



Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

July 2016



AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE CLIENTS, 2014

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program American Indian/Alaska Native Clients Fast Facts



The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) works with cities, states, and local community-based organizations to provide HIV care and treatment services to an estimated 512,000 people (2014) who are uninsured or underinsured. RWHAP serves low-income and vulnerable populations of people living with HIV (PLWH). The majority of RWHAP funds support primary medical care and essential support services. A smaller but equally critical portion is used to fund technical assistance, clinical training, and research on innovative models of care.

A critical population served by RWHAP is American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN). In 2014, 2,375 of the more than half a million clients served by the Program were AI/AN. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- ▶ **The majority of AI/AN clients are low-income.** Approximately 69 percent of AI/AN clients served by RWHAP live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. This is greater than the national RWHAP average (64 percent).

- ▶ **The majority of AI/AN clients are male.** Seventy percent of AI/AN RWHAP clients are male, 27 percent are female, and 2 percent transgender. The proportion of AI/AN males compared to females is comparable to the national RWHAP average (about 71 percent male and 28 percent female).
- ▶ **The RWHAP AI/AN client population continues to increase in age.** About 38 percent of AI/AN clients are aged 50 years and older. An additional 30 percent are aged 40 to 49 years old.
- ▶ **Eight percent of AI/AN clients have unstable housing situations.** This is greater than the national RWHAP average (about 5 percent).
- ▶ **Lack of health care coverage continues to affect AI/AN clients served by RWHAP, but not at the same rate as the national RWHAP average.** Fourteen percent of AI/AN clients have no health care coverage, which is significantly less than the national RWHAP average (about 25 percent).

Medical care and treatment improves health and decreases transmission of HIV. Approximately 76 percent of AI/AN RWHAP clients receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, which is less than the national RWHAP average (approximately 80 percent). Approximately 83 percent of AI/AN RWHAP clients receiving HIV medical care are virally suppressed, which is greater than the national RWHAP average (81 percent).¹

¹Retention in care is based on data for PLWH who had at least one outpatient ambulatory medical care (OAMC) visit by September 1 of the measurement year, with a second visit at least 90 days later. Viral suppression is based on data for PLWH who had at least one OAMC visit and at least one viral load test during the measurement year and whose most recent viral load test result was less than 200 copies/mL.

