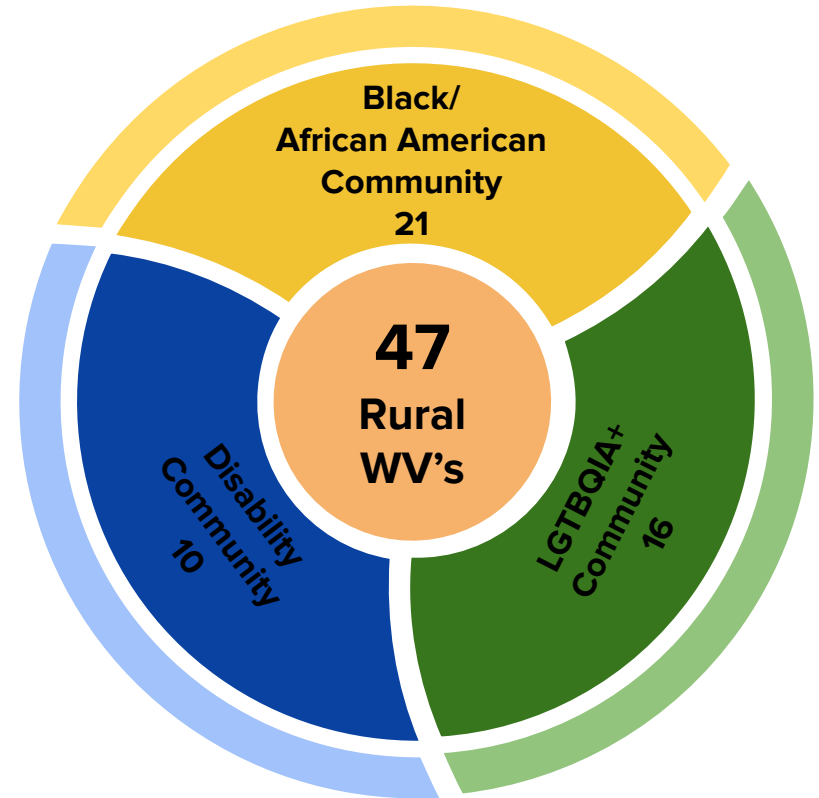


Overall, amongst the 3 populations, **perceptions and barriers to healthcare and the healthcare system faced greater similarities in their experiences than dissimilarities** across all the communities that participated in the project.

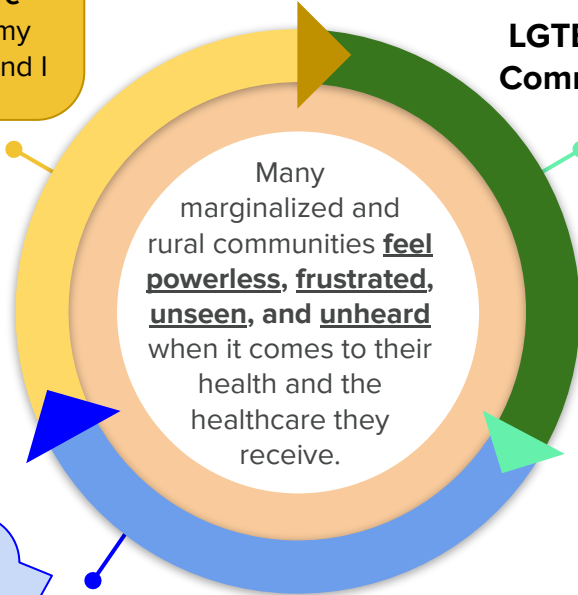
These shared similarities **support solidarity amongst smaller marginalized populations combining to form a larger group of people** for the necessary shifts required in changing policy, systems, and environments.

**Experiences are one's own story**, however, when there are several overlapping and repeated instances regarding healthcare and the medical system, **shared experiences can coalesce into one voice building strength and momentum to change healthcare policies** that will impact many more residents in WV and nationwide.



