



Youth and Young Adult Clients: HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2019

Population Fact Sheet | June 2021

Youth and young adults aged 13–24 years represent 3.9 percent (more than 22,000 clients) of the more than half a million RWHAP clients. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:



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.

- **The majority of youth and young adult RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are a diverse population.** Among RWHAP clients in this age group, 86.4 percent are from racial/ethnic minority populations. Data show 59.6 percent of youth and young adult RWHAP clients identify as Black/African American, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (46.6 percent). Hispanics/Latinos represent 22.7 percent of youth and young adult RWHAP clients, which is slightly lower than the national RWHAP average (23.3 percent).
- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are male.** Data show that 73.7 percent of clients aged 13–24 years are male, 22.6 percent are female, and 3.7 percent are transgender.
- **The majority of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years are low income.** Among youth and young adult RWHAP clients, 68.9 percent are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (60.7 percent).
- **Data show that 5.8 percent of RWHAP clients aged 13–24 years have unstable housing.** This percentage is slightly higher than the national RWHAP average (5.5 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, 79.4 percent of clients aged 13–24 years receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed,* which is substantially lower than the national RWHAP average (88.1 percent).

- 81.3 percent of young men who have sex with men (MSM) receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 77.8 percent of young Black/African American MSM receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 74.0 percent of young Black/African American women receiving RWHAP HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- 73.8 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.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Fast Facts: Youth and Young Adult Clients

