

# Youth and Young Adult 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: Youth and Young Adult Clients

**3.3%**

OF ALL  
RWHAP  
CLIENTS



**65.1%**

LIVE AT  
OR BELOW  
**100%** of the  
Federal Poverty Level



**82.7%**

ARE VIRALLY  
SUPPRESSED



**5.3%**

EXPERIENCE  
UNSTABLE  
HOUSING



Youth and young adults aged 13 to 24 years old represent 3.3 percent (more than 19,000 clients) of the more than half a million clients served by RWHAP.

Learn more about youth and young adult clients served by RWHAP:

- **The majority of youth and young adult RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are a diverse population.** Among clients in this age group, 86.9 percent are people from racial and ethnic minorities. Data show that 58.2 percent of youth and young adult clients are Black/African American people, which is significantly higher than the national RWHAP average (45.8 percent). Hispanic/Latino people represent 24.2 percent of youth and young adult RWHAP clients, which is comparable to the national RWHAP average (24.1 percent).
- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are male.** Data show that 75.2 percent of clients aged 13–24 years are male, 19.8 percent are female, and 4.9 percent are transgender.
- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are people with lower incomes.** Among youth and young adult RWHAP clients, 65.1 percent are people living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (59.2 percent).
- **Data show that 5.3 percent of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years experience unstable housing.** This percentage is slightly higher than the national RWHAP average (5.0 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, 82.7 percent of youth and young adult clients aged 13–24 years receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,\* which is significantly lower than the national RWHAP average (89.7 percent).

- 84.5 percent of young MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 82.2 percent of young Black/African American MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 78.6 percent of young Black/African American women receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 75.7 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 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.