

HIV Care and Treatment in Rural Communities

HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2024



Rural Health Fact Sheet | September 2026

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provides support and resources to RWHAP recipients, including those in rural areas, to support the delivery of optimal care and treatment for all to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. To that end, increasing engagement in care and viral suppression in rural communities is critical. The RWHAP encourages practices to best reach, meet the needs of, and retain in care people with HIV in rural communities. Although barriers remain, RWHAP providers¹ in rural areas have demonstrated success in such areas as telemedicine, rapid antiretroviral therapy (Rapid Start), transportation services, and the use of community health workers.



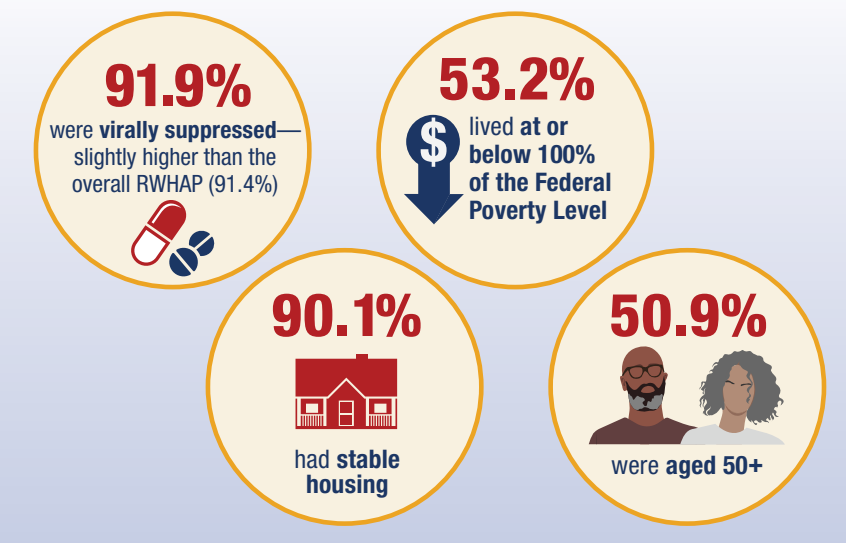
Among RWHAP providers in rural areas² in 2024³—

- **55.3%** served more than 100 RWHAP clients.
- **39.1%** were located in the South.
- **39.7%** were health departments.

The Top 10 Most Common Services⁴ Delivered by RWHAP Providers in Rural Areas in 2024³

1. Medical case management	47.3%
2. Medical transportation	42.4%
3. Non-medical case management	36.4%
4. Outpatient ambulatory health services	33.2%
5. Oral health care	33.2%
6. Emergency financial assistance	31.0%
7. Food bank/home-delivered meals	29.9%
8. Mental health services	25.0%
9. Housing	22.8%
10. Health insurance premium and cost sharing assistance	17.4%

RWHAP Clients Who Visited Rural Providers in 2024³



From July 2023 to June 2024, Regional RWHAP Part F AIDS Education Training Centers (AETCs)⁵—

DELIVERED
1,279
TRAININGS ABOUT
RURAL POPULATIONS



TRAINED
5,143
AETC PARTICIPANTS WHO
WORKED IN RURAL AREAS

Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

The [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. \(EHE\)](#) initiative focuses on reducing new HIV infections. HRSA's EHE initiative builds on the RWHAP comprehensive system of care to focus on reaching people with HIV who are newly diagnosed or who are not routinely engaged in HIV care in geographic areas with high rates of HIV transmission and rural areas with disproportionate rates of HIV, which include seven states:

Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. EHE provides funded jurisdictions with additional resources, technology, and expertise to expand HIV treatment and prevention activities. HRSA has a leading role in implementing EHE.



Rural Health and HIV Resources

The following resources describe promising practices, address training and technology needs, and review research and policy recommendations that are relevant to rural health and HIV.

[RWHAP Part F AIDS Education and Training Center \(AETC\) Program.](#) The RWHAP AETC Program is a network of HIV experts who provide education, training, and technical assistance on HIV care and prevention to health care team members and health care organizations serving people with or at risk of HIV.

[Rural Residency Planning and Development Program.](#) This program, a partnership between HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and its Bureau of Health Workforce, provides funding to create new rural medical residency programs. The purpose is to improve access to health care by funding programs to train more physicians in rural communities.

[Rural Telehealth Resource Centers \(TRCs\).](#) This resource, developed by HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, lists regional and national TRCs that provide technical assistance to states and territories concerning technology assessment and telehealth policy.

References

- ¹ "RWHAP providers" refers to provider organizations that deliver direct care and support services to RWHAP clients.
- ² HRSA. How We Define Rural. <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/what-is-rural>.
- ³ HRSA. *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Annual Data Report 2024*. December 2025.
- ⁴ HRSA. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individuals & Allowable Uses of Funds. PCN 16-02. <https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ryan-white/grants/service-category-pcn-16-02-final.pdf>.
- ⁵ HRSA. *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) Program Annual Data Report 2024*. <https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/data/reports>. August 2026.

