

Implementing Targeted Interventions Using Identified Barriers to Care for Women

RYAN WHITE PART A OF BROWARD COUNTY

Kelsey Holloman, MPH, CHES

introduction

The Ryan White Program is the largest federally funded program specifically dedicated to providing HIV care and treatment. This funding has enabled the Broward County Ryan White Part A Program to provide critical life-saving health and supportive services.

The mission of Broward's Clinical Quality Management (CQM) Program is to ensure equitable access to a seamless system of high-quality comprehensive HIV services that improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities for people living with HIV/AIDS in Broward County. To accomplish this mission, the CQM Program continuously collects and analyzes client-level data to identify trends and disparities in gender, race, ethnicity, age, risk factor, etc. Identified trends and disparities are addressed through the development and implementation of quality improvement strategies.

HIV Epidemic in Broward County:

- 2nd highest in the United States for people living with HIV1
- 20,253 people living with HIV/AIDS¹
- Ryan White Part A serves approx. 8,500 unduplicated clients annually²

REFERENCES

- 1. Florida Department of Health HIV/AIDS Section, Data as of 8/20/2018.
- 2. Broward County Ryan White Program Data System: Provide Enterprise Client Utilization Report 2017.

background

HIV-positive women face particular barriers to accessing HIV treatment and achieving viral suppression. Of women diagnosed with HIV in 2012, 57% were retained in care by 2013 and 52% achieved viral load suppression³. In Broward County, HIV-positive women have poorer health outcomes, including lower percentages of viral suppression, than men. In 2016, 22% of the 2,335 women were virally unsuppressed (>200 copies/mL) compared to 18% of the 5,858 men in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part A program. In 2015, Ryan White Part A case managers in Broward County identified barriers to care for black women who were virally unsuppressed. To address these barriers, case managers located at seven agencies throughout Broward County implemented targeted interventions for women who were virally unsuppressed. This project aims to assess how targeted interventions impact viral suppression by eliminating barriers to care.

REFERENCES

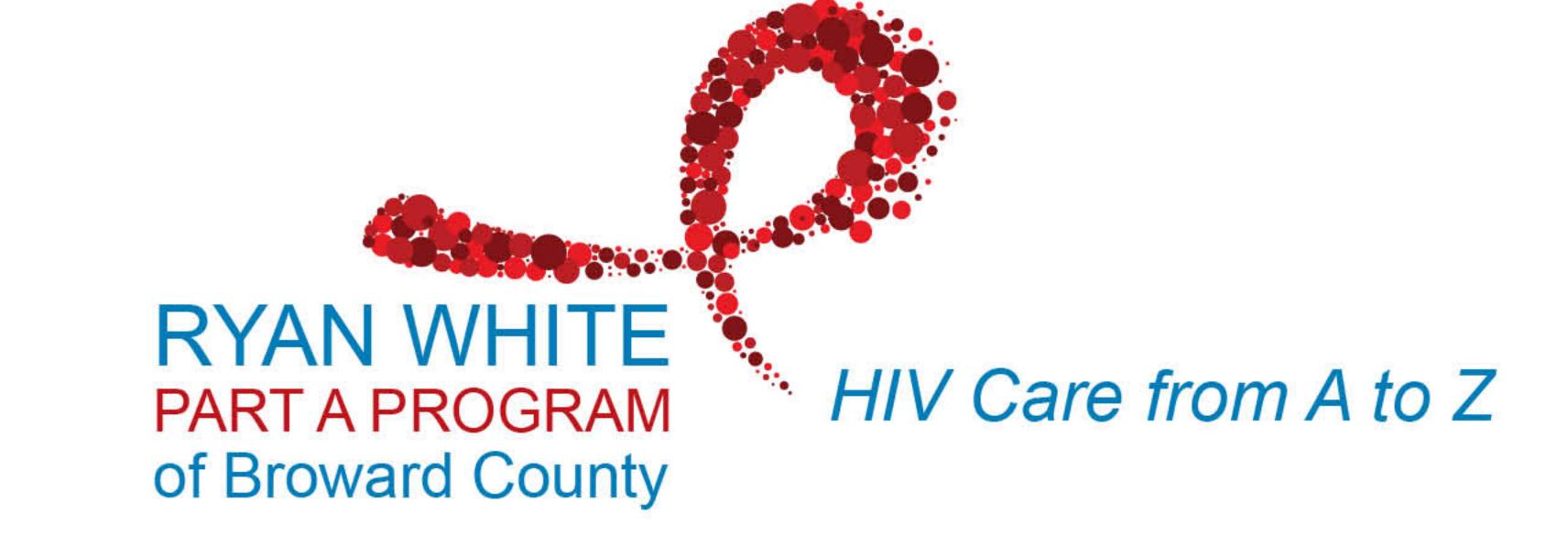
3. "HIV/AIDS." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 10 Mar. 2017, www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/gender/women/index.html. Accessed 25 Aug. 2017.

