



Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) Clients: HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2019

Population Fact Sheet | June 2021



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—nearly 568,000 people in 2019—receive services through RWHAP each year. The RWHAP funds grants to states, cities, counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care, treatment, and support services for people with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission.

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, 47.2 percent are MSM. Of male clients served by RWHAP, 65.7 percent are MSM.

Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- **The majority of MSM clients served by RWHAP are a diverse population.** Data show that 64.6 percent of MSM RWHAP clients served are from racial/ethnic minority populations. Among MSM, 35.4 percent identify as white, 35.4 percent identify as Black/African American, and 25.6 percent identify as Hispanic/Latino.
- **Approximately half of MSM clients served by RWHAP are low income.** Of the MSM RWHAP clients served, 51.7 percent are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is lower than the national RWHAP average (60.7 percent).
- **Among the MSM RWHAP clients, 4.8 percent have unstable housing.** This percentage is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (5.5 percent).
- **The MSM RWHAP client population is aging.** MSM clients aged 50 years and older account for 39.9 percent of all RWHAP MSM clients. This percentage is lower than the national RWHAP average (46.8 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 2019, 89.1 percent of MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care were virally suppressed,* which is slightly higher than the national RWHAP average (88.1 percent).

- 81.3 percent of young MSM (aged 13–24) receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 77.8 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 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.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Fast Facts: Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) Clients

