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

44.4% of all RWHAP clients are aged 50+
4.3% have unstable housing
60.4% live at or below 100% of the federal poverty level
90.0% are virally suppressed

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 351,000 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.

The RWHAP client population is aging. Of the more than half a million clients served by the RWHAP, 44.4 percent are aged 50 years and older.

Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 50 and older are from racial and ethnic minority populations.** Among RWHAP clients aged 50 and older, 68.3 percent are from racial and ethnic minority populations. 45.6 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 20.3 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 and older are male.** Data show that 71.6 percent of clients aged 50 and older are male, 27.8 percent are female, and 0.6 percent are transgender.

- **The majority of clients aged 50 and older are low income.** Among RWHAP clients, 60.4 percent of people aged 50 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 4.3 percent of clients aged 50 and older have unstable housing.** This is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (5.2 percent).

Medical care and treatment improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of HIV transmission. 90.0 percent of clients aged 50 years and older receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,\(^a\) which is higher than the national RWHAP average (84.9 percent).

\(^a\) 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.