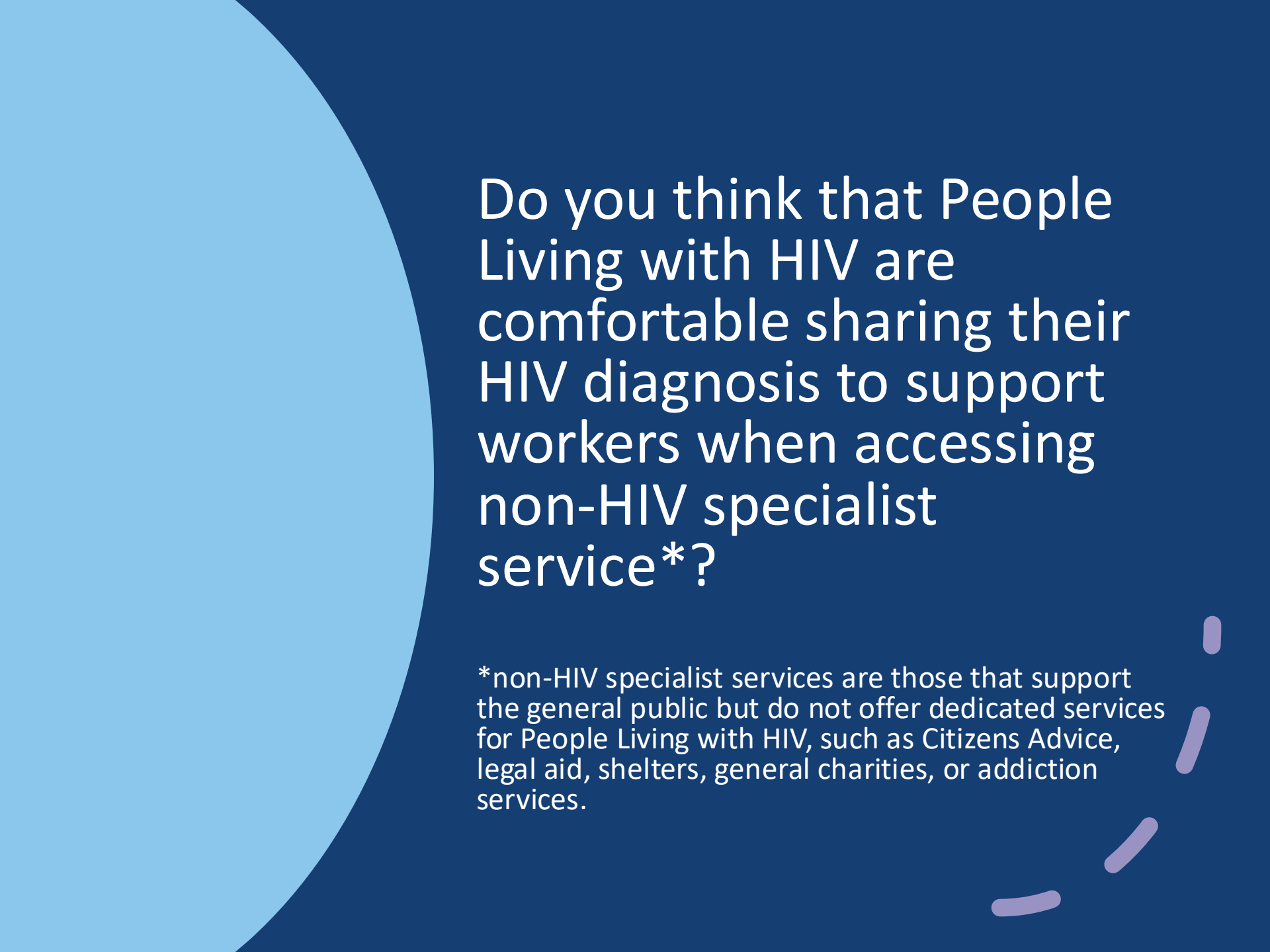


Comfort of People
Living with HIV to
Share HIV Diagnosis
to Non-HIV
Specialist Support
Services in East
London

Channing Walbridge, Positive East
26 May 2025





Do you think that People Living with HIV are comfortable sharing their HIV diagnosis to support workers when accessing non-HIV specialist service*?

*non-HIV specialist services are those that support the general public but do not offer dedicated services for People Living with HIV, such as Citizens Advice, legal aid, shelters, general charities, or addiction services.

