

The bipartisan HIV Epidemic Loan-Repayment Program (HELP) Act will address the urgent need to support a strong and effective HIV clinical and dental workforce by authorizing a new loan-repayment program specific to HIV clinical providers. HIV clinicians shortages [forecasted](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are [already widening](#) in parts of the country.

The HELP Act (H.R. 2295) was introduced by Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE-A1.) with cosponsors Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13), Rep. Robin L. Kelly (IL-02), Rep. Nikema Williams (GA-05), and Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT-5). Contact Kia Henry at Kia.Henry@mail.house.gov in the office of Rep. Blunt Rochester to cosponsor the HELP Act.

HIV in West Virginia

Nationally, more than 38,000 people are newly diagnosed with HIV each year, and of the 1.1 million people living with HIV, only half are in regular care and benefiting from treatment. Treating people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression is important for people with HIV to stay healthy and [to prevent new HIV transmissions](#).

From AIDS Vu: HIV Prevalence Rate

[Ratios, by Race/Ethnicity, 2018](#)

The rate of **Black males** living with an HIV diagnosis is **5.8 times** that of **White males**.

The rate of **Hispanic/Latino males** living with an HIV diagnosis is **4.1 times** that of **White males**.

The rate of **Black females** living with an HIV diagnosis is **17.2 times** that of **White females**.

The rate of **Hispanic/Latina females** living with an HIV diagnosis is **6.5 times** that of **White females**.

Ending the HIV Epidemic

More than 50% of new HIV diagnoses in 2016 and 2017 occurred in 48 counties, Washington, D.C., and San Juan, Puerto Rico. These 50 jurisdictions are prioritized in Phase I of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative and seven states with a disproportionate occurrence of HIV in rural areas.

[Targeted EHE Jurisdictions](#)

West Virginia is not currently receiving EHE funding. The initiative will be expanded nationally as funding allows.

HIV Epidemic Loan-Repayment Program

The new loan repayment program would offer up to \$250,000 in loan repayment to HIV clinicians and dentists for up to five years of service providing HIV-related treatment in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), Ryan White-funded clinical sites or a service area that meet criteria to be defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau.

Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas

A [HPSA](#) is a geographic area, population group, or health care facility that HRSA has designated as having a shortage of health professionals. These areas have a shortage of primary or dental care providers.

The number of total Primary Care HPSA Designation in West Virginia **105**

The number of Practitioners needed to remove the HPSA designation in West Virginia **117**

HRSA'S Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP)

[RWHAP](#) supports direct health care and support services for over half a million people with HIV — approximately half of all people with diagnosed HIV in the United States, of which 73.4% of the clients are members of ethnic minority populations.

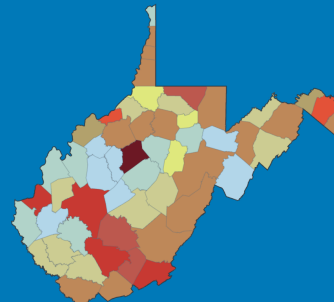
758 clients received services from West Virginia's Ryan White Program in 2018

West Virginia

1,891

People living with HIV in West Virginia 2018

Rate of adults/adolescents living with an HIV diagnosis per 100,000 population



0 - 50	51 - 60	61 - 80	81 - 90	91 - 120
121 - 150	151 - 190	191 - 250	251 - 380	381+

Poverty

Income Status of All Ryan White Clients

Percentage living in poverty
(At or below 100% of
Federal Poverty Level)



89.6 %

of clients in West Virginia with an HIV diagnosis who had at least one medical visit and had at least one viral load reported were virally suppressed

West Virginia Ryan White Program Funding (FY20)

State	Part A	Part B	Part C	Part D	Part F	EHE	AETC	Total*
West Virginia		\$3,963,133	\$1,151,131	\$227,958				\$5,342,222