The Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people living with HIV (PLWH). More than half the people living with diagnosed HIV in the United States—an estimated 551,000 people in 2016—receive services through RWHAP each year. RWHAP funds grants to states, cities/counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to PLWH to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission among hard-to-reach populations.

Females are a substantial proportion of RWHAP clients. Of the more than half a million clients served by RWHAP, 27.3 percent are female.

Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- The majority of female clients served by RWHAP are from racial and ethnic minority populations. Data show 83.8 percent of female clients are from racial and ethnic minority populations. 61.5 percent of female clients identify as black/African American, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (47.1 percent). 19.7 percent of female clients identify as Hispanic/Latino, which is lower than the national RWHAP average (23.1 percent).

- The majority of female clients served by RWHAP are low income. Among female clients served, 72.1 percent are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (62.8 percent).

- Data show that 4.1 percent of female clients have unstable housing situations. This is lower than the national RWHAP average (5.2 percent).

- The RWHAP female client population is aging. Among female RWHAP clients served, 45.2 percent are aged 50 and older, while only 4.1 percent of female RWHAP clients are aged 13–24.

Medical care and treatment improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of HIV transmission. Approximately 84.0 percent of female clients receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,* which is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (84.9 percent).

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* Viral suppression is defined as a viral load result of less than 200 copies/mL at most recent test, among PLWH who had at least one outpatient ambulatory health services visit and one viral load test during the measurement year.