

HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Transgender Clients: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2018

Population Fact Sheet | January 2020

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 519,000 people in 2018—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 Fast Facts: Transgender Clients



Of the more than half a million clients served by RWHAP, 1.9 percent are transgender, representing approximately 10,200 clients. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- The majority of transgender clients served by RWHAP are from racial/ethnic minority populations. Among the transgender clients served, 88.1 percent are from racial/ethnic minority populations; 54.0 percent of transgender clients identify as black/African American and 29.4 percent identify as Hispanic/Latino, both of which are higher than the national RWHAP averages (47.1 percent and 23.2 percent, respectively).

- The majority of transgender clients served by RWHAP are low income. Among transgender RWHAP clients served, 75.6 percent live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (61.3 percent).
- Data show that 11.5 percent of transgender RWHAP clients have unstable housing. This percentage is substantially higher than the national RWHAP average (5.3 percent).
- The transgender client population is younger than the average for RWHAP clients. Approximately 25.1 percent of RWHAP transgender clients are aged 50 years and older.

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 the transgender clients receiving RWHAP HIV medical care in 2018, 81.8 percent are virally suppressed,* which is lower than the national RWHAP average (87.1 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.