

# CLOSING THE HOUSING GAP FOR MINNESOTANS LIVING WITH HIV

Issued by the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition

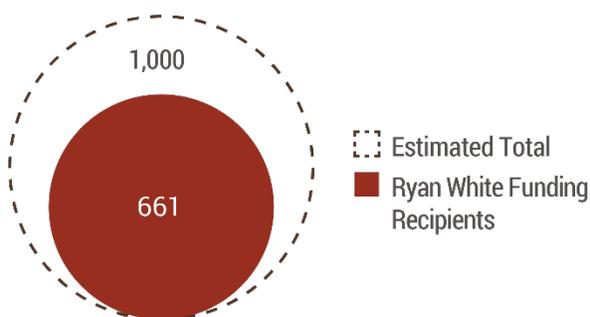
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## OUR GOAL

- We have the knowledge and the tools to end new HIV transmissions in Minnesota. What we need is continued investment in already proven strategies. One of those proven strategies is permanent affordable housing. For people living with HIV, housing equals healthcare. It is an indispensable tool in our effort to end the HIV epidemic. By 2025, our goal is that all Minnesotans living with HIV have access to permanent affordable housing that respects the life they want to live (Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition, 2017.)

## HOW MANY NEED HOUSING? WORKING TOWARDS A COMPLETE PICTURE

Minnesotans Living with HIV in Need of Permanent Affordable Housing



(Minnesota Housing Coalition, 2019.)

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- **Our knowledge of how many people need housing is more accurate than ever before, but it is still incomplete.** A number of factors including patient privacy laws, people opting to not self-identify as HIV+, and those who are not yet diagnosed are responsible for our incomplete picture of the need for housing for Minnesotans living with HIV.
- **The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides us with the best available data.** In 2018, there were 9,966 Minnesotans diagnosed HIV+. 4,472 (50%) received assistance from what is known as the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.
- **661 Ryan White clients were seeking permanent affordable housing solutions in 2018.** That's 15% of those with a listed housing status.
- **It is estimated that there are at least 340 additional people living with HIV in our state who are unstably or temporarily housed,** according to members of the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition. This brings the total estimated number of people in need of housing to 1,000.

## WHO IS IN NEED OF HOUSING?

- Although anyone can contract HIV, who gets the virus, and who needs support is compounded by other social ills including poverty, racism, homophobia, HIV stigma and drug use.
- Individuals who identify as Black/African American are disproportionately impacted by HIV; they represented 37% of the total number of individuals seeking permanent housing solutions. Those who identify as white represented 31% of individuals seeking permanent housing solutions.
- 62% (410) of the individuals seeking permanent housing solutions were located in Hennepin County and 118 (18%) were located in Ramsey County. 54 individuals were located in Greater Minnesota.
- 523 (79%) of individuals/households had incomes less than 100% of the federal poverty level (\$12,490 for a one-person household).

## WHY DOES HOUSING MATTER?

- Of the 661 individuals seeking permanent housing solutions, approximately 95% were retained in HIV care; and 79% maintained viral suppression. This is an increase from 2018 where 93% were retained in care and 76% achieved viral suppression.
- Those who have achieved viral suppression or are “undetectable” cannot pass the virus on to a sexual partner (Rodger, et al., 2019).
- It has been proven by multiple studies that people who have permanent affordable housing have significantly higher rates of viral suppression than those who are temporarily or unstably housed (Aidala, et al., 2016.) Housing equals healthcare for people living with HIV.

## HOW RYAN WHITE DATA IS COLLECTED

- Twice a year, providers in Minnesota need to enter data into a database called CAREWare for Ryan White funded services provided to individuals living with HIV in our community. Currently this is the best source of data regarding the need for housing among Minnesotans living with HIV.

## REFERENCES

[Minnesota HIV Housing Plan](#), (2017).

Rodger, A.J., Cambiano, V., Bruun, T. Vernazza, P., Collins, S., Degen, O. et al. [Risk of HIV transmission through condomless sex in serodifferent gay couples with the HIV-positive partner taking suppressive antiretroviral therapy \(PARTNER\): final results of a multicentre, prospective, observational study](#). *The Lancet*. 2019, Volume 393, Issue 10189, pp 2428-2438.

Aidala, A.A. Housing Status, [Medical Care, and Health Outcomes Among People Living With HIV/AIDS: A Systematic Review](#). *American Journal of Public Health*: January 2016, Vol. 106, No. 1, pp. e1-e23.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition: <https://www.justushealth.org/resources/community-resources/housing-advocacy>
- The Minnesota Department of Health has adopted END HIV MINNESOTA, a statewide plan that outlines how partners and individuals across the state are working to end further transmission of the virus. [Learn more about this multi-faceted effort, and how housing is an essential strategy in this plan.](#)