

Retained in Care but Not Virally Suppressed in Los Angeles County (LAC) – Where to Intervene?

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Introduction

- In 2018, Los Angeles County (LAC) reported 50,803 persons living with diagnosed HIV infection (PLWH) representing 4% of all US HIV cases and 40% of all California HIV cases.
- Among PLWH in LAC in 2018, 69% were engaged in care, 52% were retained in care (RiC) and 61% were virally suppressed.
- The “Treat” pillar of the National “Ending the HIV Epidemic” initiative identifies improvements in RiC and viral suppression as critical to reduce new HIV infections 90% by 2030 in 50 communities most impacted by HIV, that include LAC.
- Approximately 40% of PLWH in LAC were Ryan White Program (RWP) clients in 2018.
- RWP clients RiC with unsuppressed viral load (UVL) represent an accessible population and an opportunity to direct enhanced clinical and support services to promote viral load suppression.
- We present an analysis exploring socio-demographic characteristics associated with UVL among RWP clients RiC who accessed Medical Outpatient or Medical Case Management (MO/MCM).

Methods

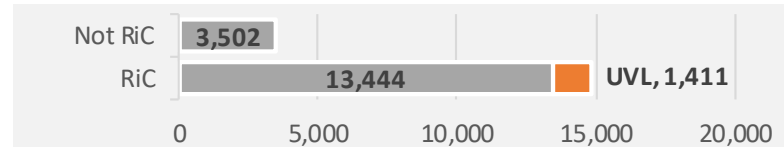
- Data Sources:** LAC RWP Reporting System and HIV Surveillance
- Study Population:** RWP clients who used MO/MCC services from March 1, 2018-February 28, 2019 were selected because the services were the most utilized, clinic-based services in LAC with similar opportunities for intervention.
- Main Outcome:** UVL: last viral load test in past 12m >200 copies/mL. Clients with no reported test are categorized as UVL.
- Independent Variables:** Gender, race, age, income, US born, language, insurance, housing, incarceration history, and mode of HIV transmission.
- Data Analysis:**
 - Explore factors associated with UVL among RiC clients in bivariate analysis
 - Use multivariate logistic regression, adjusted for potential confounders and factors associated with UVL in the bivariate

analysis.

- Present estimated odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI).

Results

- A total of 18,357 clients accessed MO/MCC, of which 14,855 (80%) were RiC.
- Majority of clients were Black (34%) or Latinx (47%); male (85%); US-born (69%); living at or below federal poverty level (79%). 34% were recently incarcerated and 20% homeless.



- Among RiC clients, 1,411 (9%) had UVL.

| Characteristic | Unsuppressed Viral Load (UVL) | aOR (95% CI) |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| | N (%) | |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 1,194 (9.5%) | Ref |
| Female | 177 (9.1%) | 0.9 (0.8-1.1) |
| Transgender | 40 (13.8%) | 1.1 (0.7-1.5) |
| Race | | |
| White | 240 (8.1%) | Ref |
| Black | 477 (14.2%) | 1.6 (1.4-1.9) |
| Latino | 657 (8.4%) | 1.5 (1.2-1.8) |
| Other/Unknown | 37 (5.4%) | 1.0 (0.7-1.4) |
| Age | | |
| 24 years and younger | 64 (13.3%) | 1.2 (0.9-1.6) |
| 25-39 years old | 500 (11.5%) | Ref |
| 40-59 years old | 735 (9.2%) | 0.9 (0.8-1.1) |
| 60 years and older | 112 (5.5%) | 0.5 (0.4-0.7) |

Results (cont.)

| Characteristic | Unsuppressed Viral Load (UVL) | aOR (95% CI) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| | N (%) | |
| US Born | | |
| Yes | 956 (12.2%) | Ref |
| No | 438 (6.4%) | 0.6 (0.5-0.7) |
| Income | | |
| At or Below FPL | 1,116 (11.5%) | 1.6 (1.4-1.9) |
| Above 100% FPL | 295 (5.8%) | Ref |
| Housing | | |
| Permanent | 998 (7.7%) | Ref |
| Homeless | 275 (23.1%) | 2.2 (1.9-2.6) |
| Institutional | 94 (22.4%) | 1.9 (1.5-2.5) |
| History of Incarceration | | |
| No | 927 (7.5%) | Ref |
| Yes | 467 (20.0%) | 2.0 (1.7-2.4) |

- Increased UVL odds were observed among Black or Latino; homeless; living ≤FPL; and recently incarcerated clients.
- Clients aged ≥60 and not US-born had decreased UVL odds.

Conclusion

- RiC clients who are not virally suppressed represent an easily accessible population in touch with the medical care system.
- These RWP clients should be a priority population for public health interventions, advancing LAC’s progress towards achieving Ending the HIV Epidemic national strategy goals.
- In LAC, UVL among RWP clients RiC was low, but distinct disparities were detected among racial/ethnic minorities, low SES, homeless or recently incarcerated clients compared to their counterparts.
- More targeted and individualized interventions are essential for these groups of RWP clients with UVL.