

# More than Just a Label: The Afterlife of HIV/AIDS in --- Richmond, VA

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# Research questions/goals

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- Research Question One: What is the connection between HIV/AIDS and a person's identity, specifically sexuality and/or race?
- Research Question Two: How can HIV/AIDS lead to feelings of social isolation (which could inhibit migration)?
- Main Goal: Engage in critical research surrounding HIV/AIDS to help destigmatize the condition
- Side Goal: Formal Recommendations

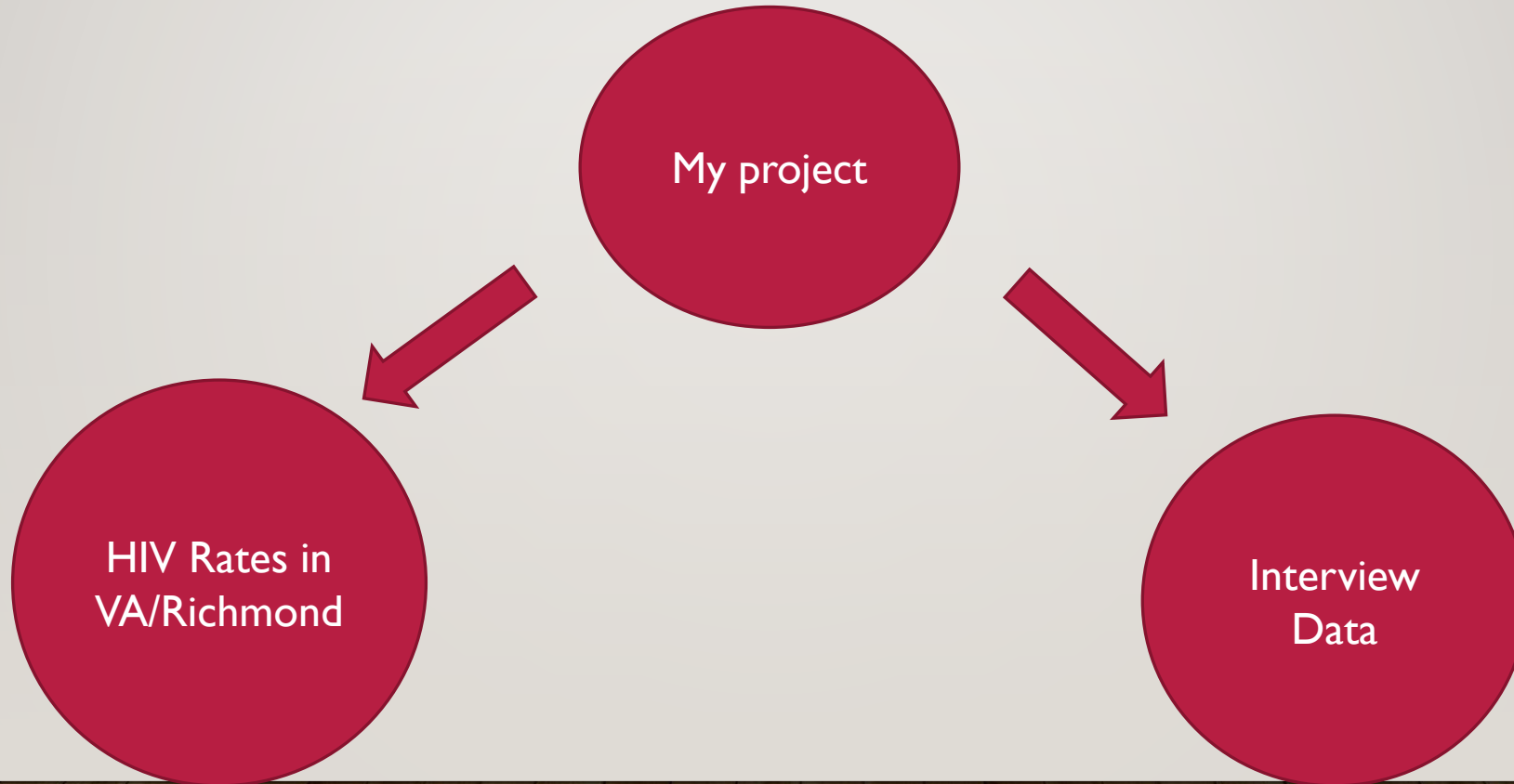
