HRSA
Ryan White & Global HIV/AIDS Programs

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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Transgender Clients, 2014

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Transgender Client Fast Facts

1.1% OF ALL RWHAP CLIENTS.

78.4% ARE RETAINED IN HIV MEDICAL CARE.

79.5% LIVE AT OR BELOW 100% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

74.0% 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 critical population served by RWHAP is transgender individuals. In 2014, approximately 1.1 percent of the more than half a million clients served by the Program were transgender. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- **The majority of transgender clients served by RWHAP are racial and ethnic minorities.** Approximately 88 percent of transgender clients are from racial and ethnic minority populations. About 53 percent of transgender clients identify as black/African American, which is greater than the national RWHAP average (47 percent). About 30 percent identify as Hispanic/Latino, which is also greater than the national RWHAP average (approximately 22 percent).
- **The RWHAP transgender client population continues to increase in age.** One in five RWHAP transgender clients is aged 50 and older. An additional 28 percent are aged 40 to 49 years old.
- **About 10 percent of transgender clients have unstable housing situations.** This is greater than the national RWHAP average (about 5 percent).
- **The majority of transgender clients are low income.** More than 79 percent of transgender clients served by RWHAP live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. This is significantly greater than the national RWHAP average (64 percent).
- **Lack of health care coverage affects transgender clients served by RWHAP.** Approximately 27 percent of transgender clients have no health care coverage, which is greater than the national RWHAP average (about 25 percent).

Medical care and treatment improves health and decreases transmission of HIV. 78 percent of transgender clients receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, which is slightly less than the national RWHAP average (approximately 80 percent). 74 percent of transgender clients receiving HIV medical care are virally suppressed, which is significantly less than the national RWHAP average (81 percent).[1]

[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.

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