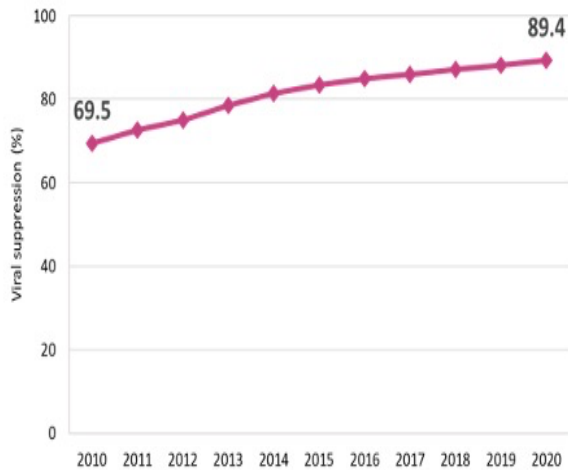


The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Providing Comprehensive & Effective Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS

April 2022

Viral Suppression among Clients Served by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (non-ADAP), 2010–2020—United States and 3 Territories^a



Viral suppression: ≥ 1 OAH5 visit during the calendar year and ≥ 1 viral load reported, with the last viral load result < 200 copies/mL.
^a Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Source: HRSA, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Data Report (RWR) 2020. Does not include AIDS Drug Assistance Program data.

RW Part C Funding Request

The FY23 Ryan White Part C request is \$231 million, a \$25.5 million (12%) increase. Increased funding would help clinics meet rising costs and provide critical medical and behavioral health care, including overdose prevention, as well as support services, such as food and transportation.

The viral suppression rate of Ryan White clients increased by 28.6% from 2010 to 2020.

Ryan White Program Supports Comprehensive and Effective HIV Care with a Public Health Approach

In 1990, with strong bipartisan support, Congress created the [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#) as a public health intervention urgently needed to address an accelerating HIV epidemic. Congress named the program after [Ryan White](#), a young person living with HIV/AIDS who was a national anti-discrimination advocate. Ryan White died from AIDS on April 8, 1990, just months before passage of the law. Over 30 years later, the program provides medical care and support annually to over 560,000 individuals living with HIV; has helped stabilize the domestic HIV epidemic; and is key to **the nation's goal of ending the HIV epidemic**.

The program's comprehensive services engage and keep people in HIV care and treatment. This is important because HIV is infectious, so identifying, engaging, and providing uninterrupted access to care and treatment for individuals with HIV **saves lives and benefits public health by stopping HIV transmission when individuals are virally suppressed**.

Ryan White Part C Clinics Are Effective Medical Homes Serving Patients Nationwide

Part C of the Ryan White Program directly funds approximately **350 community health centers and HIV clinics** providing medical care to more than **300,000 people each year**. **The clinics serve underserved, uninsured and underinsured individuals** and are the primary source for delivering HIV care to **rural jurisdictions** -- approximately **half** of Part C providers serve rural communities.

In addition to HIV care and treatment, services provided include STD/TB/Hepatitis screening, ob/gyn care, dental care, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and case management.

Ryan White Part C Clinics Save Lives and Reduce Costs

Early and reliable access to HIV care and treatment both helps patients with HIV live **healthy and productive lives** and is more **cost effective**. A study from the Ryan White Part C clinic at the University of Alabama at Birmingham found that patients treated at later stages of HIV disease required **2.6 times more health care dollars** than those receiving earlier treatment meeting federal HIV treatment guidelines.

Ryan White Part C Clinics Address the Opioid and Other Drug Epidemic & Related Infectious Diseases

People living with HIV experience higher rates of substance use disorder and overdose deaths nationally continue to skyrocket. In Oct. 2021, the U.S. surpassed 105,000 overdose deaths annually - **a more than 45% increase since early 2020**. Since 2015, overdose deaths have been rising most rapidly among Black and Hispanic communities, underscoring health disparities. **Part C clinics play an important role serving individuals living with both substance use disorder and HIV** by delivering a range of medical, support, and harm reduction services to prevent and treat substance use disorder as well as related infectious diseases, including HIV, hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infections.

The significant experience and expertise of Ryan White Part C medical providers should be **fully leveraged both to end the HIV epidemic and to effectively respond to the overdose crisis by helping to expand access to substance use disorder services**.

The Ryan White Program Expertly Adapts to Local Needs & Challenges

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the flexibility of the Ryan White Program allowed Part C clinics to respond to the real time changing needs of patients and the health care system. Part C clinics helped people living with HIV by:

- Sustaining access to health care and medication through telehealth (both phone-based and video) and by supporting key services, such as case management and transportation;
- Enrolling new patients in coverage who lost health insurance because of the economic downturn;
- Providing PPE, food, and housing security during critical periods of the pandemic.

The Ryan White Program also has successfully adapted over the years to the changing health care system. The program has:

- Expanded access to critical non-clinical, supportive services in Medicaid expansion states;
- Served as the only source of HIV care and treatment for many low-income patients in states without Medicaid expansion;
- Supported access to essential services and medications that are uncovered or inadequately covered by both public and private insurance and by providing premium and cost sharing support.

The Ryan White Program provides ready access to life-saving HIV care and treatment to help patients stay healthy and to prevent HIV transmission.

Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition



For additional information, please contact RWMPCC Convener, Jenny Collier, at jcollier@colliercollective.org.

The 2022 RWMPCC Hill Advocacy Day, "Bringing Frontline Voices to Policymakers," is dedicated to Evelyn "Byrd" Quinlivan, MD, whose HIV advocacy and care for her patients is honored and remembered.