* Date\_2/17/2015 Location Aids Resource Center\_15 W 4th St, #200, Dayton, OH 45402
* Name: Focus Group: MuCrew - Sexual Minority Male Support Group participants
* **Recap of session:**
* The Aids Resource Center of Dayton, Ohio is a client-focused, community-based provider of specialized HIV prevention, testing, advocacy and support services. There were 20 participants: 3 bisexual, 16 gay and 1 lesbian. 19 participants were male and 1 was transgender. 19 of the 20 participants were under 35 years of age with 85% of the participants earning less than $47,775 annually.

**Top 3 areas of Discrimination**

**Most Common:**

65% identified Race/Color as #1

30% Identified Ethnicity as #2

35% Identified Sexual Orientation as #3

* **Noteworthy stats:**
* 25% identified Sexual Orientation as #2
* **I know someone who was discriminated against.**
* 7 sated yes.
* 13 stated no.
* **Disability:**

4 stated a person with disabilities resides in their home.

* **Current housing is accessible.**
* 6 stated yes.
* 14 stated no.
* **Opinion/thoughts about how willing landlords will help people with disabilities.**
* Very willing – 6
* Hesitant – 11
* Unwilling – 3
* **Have you ever asked for a reasonable accommodation or modification?**

0stated yes

20 stated no

* Tell us about your neighborhood.   
  Does it or doesn’t it have:
  + Good Schools?

3 Individuals raised their hands that this was important. One stated that that schools were a top priority. One person said the schools in there Dayton Neighborhood were not up to par.

* + Groceries and shopping amenities that are plentiful and close?

20 of the participants raised their hands to a show of hands that this was an important part of why they choose a location to live. Several complained that the shopping choices in downtown Dayton, close to the AIDS Resource Center where they come are limited.

* + Health Care – is it close or far away?

10 individuals raised their hands saying this was important to them.

* + Community Center?

1 individual stated Community Centers were important.

* + **Affordable** housing opportunities?

8 individuals raised their hands that finding an affordable place to live was a priority.

Several talked about the cost of rent for college students that did not want to live in the UD Ghetto and maintaining an apartment on their own moved them to less desirable neighborhoods where the rent was cheaper.

* + Easy **transportation** to everywhere in the county?

5 individuals raised their hand indicating that this was a priority. Several people made comments that they did not understand why this question in a housing survey. Once I spoke to them about the importance of the connection, especially for example, for people with disabilities, several other people spoke up and agreed that they knew people with disabilities who did have problems getting around.

* + Is there neighborhood **blight** or problems?

20 of the participants raised their hands to a show that this was an important part of why they choose a location to live. A short discussion ensued about how blighted neighborhoods, cheaper rent costs, and dangerous conditions like drugs and other crime seemed to go hand in hand.

* + Is it accessible to **people with disabilities**

Three individuals raised their hands indicating that where they lived was not accessible to people with disabilities.

* + What else is important?
* No comments.
* Let’s Talk About Your Housing:
  + Rental or Ownership?

7 stated they owned their residence and the remaining 13 were renters.

* + Did you meet any obstacles in your search for housing?

The apartment renters stated the challenge was finding a decent apartment or home in a good neighborhood was not quite so expensive.

* + Have you experienced any drawbacks since you moved in?

Five mentioned that the crime in the neighborhood was greater than they anticipated.

* + Do you believe housing discrimination is more common when it comes to renting or buying a home?

All agreed that there is more discrimination in renting but it is prevalent when purchasing a home.

* + How are your taxes, insurance rates, and other housing financial obligations?

6 home owners stated that their taxes had not increased by a significant amount. 1 home

owner stated taxes had increased by 40 5 but had had owned the home for 15 years.

Some Questions for Discussion:

* + Have YOU ever been steered away from a place because of your race, gender, disability or because of having children, etc.?

No one mentioned blatant steering but some were not really sure if it had occurred or not.

* + Were you ever told you were not welcome in a neighborhood or town?

One stated that a neighbor told him that “homos” were not welcome in the neighborhood.

* + Did you ever believe you were not welcome somewhere, even though nothing was ever said?
* 4 Stated that earlier when going to college that their landlords were not gay friendly.
  + Do you know anyone that has filed a housing complaint?

The group stated they had heard of complaints but never had a personal experience with anyone encountering discrimination complaints.

* + Do immigrants have problems with discrimination in your neighborhood or town?

This group felt that Dayton was very friendly to immigrants but some of the older neighborhoods did not want immigrants to move close to them.

* + What groups of people are discriminated against in this County

Race/Color, Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation.

* + Adjourn -