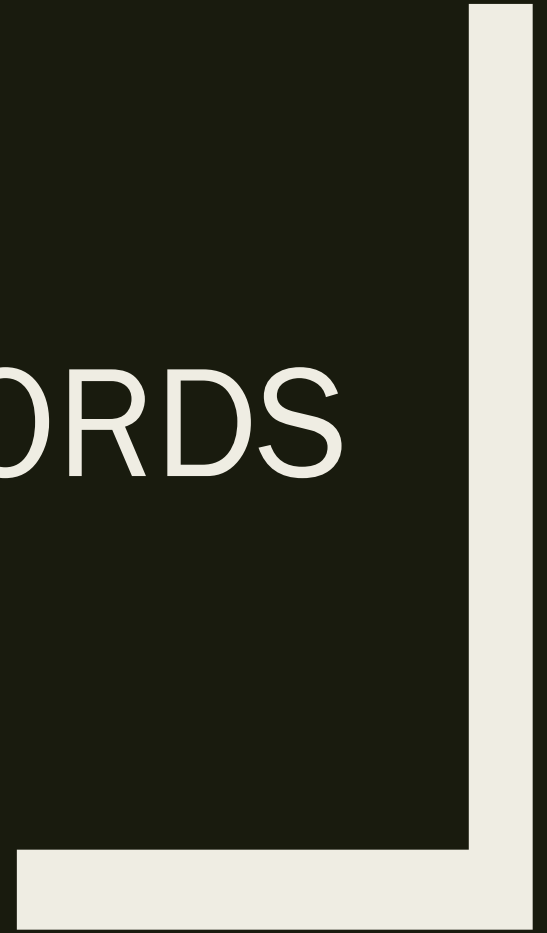
Themes on Barriers to Care



Major themes

- Front of office staff
- Accessibility of services
- Confidentiality
- Care and courtesy
- Health insurance challenges
- Lack of sexual health education

IN THEIR WORDS



Why don't people get health care?

“....at the end of the day, you can always tell when somebody's trying to be ignorant or shady, for lack of a better word; just treating you the wrong way. I think that if they stop doing that, more people would be willing to come to the doctor and go get their medicine.”

Why don't people get health care?

“Why they got to have a reason”

“Sometimes it's a time management issue – when someone's working or going to school. So making sure their schedule is like ours.”

“I fell like a huge road block with accessing health care is stigma, pride”

Acceptable HIV testing

“To be honest with you, I would most likely go to my primary doctor, and/or the ER because of confidential reasons and judgment. I wouldn't feel comfortable with a heterosexual doctor asking me questions and/or just trying to get deep into my business. But I will actually go to a place that's very comfortable and open to everybody that comes.”

Unacceptable HIV testing

“A lot of the places that were not selected, they have issues in customer service. Where individuals who attend those locations are made to feel less than. They’re not greeted professionally. It’s usually based upon attitude. Even if a consumer is coming to them with some attitude, they should be a little bit more professional – to treat them as a client or consumer, as opposed to a buddy.”

Unacceptable Testing Site Characteristics

- Bad reputation
- I know people who work there
- Unprofessional staff
- Testing in public settings

Acceptable Testing Site Characteristics


- Healthcare provider
- LGBTQ-friendly organization
- Incentives offered
- Sexual health or HIV provider

