



Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

May 2016



GAY, BISEXUAL, AND OTHER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM), 2014

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Gay, Bisexual, and Other MSM Fast Facts

44.9% 
OF ALL RWHAP
CLIENTS.

25.4% **HAVE NO**
HEALTH CARE COVERAGE. 

 **79.4%**
ARE RETAINED IN
HIV MEDICAL CARE.

82.8% 
ARE VIRALLY
SUPPRESSED.

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 significant proportion of RWHAP clients are men who have sex with men (MSM). In 2014, nearly 45 percent of the more than 461,000 clients with transmission risk information served by RWHAP were MSM. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- ▶ **61 percent of MSM served by RWHAP are racial and ethnic minorities.** Approximately 34 percent of MSM identify as black/African American, which is less than the national RWHAP average (approximately 47 percent). Approximately 22 percent of men identify as Hispanic/Latino, which is equal to the national RWHAP average

(22 percent). Approximately 39 percent of MSM identify as white, which is significantly greater than the national RWHAP average (about 27 percent).

- ▶ **The RWHAP MSM client population continues to increase in age.** Half of MSM are aged 45 years and older.
- ▶ **More than half (55 percent) of clients aged 13 to 24 years are MSM.** These youth and young adults represent about 7 percent of all MSM served by RWHAP.
- ▶ **About 4 percent of MSM have unstable housing situations.** This is slightly less than the national RWHAP average (about 5 percent).
- ▶ **Lack of health care coverage continues to affect MSM served by RWHAP.** Approximately 28 percent of MSM have no health care coverage, which is slightly greater than the national RWHAP average (25 percent).

Medical care and treatment improves health and decreases transmission of HIV. About 79 percent of MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are retained in care, which is slightly less than the national RWHAP average (approximately 80 percent). Nearly 83 percent of MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed, which is slightly greater than the national RWHAP average (81 percent).¹

- ▶ Approximately 72 percent of young MSM (aged 13–24) receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, and more than 65 percent are virally suppressed.
- ▶ Approximately 72 percent of young, black/African American MSM (aged 13–24) receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, and 62 percent are virally suppressed.

¹ Retention 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.

