



# Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

May 2016



## OLDER ADULTS, 2014

### Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Clients Aged 50 Years and Older—Fast Facts

**40.4%**   
OF ALL RWHAP CLIENTS.

**83.7%**   
ARE RETAINED IN HIV MEDICAL CARE.

**60.6%**   
LIVE AT OR **BELOW** 100% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

**87.6%**   
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 aged 50 years and older. In 2014, more than 40 percent of the more than half a million clients served by the Program were aged 50 and older. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- ▶ **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 50 and older are racial and ethnic minorities.** About 68 percent of clients aged 50 and older are from racial and ethnic minority populations. More than 45 percent of clients in this age group identify as black/African American, which is less than the national RWHAP average (approximately 47

percent). More than 19 percent identify as Hispanic/Latino, which is less than the national RWHAP average (22 percent).

- ▶ **The majority of clients aged 50 and older are low-income.** Nearly 61 percent of people aged 50 and older served by RWHAP live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. This is less than the national RWHAP average (64 percent).
- ▶ **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 50 and older are male.** Nearly 72 percent of clients aged 50 and older are male, more than 27 percent are female, and 0.5 percent of clients aged 50 and older are transgender. The ratio of males to females in the older population is comparable to the national RWHAP average (71 percent males, 28 percent females, and 1 percent transgender).
- ▶ **About 4 percent of clients aged 50 and older have unstable housing situations.** This is slightly less than the national RWHAP average (about 5 percent).
- ▶ **Lack of health care coverage continues to affect older clients served by RWHAP.** More than 16 percent of clients aged 50 and older have no health care coverage, which is significantly less than the national RWHAP average (about 25 percent), likely because they are eligible for Medicare.

Medical care and treatment improves health and decreases transmission of HIV. Nearly 84 percent of clients aged 50 and older receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, which is greater than the national RWHAP average (approximately 80 percent). More than 87 percent of clients aged 50 and older receiving HIV medical care are virally suppressed, which is also greater than the national RWHAP average (81 percent).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