Confidentiality

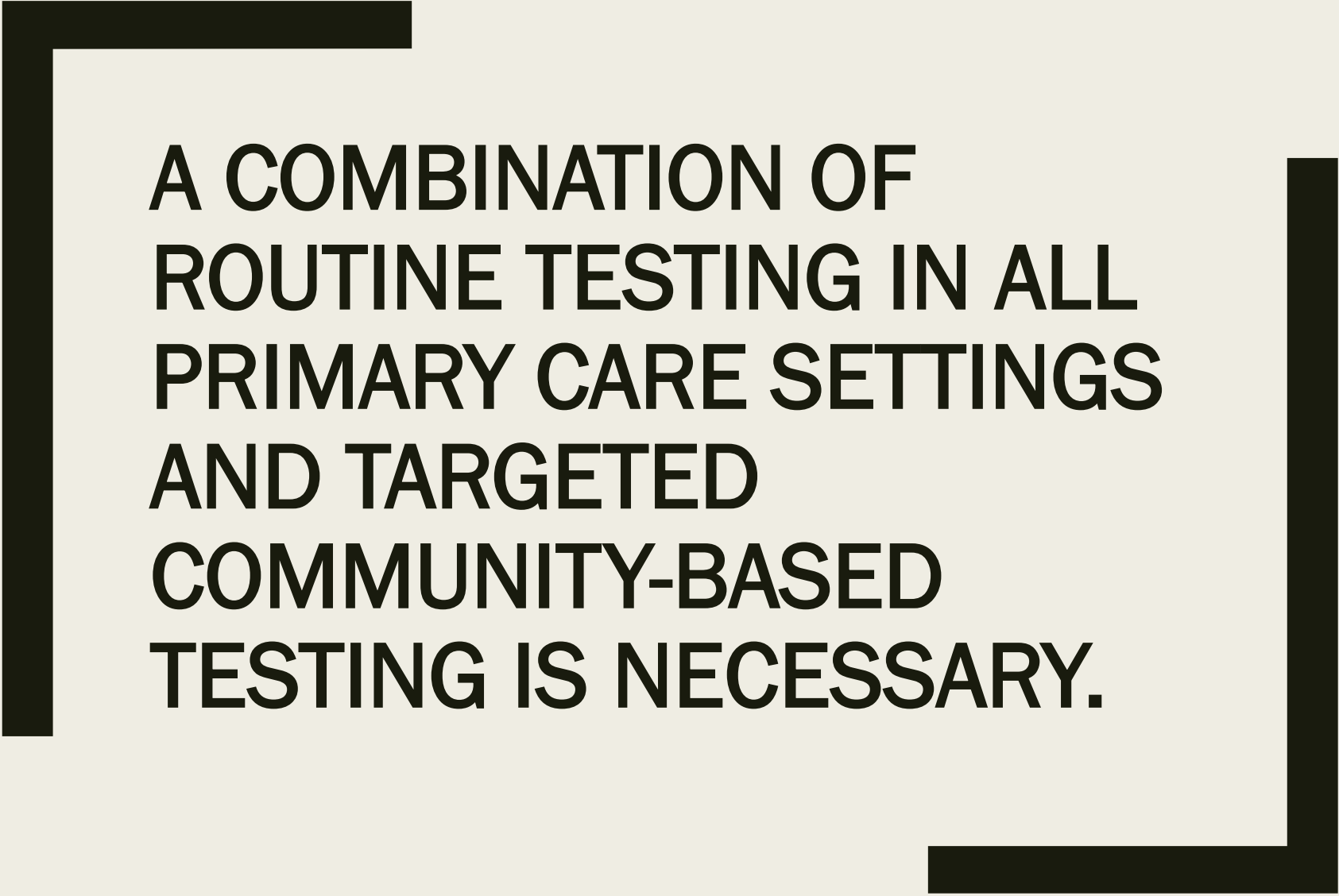
“I know nowadays a lot of our peers are testing us. Somebody that I know tested me, and I’m like ‘What if I test positive and then he’ll know; because he knows basically everyone that I chill with or talk to.’ People can’t keep quiet.”

RECOMMENDATIONS




The text is framed by two thick black L-shaped brackets. One bracket is on the left side, starting from the top and extending down. The other is on the right side, starting from the top and extending down. They meet at the top and bottom corners of the text area.