method

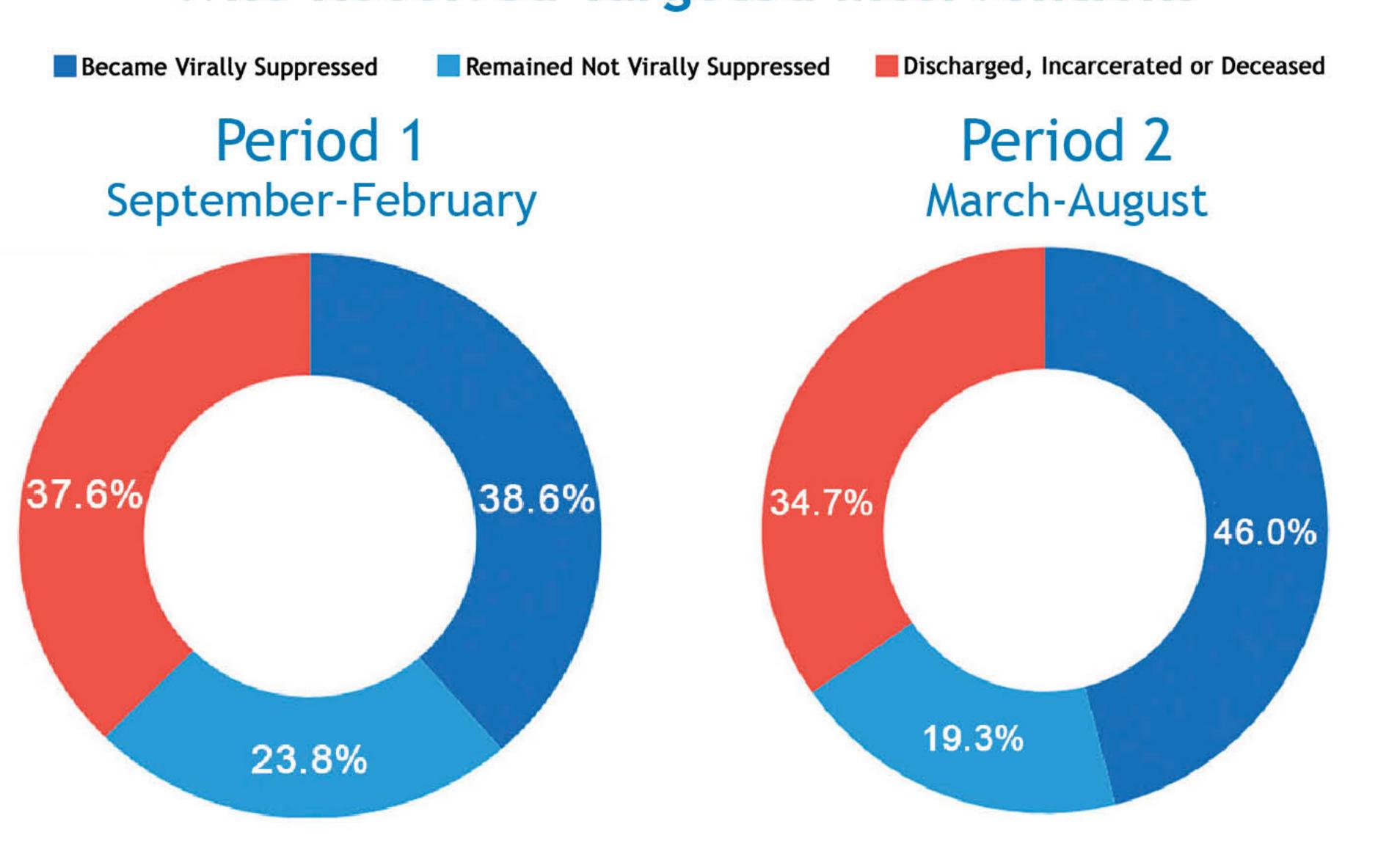
- Over the course of one year (September 2016-August 2017), Ryan White Part A case managers implemented targeted interventions to address previously identified barriers to care for women who were virally unsuppressed in the Part A continuum of care in Broward County, including: not taking medications, lack of transportation, lack of financial resources, mental health and substance use issues, and inconsistent housing.
- Implemented interventions were tracked on a quarterly basis along with each client's viral load.
- Tracked interventions, included: graphs/visuals, repetitive teaching, medication reminder alarms, pillbox, text message and phone call reminders for medications, labs, and medical appointments, budget counseling, case conferencing, social counseling, and referrals to transportation resources, job training, mental health and substance abuse providers, housing, Disease Intervention Specialists, and primary care doctors.
- Interventions and viral loads were compiled from the seven agencies and analyzed.