# Background information: terminology

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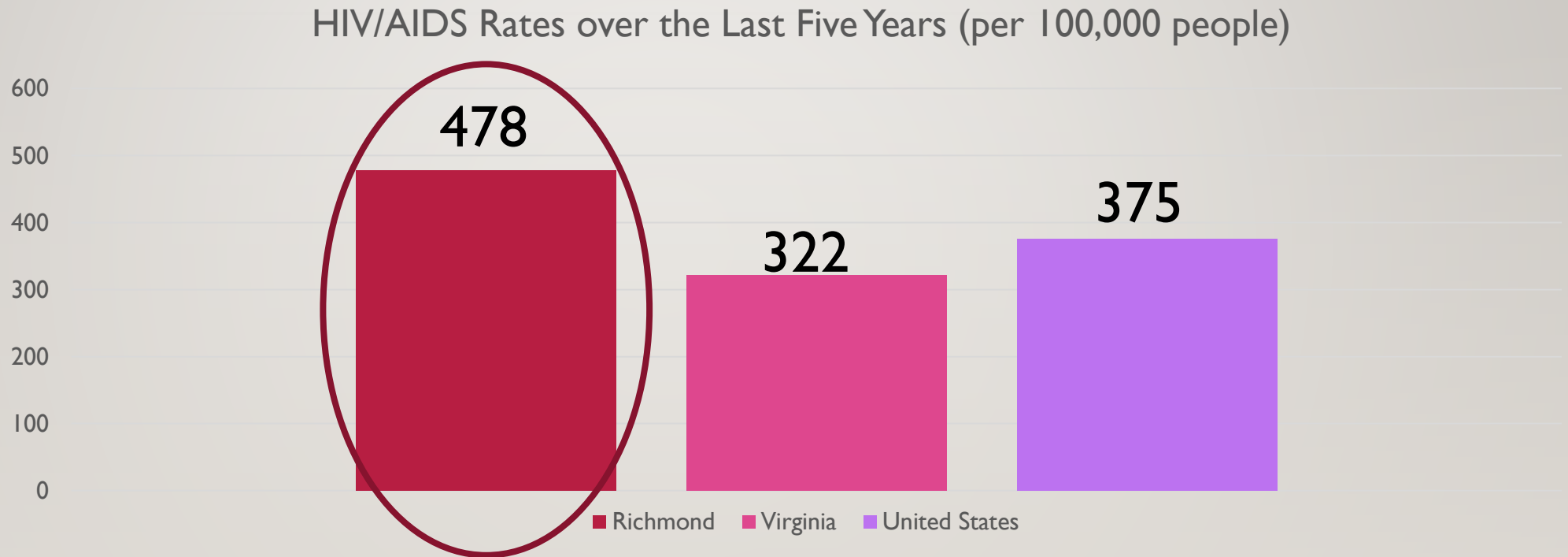
- **AIDS:** Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. This is a condition that is acquired **as a result of HIV**.
- **Ryan White Funding:** Federal funding for HIV testing, HIV treatment, and the treatment of conditions related to HIV. Does **not** cover mental health.
- **ART-** medicine commonly used to treat HIV
- **PrEP-** medicine to take before HIV exposure to help prevent the contraction of HIV

# Methodology

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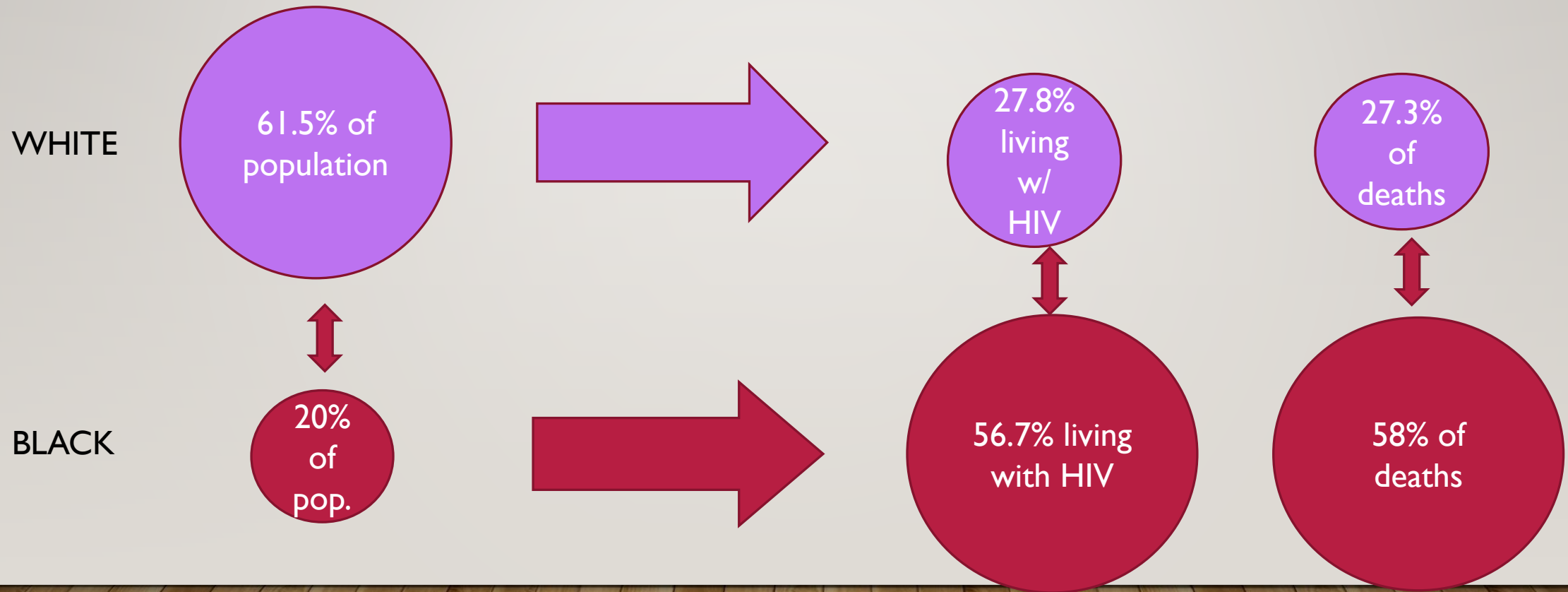
# Richmond data: Regional rates