Study Objectives

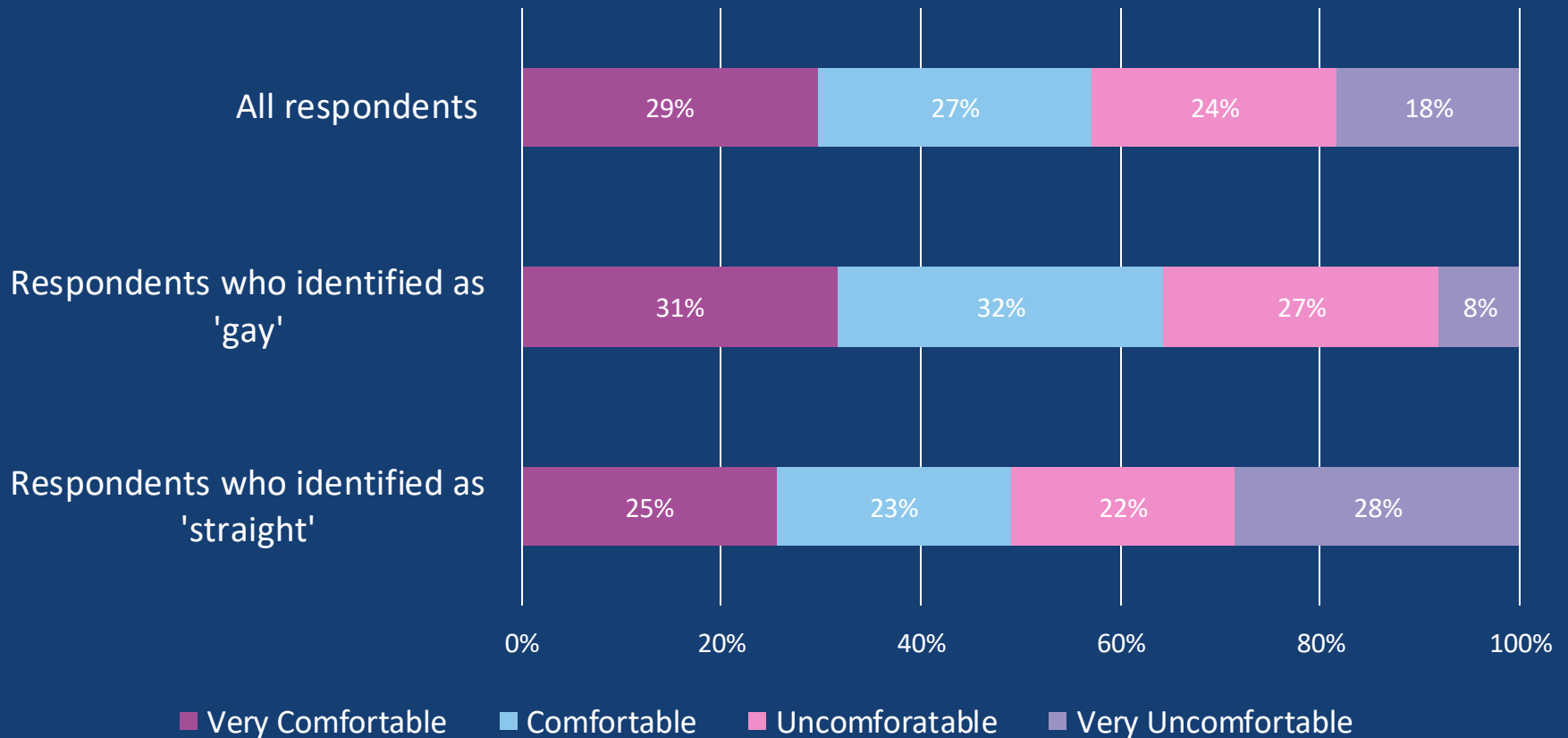
- First objective: to see how comfortable People Living with HIV are with disclosing their diagnosis to non-HIV specialist services.
- Second objective: To understand factors affecting their willingness to share HIV diagnosis with non-specialist service providers.