results

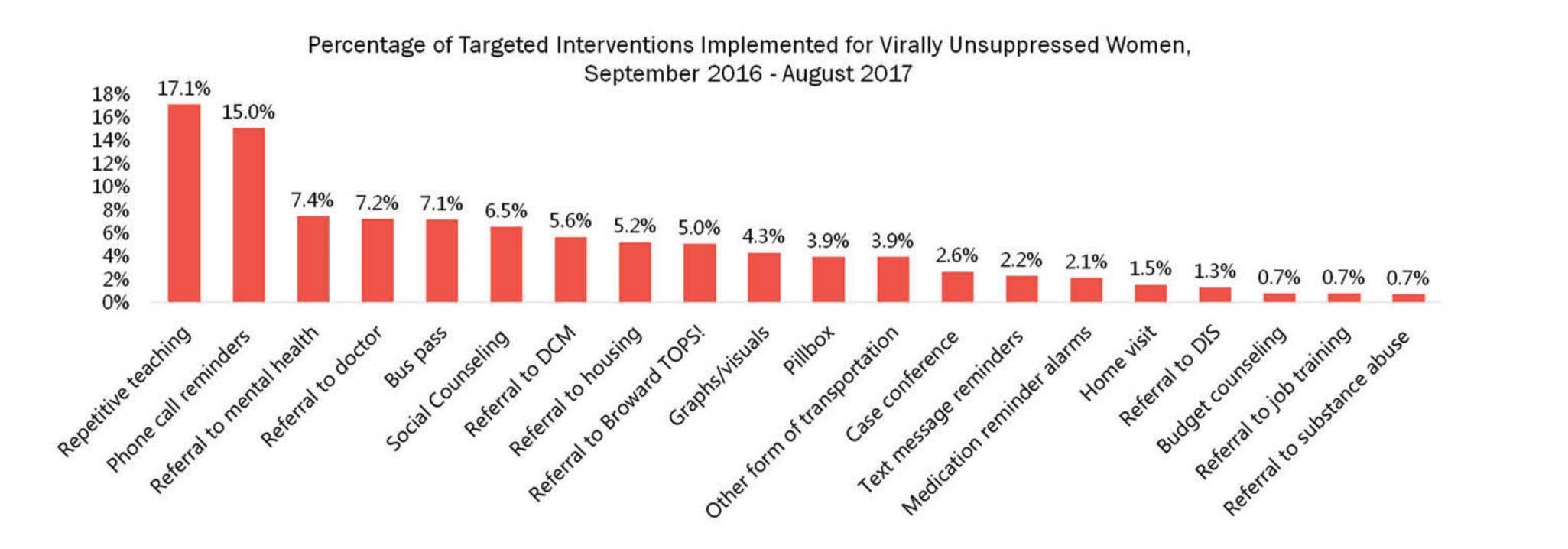
- Of the 422 virally unsuppressed women in the Ryan White Part A Program, 101 individuals received a variety of 20 targeted interventions.
- Of the 101 women, 49.5% became virally suppressed, 15.8% remained virally unsuppressed, and 34.7% were either discharged, incarcerated or deceased.
- The top implemented interventions were: repetitive teaching, phone call reminders, referral to mental health services, referral to a primary care doctor, distribution of bus passes, and social counseling.
- Over the course of the year, the number of women who became virally suppressed increased by 7.4% and the number of women who remained virally unsuppressed decreased by 4.5%.
- The 50 women who became virally suppressed received a combined total of 227 interventions resulting in an average of ~5 implemented interventions each.



Progress of Outcomes Experienced By Women Who Received Targeted Interventions



Final Outcomes Experienced by Women W	no Received Targeted inte	erventions
Outcome	#	%
Became Virally Suppressed (<200 copies/mL)	50	49.5%
Remained Virally Unsuppressed (> 200 copies/mL)	16	15.8%
Discharged, Incarcerated, or Deceased	35	34.7%
TOTAL	101	100%



conclusions

There are multiple structural and socioeconomic barriers to care that women face when accessing HIV medical care. Limited economic resources, inadequate transportation, and prohibitive housing options create barriers to engaging women in care. In addition, mental health needs and stigma surrounding HIV present ongoing challenges to improving health outcomes for women. Targeted interventions that improve socioeconomic status, address mental health issues, decrease effects of stigma, and promote medication adherence have the potential to reduce barriers to care and improve rates of viral suppression for women living in Broward County.