“The resident immediately came in and said, “We're going to have a problem with the medication because you're probably--” In other words, she was telling me I wouldn't be able to afford it. **She assumed that I was on welfare [because of my race].** She never looked at my chart, and she never made that connection, and I caught on.”

**Black/  
African American  
Community**



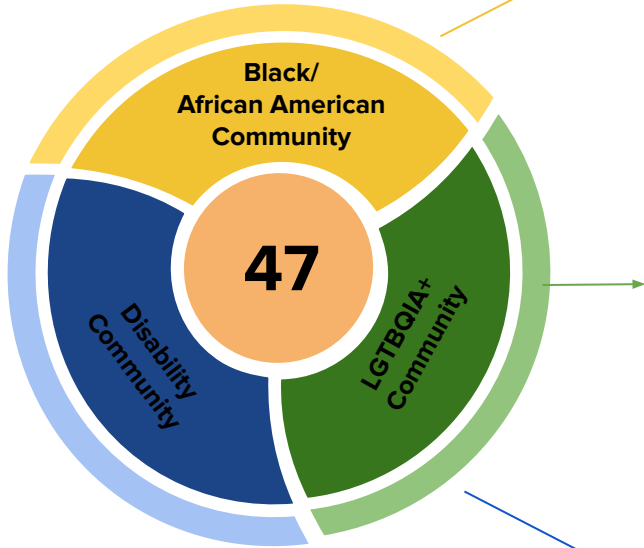
Many marginalized and rural communities **feel powerless, frustrated, unseen, and unheard** when it comes to their health and the healthcare they receive.

**LGBTQIA+  
Community**

“Or they're trying to solve a problem that's not actually there. **If I were to go into the ER now with abdominal pain, the first thing they would think is-- and they see I'm trans, they're like, "Oh, it has to be your uterus."** Well, no. That's not necessarily the case. So I feel like there is some fear, at least in my experience, of having ERs visits turn into demoralizing gender, not affirming places.”

“I think **it's hard, especially for parents and families who have a disability, to find qualified and knowledgeable providers.** Even for basic outpatient therapy services, a lot of families are driving two hours to a clinic.”

**Disability  
Community**



Entities with Power Control over Healthcare

Hierarchical Struggle within Healthcare Positions and how this is Impacting Healthcare Received

Self Health Advocacy

Perception of the Connection between Political and Healthcare System

Policy Information that affect Healthcare

Rurality's Impact on Healthcare

Impact of Personal Identity on and Identified Community's Perception of Healthcare System

