

Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) Clients:

HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2021



Population Fact Sheet | March 2023

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—more than 576,000 people in 2021—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. For more than three decades, RWHAP has worked to stop HIV stigma and reduce health disparities by caring for the whole person and addressing their social determinants of health.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Fast Facts: Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men Clients

67.4%
OF ALL MALE
RWHAP
CLIENTS



50.8%
LIVE AT
OR BELOW



100% of the
Federal Poverty Level

90.6%
ARE VIRALLY
SUPPRESSED



41.4%
ARE
AGED
50+



A significant proportion of RWHAP clients are men who have sex with men (MSM). Of the more than half a million clients served by RWHAP, 48.8 percent are MSM. Of male clients served by RWHAP, 67.4 percent are MSM.

Learn more about MSM clients served by RWHAP:

- **The majority of MSM clients served by RWHAP are a diverse population.** Data show that 65.5 percent of MSM RWHAP clients are people from racial and ethnic minorities. Among MSM RWHAP clients, 34.5 percent are white, 36.1 percent are Black/African American, and 25.7 percent are Hispanic/Latino.
- **More than half of MSM clients served by RWHAP are people with lower incomes.** Of the MSM RWHAP clients served, 50.8 percent are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is significantly lower than the national RWHAP average (59.2 percent).
- **Among MSM RWHAP clients, 4.7 percent experience unstable housing.** This percentage is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (5.0 percent).
- **MSM RWHAP clients are aging.** MSM clients aged 50 years and older account for 41.4 percent of all MSM RWHAP clients. This percentage is lower than the national RWHAP average (48.3 percent).

Medical care and treatment improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of HIV transmission. People with HIV who take HIV medication as prescribed and reach and maintain viral suppression cannot sexually transmit the virus to their partner. According to 2021 data, 90.6 percent of MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,* which is slightly higher than the national RWHAP average (89.7 percent).

- 84.5 percent of young MSM (aged 13–24) receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 82.2 percent of young Black/African American MSM (aged 13–24) receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.

* Viral suppression is defined as a viral load result of less than 200 copies/mL at the 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.