**INCREASING ACCESS TO
AND ENGAGEMENT WITH
PRIMARY CARE FOR YMSM
IS ESSENTIAL.**

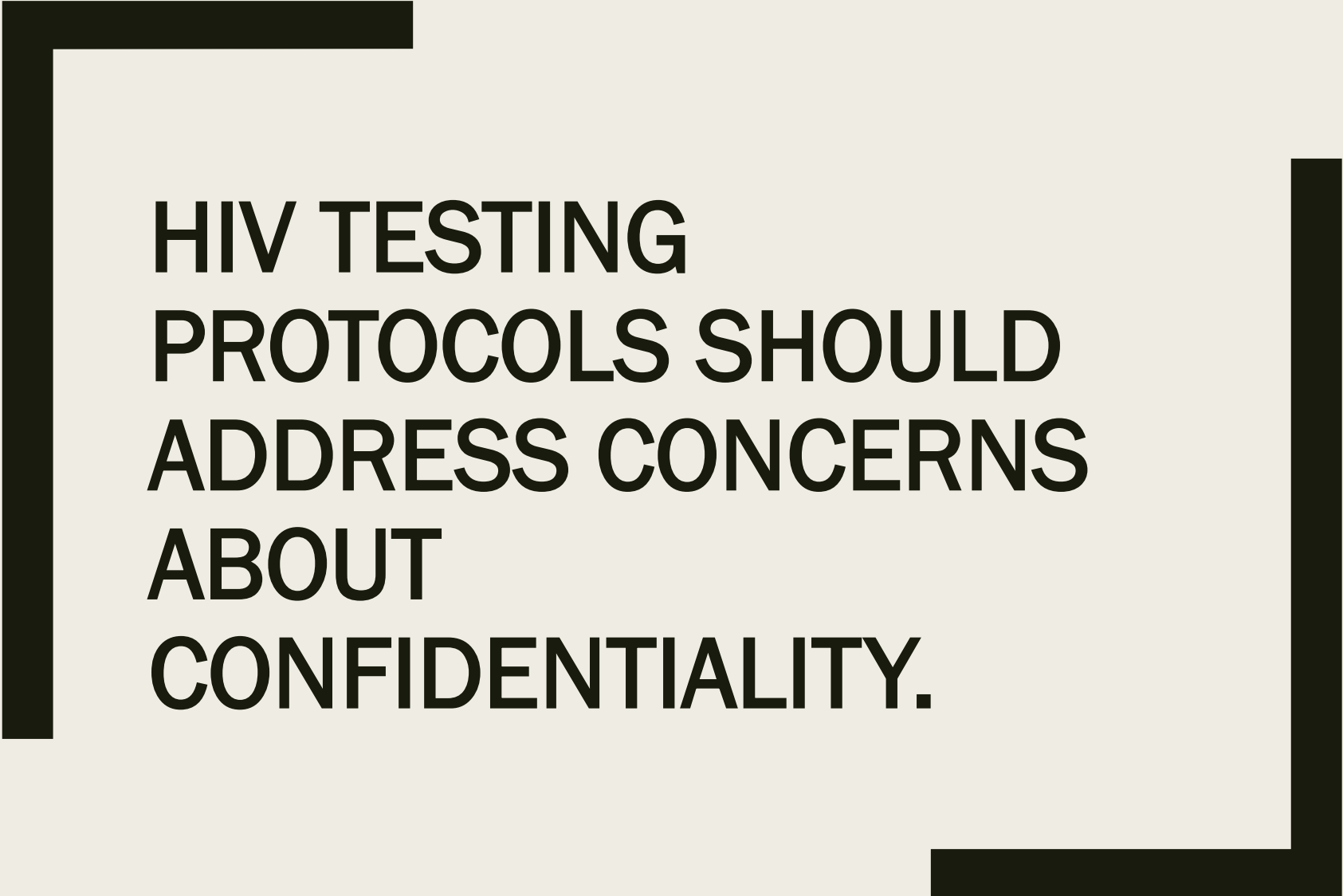


**A COMBINATION OF
ROUTINE TESTING IN ALL
PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS
AND TARGETED
COMMUNITY-BASED
TESTING IS NECESSARY.**

