The Health Resources and Services Administration’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people with HIV. More than half the people with diagnosed HIV in the United States—approximately 535,000 people in 2017—receive services through RWHAP each year. The RWHAP funds grants to states, cities/counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to people with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission among hard-to-reach populations.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Client Fast Facts: Older Adults

- **45.2%** of all RWHAP clients are aged 50+
- **60.9%** live at or below 100% of the federal poverty level
- **90.6%** are virally suppressed
- **4.1%** have unstable housing

The RWHAP client population is aging. Of the more than half a million clients served by RWHAP, 45.2 percent are aged 50 years and older. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 50 years and older are from racial and ethnic minority populations.** Among RWHAP clients aged 50 years and older, 68.3 percent are from racial and ethnic minority populations; 45.1 percent of RWHAP clients in this age group identify as black/African American, which is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (47.1 percent). Approximately 20.6 percent of RWHAP clients in this age group identify as Hispanic/Latino, which is lower than the national RWHAP average (23.1 percent).

- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 50 years and older are male.** Data show that approximately 71.1 percent of clients aged 50 years and older are male, 28.0 percent are female, and 1.0 percent are transgender.

- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 50 years and older are low income.** Among RWHAP clients, 60.9 percent of people aged 50 years and older are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is lower than the national RWHAP average (62.8 percent).

- **Data show that 4.1 percent of RWHAP clients aged 50 years and older have unstable housing.** This percentage is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (5.1 percent).

Medical care and treatment improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of HIV transmission. People with HIV who take HIV medication daily as prescribed and reach and maintain an undetectable viral load have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner. Among RWHAP clients aged 50 years and older receiving medical care for HIV in 2017, 90.6 percent are virally suppressed,* which is higher than the national RWHAP average (85.9 percent).

---

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

For more information on HRSA’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, please visit: hab.hrsa.gov.