Methodology

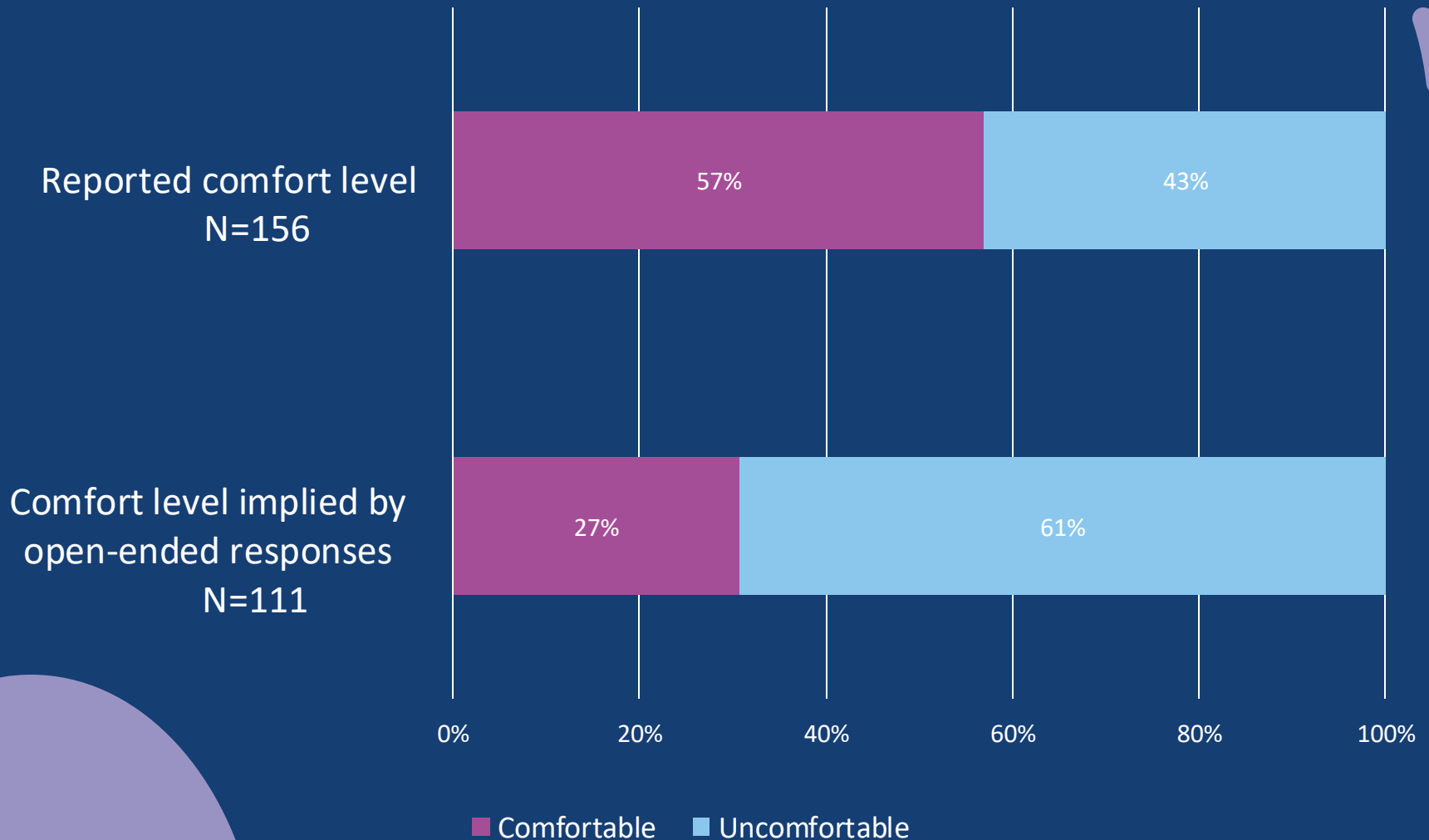
- Mixed methods
 - Anonymous survey including an open-ended question.
- Two questions
 - Four-point scale: Very comfortable → Very uncomfortable.
 - Free-text.
- Distributed to Positive East beneficiaries.
- Analysis: statistical significance + sentiment analysis + thematic analysis.

Reported comfort in sharing HIV diagnosis to non-HIV specialist services

156
responses



Comfort levels – reported compared to implied



Reasons for Discomfort



Top 5 themes:



1. Stigma and fear of judgement. (71%)



2. No perceived need to share. (16%)



3. Perceived lack of provider HIV knowledge. (10%)



4. Negative past experiences. (9%)



5. Privacy concerns. (7%)

Conclusion

- Discomfort in sharing HIV status is driven mainly by stigma.
- Discomfort higher among straight-identifying PLWHIV.
- Trust gap between PLWHIV and general services.
- Not sharing a diagnosis may affect quality of support received.
- Recommendations:
 - Need for HIV-informed training in non-specialist services.
 - More research into this topic.
 - Maintain HIV specialists support services.