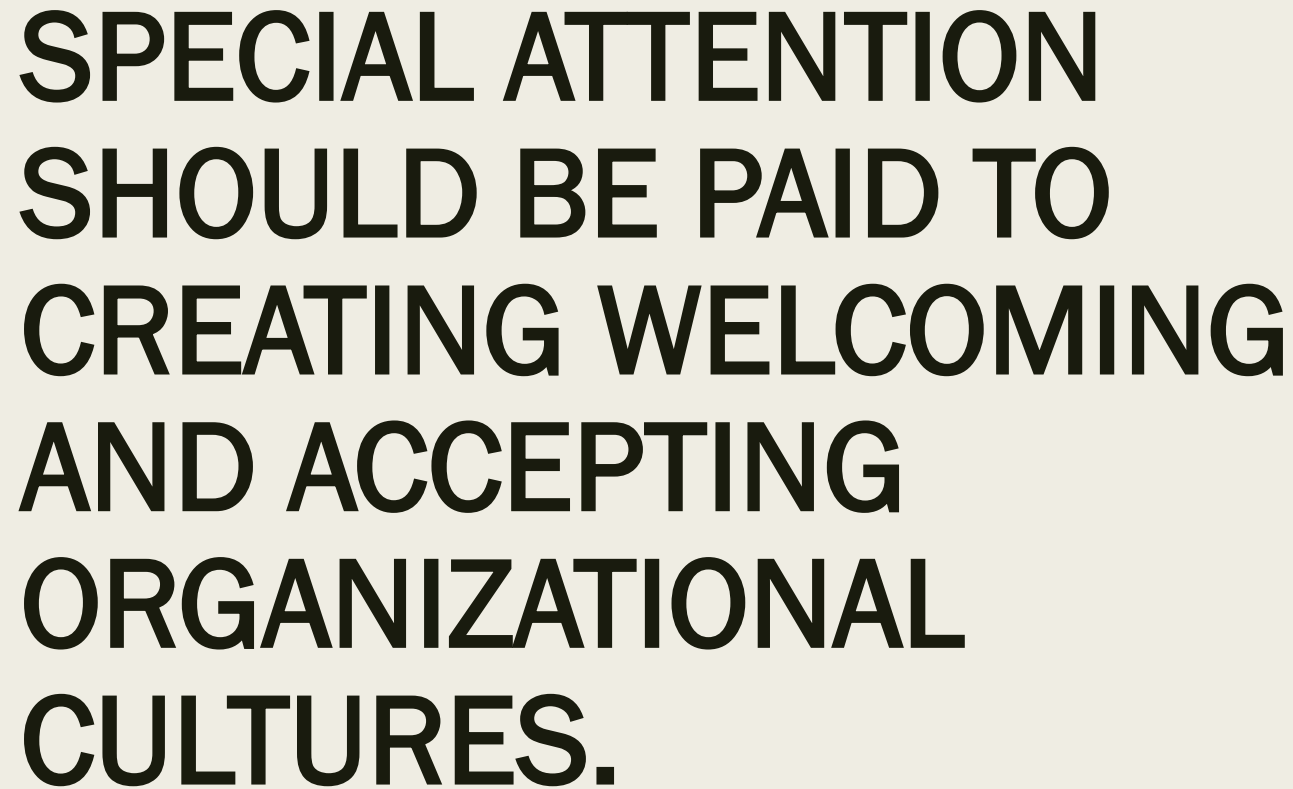


**COMPREHENSIVE EVIDENCE-
BASED SEXUAL HEALTH
EDUCATION, INCLUSIVE OF ALL
GENDER IDENTITIES AND
SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS, IS
NEEDED IN THE PHILADELPHIA
SCHOOL DISTRICT.**




The text is framed by two thick black L-shaped brackets. One bracket is on the left side, starting from the top and extending down. The other is on the right side, starting from the top and extending down. They meet at the bottom right corner.