Financial Impact of Healthcare Utilization

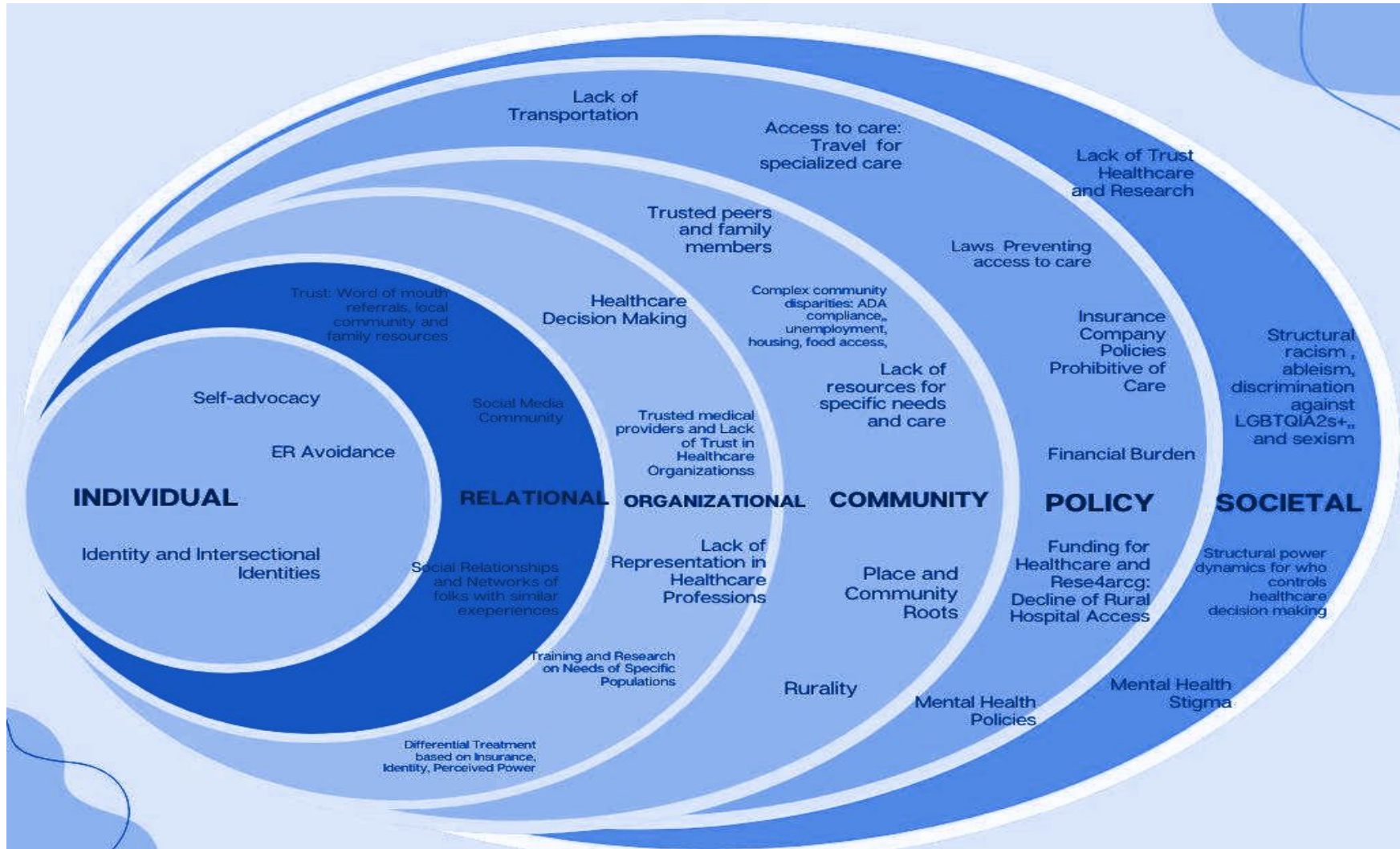
Media and Healthcare

Trust and Health Research

Qualitative data resulted in **hearing shared and unique experiences** regarding a lack of power in healthcare decision making, which is typically out of the control of the individual.



"Who has the **ultimate healthcare decision making power** over individuals?"



# Participant Suggestions & Solution-based Ideas



# Applicable Recommendations & Solutions

Interpersonal

Relationships

Organizational

Community

Policy

Society

Communities identified **importance of advocating for oneself** in healthcare settings, which includes **doing one's own research about medications and side effects** as well as seeking second opinions to quell the fear of the unknown and support individual empowerment.

Determine more ways to **host health-related events and gatherings** since **word of mouth, doctor recommendations, and health information sharing are strategies** used within **identified communities** for mutual support in navigating healthcare.

More **recruitment of providers from marginalized communities, and/or training in shared healthcare decision making.**

Create shared spaces for **opportunities to learn about lived experiences from marginalized communities** and **incorporate into practice.**

Create **transparency and access to local resources** to support needs of marginalized communities.

Create **shared local spaces for community members** to share resources, support one another, and advocate for policy change.

Increase **awareness of the importance of having representation** at the table where policies are made

Reiterate the idea that **our voices matter**, especially in the case of **supporting marginal populations into a the solidarity of a larger majority**

Changes within society are largely **driven by change in social acceptance of differences, policies, and societal systems.**

Potential achievability can be through **trainings, education, and created safe places to congregate and discuss** such important topics.