

HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Youth and Young Adult 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: Youth and Young Adult Clients

4.1%
OF ALL RWHAP CLIENTS

5.9% HAVE UNSTABLE HOUSING

69.6% LIVE AT OR BELOW 100% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

76.3% ARE VIRALLY SUPPRESSED

Youth and young adults aged 13–24 years represent 4.1 percent (nearly 22,000 clients) of the more than half a million RWHAP clients. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- The majority of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are from racial/ethnic minority populations. Among clients in this age group, 87.1 percent are from racial/ethnic minority populations. Nearly two-thirds (61.4 percent) of youth and young adult clients identify as black/African American, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (47.1 percent). Hispanics/Latinos represent 21.6 percent of youth and young adult RWHAP clients, which is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (23.2 percent).
- The majority of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are male. Data show that 73.6 percent of clients aged 13–24 years are male, 23.3 percent are female, and 3.1 percent are transgender.

- The majority of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are low income. Of youth and young adult RWHAP clients, 69.6 percent are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (61.3 percent).
- Data show that 5.9 percent of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years have unstable housing. This percentage is slightly higher than the national RWHAP average (5.3 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. In 2018, 76.3 percent of clients aged 13–24 years receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,* which is significantly lower than the national RWHAP average (87.1 percent).

- 78.3 percent of young men who have sex with men (MSM) receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 74.8 percent of young black/African American MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 72.1 percent of young black/African American women receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 68.0 percent of transgender youth and young adults receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.

*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.