Source: AIDSVu Program, Emory and Henry University.

# Virginia data: By race

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# Important theme: Identity and HIV/AIDS

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## Important Findings: Identity and HIV/AIDS

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graph TD; A[Important Findings: Identity and HIV/AIDS] --> B(Challenges for: Low SES Monolingual Spanish people); A --> C(Racism in coverage of HIV/AIDS); A --> D(Perceived queerness of HIV/AIDS diagnosis);
```

Challenges  
for:  
Low SES  
Monolingual  
Spanish people

Racism in  
coverage of  
HIV/AIDS

Perceived  
queerness  
of  
HIV/AIDS  
diagnosis

## Impactful quotes

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“In the 80s and 90s, there was public uproar when white gay men were the face of HIV. Now that the demographics shifted and it is more common for Black people to have HIV, no one cares.”



## Impactful quotes

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“I (a heterosexual man) got HIV from a blood transfusion. Ever since my diagnosis, I felt judged because I was positive...people assumed that I was gay because I had HIV.”

# Important theme: Mental health and stigma

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## Important Findings: Mental Health and Stigma

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graph TD; A[Important Findings: Mental Health and Stigma] --> B(Importance of support systems to fight isolation); A --> C(Inequities of physical and mental health resources); A --> D(Comorbidities of HIV/AIDS with mental health conditions);
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Importance of  
support  
systems to  
fight isolation

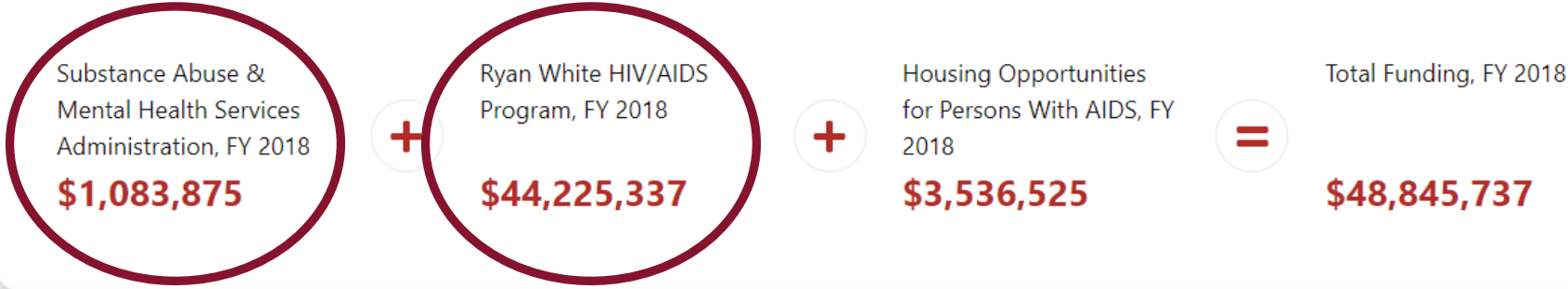
Inequities of  
physical and  
mental health  
resources

Comorbidities  
of HIV/AIDS  
with mental  
health  
conditions

# Important theme: Mental health and stigma

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## HIV Federal Funding/Programs, Federal HIV/AIDS Grant Funding, FY 2018



## Impactful quotes

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“Every week, I would have Medicine Mondays. I would go on Instagram Live and dance every time someone took their ART or PrEP. That way, they could know that we were all in this together.”

## Impactful quotes

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“After I was diagnosed (with HIV), I felt so alone...I began to distance myself from my friends and family because I was afraid being HIV positive would change how they saw me...It was only months after this that I realized I had started to develop depression.”

# Final products

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- Essay
- Website

# Future extensions/formal recommendations

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1. Mental health resources
2. Decriminalization of HIV/AIDS
3. More comprehensive education in schools regarding HIV/AIDS and the LGBTQIA+ Community

# Questions?

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Thank you for listening!