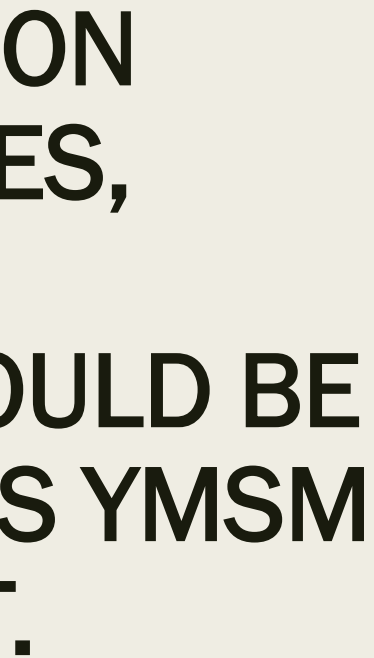
**HIV TESTING
PROTOCOLS SHOULD
ADDRESS CONCERNS
ABOUT
CONFIDENTIALITY.**

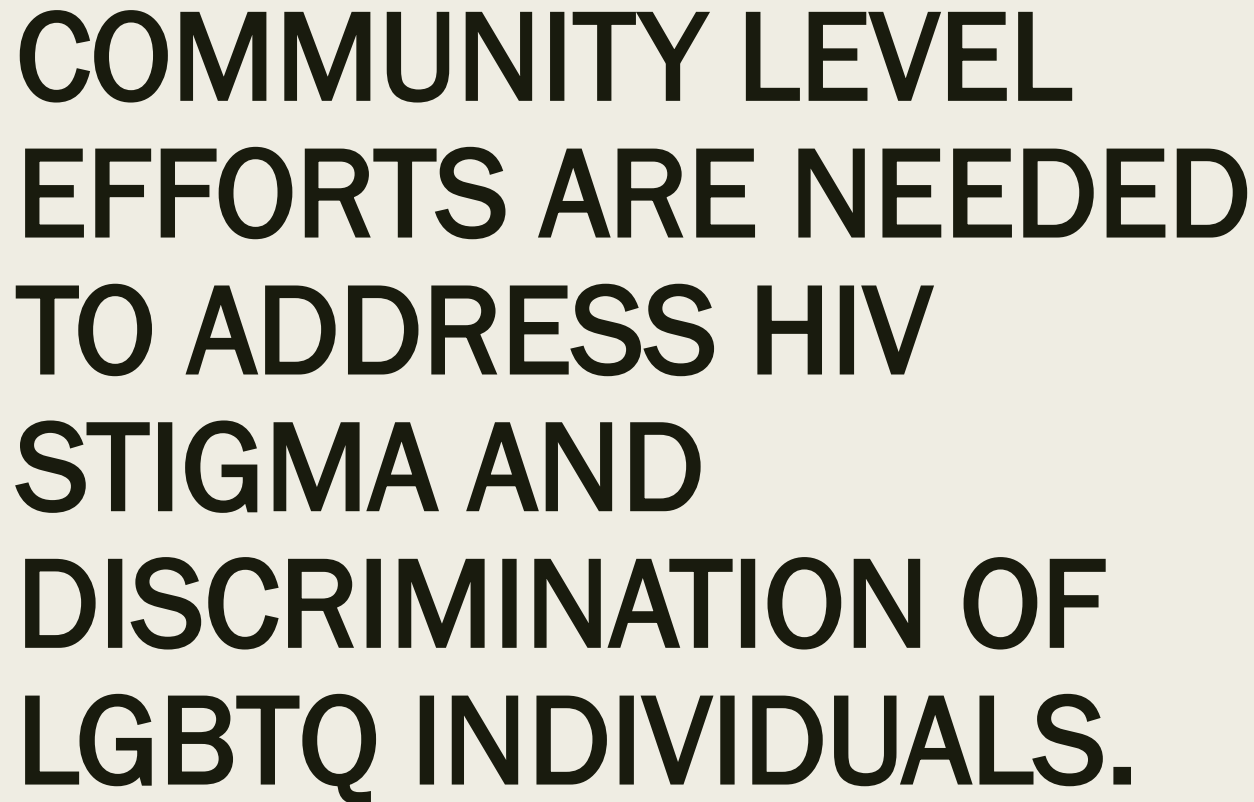
A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, then a vertical bar extending downwards. The bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards, then a horizontal bar extending to the left.

**SPECIAL ATTENTION
SHOULD BE PAID TO
CREATING WELCOMING
AND ACCEPTING
ORGANIZATIONAL
CULTURES.**




**RELEVANT INFORMATION
ABOUT LOCAL SERVICES,
SEXUAL HEALTH, AND
HIV/STD TESTING SHOULD BE
ONLINE IN THE PLACES YMSM
ARE LIKELY TO FIND IT.**






**COMMUNITY LEVEL
EFFORTS ARE NEEDED
TO ADDRESS HIV
STIGMA AND
DISCRIMINATION OF
LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS.**



**PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS
AND HEALTHCARE
ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE
SENSITIVE TO THE EFFECTS
OF STIGMA AND
DISCRIMINATION ON YMSM.**



CONCLUSIONS



Cultural Competency

- Inclusive
- Respectful
- Privacy/confidentiality
- Sex positive – no shame
- Treat patients as individuals, not as “risk populations”
- Partnership between patient and provider

Conclusions

- Linkage to a supportive and informative provider is key to engagement in care
- Young men care about their health, but often have significant individual, social and provider-level barriers to overcome
- Simple changes to how clients/patients are treated could impact retention in care.



www.hivphilly.org



[@hivphilly](https://twitter.com/hivphilly)



[Facebook.com/hivphilly](https://www.facebook.com/hivphilly)



Nicole@hivphilly.org