Houston/Harris County
2021 HIV Care Continuum
HIV Care Continuum – Houston/Harris County (2019 – 2021)

**Persons living with HIV in Houston EMA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HIV diagnosed</th>
<th>Met need</th>
<th>Retained in care</th>
<th>Virologically suppressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>23,574</td>
<td>17,590</td>
<td>14,233</td>
<td>13,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>24,034</td>
<td>17,489</td>
<td>13,576</td>
<td>14,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>28,659</td>
<td>21,765</td>
<td>16,621</td>
<td>17,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LINKAGE TO CARE AMONG PERSONS NEWLY DIAGNOSED**

- **Within 1 month**: 594 (64%)
- **Within 2-3 months**: 151 (16%)
- **Within 4-12 months**: 88 (9%)
- **Within 12+ months**: 7 (1%)
- **Within 1 month**: Not linked (0%)
- **Within 2-3 months**: Not linked (0%)
- **Within 4-12 months**: Not linked (0%)
- **Within 12+ months**: Not linked (0%)

HIV Care Continuum – Houston/Harris County

Last revised: 08/17/2023

[Graph of HIV Care Continuum – Houston/Harris County (2019 – 2021)]
From 2019-2021, the total number of persons diagnosed with HIV increased each year. The percentage of those with met need and those retained in HIV medical care saw a slight increase in 2021, which can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. The percentage of those with viral suppression saw a slight increase in 2021 compared to previous years.

- The percentage of newly diagnosed PLWH linked to care within one month of diagnosis saw an 8% increase between 2019 (64%) to 2021 (72%).
• Younger adults had slightly lower percentages of retention and viral suppression compared to older adults.
• Teens and young adults (13-24 years old) had the lowest proportion of newly diagnosed PLWH who were linked to care within one month of diagnosis when compared to other age groups.
Houston/Harris County HIV Care Continuum by Sex Assigned at Birth, 2021

LINKAGE TO CARE AMONG PERSONS NEWLY DIAGNOSED

- Male:
  - Within 1 month: 622 (71%)
  - Within 2-3 months: 102 (12%)
  - Within 4-12 months: 54 (6%)
  - 12+ months: 2 (0%)
  - Not linked: 92 (11%)

- Female:
  - Within 1 month: 149 (74%)
  - Within 2-3 months: 23 (11%)
  - Within 4-12 months: 10 (5%)
  - 12+ months: 0 (0%)
  - Not linked: 20 (10%)
Females living with HIV in Houston/Harris County in 2021 had a slightly higher proportion of individuals with viral suppression and retention in care than males living with HIV, and similar proportion of individuals met need as males did.

The proportion of newly diagnosed females linked to care within the first month after diagnosis was higher than that of males (74% vs. 71%, respectively).
Houston/Harris County HIV Care Continuum by Current Gender, 2021

Transgender Women
- HIV diagnosed: 459
- Met need: 366
- Retained in care: 310
- Virologically suppressed: 282

Transgender Men
- HIV diagnosed: 15
- Met need: 12
- Retained in care: 8
- Virologically suppressed: 10

Cisgender Women
- HIV diagnosed: 6,756
- Met need: 5,158
- Retained in care: 4,003
- Virologically suppressed: 4,162

Cisgender Men
- HIV diagnosed: 21,426
- Met need: 16,207
- Retained in care: 12,298
- Virologically suppressed: 13,438

Linkage to Care Among Persons Newly Diagnosed

No data among this group

HIV Care Continuum – Houston/Harris County
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Houston/Harris County HIV Care Continuum by Current Gender, 2021

- Transgender women living with HIV in Houston/Harris County in 2021 had the highest proportion of individuals with met need, retention in care, and viral suppression.
- Transgender men living with HIV in Houston/Harris County in 2021 had the lowest proportion of individuals with met need, retention in care, and viral suppression. Extreme caution should be exercised in interpretation, however, due to the very small numbers of transgender men represented in this data.
- The proportion of newly diagnosed people linked to care within the first month after diagnosis in 2021 was highest among transgender women (81%) compared to cisgender women (74%) and cisgender men (72%).
Houston/Harris County HIV Care Continuum by Sex Assigned at Birth= Female and Race/Ethnicity, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>White (non-Hispanic)</th>
<th>Black (non-Hispanic)</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other (non-Hispanic)</th>
<th>Multiracial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People living with HIV in Houston EMA</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>1,498</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV diagnosed</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met need</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained in care</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virally suppressed</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>2,643</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Linkage to Care Among Persons Newly Diagnosed**

- **White (non-Hispanic):**
  - Within 1 month: 90 (75%)
  - Within 2-3 months: 11 (69%)
  - Within 4-12 months: 43 (13%)
  - Not linked: 1 (6%)

- **Black (non-Hispanic):**
  - Within 1 month: 16 (57%)
  - Within 2-3 months: 3 (10%)
  - Within 4-12 months: 9 (30%)
  - Not linked: 0 (0%)

- **Hispanic:**
  - Within 1 month: 90 (75%)
  - Within 2-3 months: 43 (37%)
  - Within 4-12 months: 9 (7%)
  - Not linked: 1 (1%)

- **Other (non-Hispanic):**
  - Within 1 month: 1 (16%)
  - Within 2-3 months: 6 (10%)
  - Within 4-12 months: 1 (2%)
  - Not linked: 0 (0%)

Data suppressed due to case counts <5
Among females, Other (non-Hispanic) females had the lowest proportions of met need, retention in care, and viral suppression in 2021. However, this group had few individuals and percentages can vary widely with small increases/decreases.

Among males, Black (non-Hispanic) PLWH had the lowest proportion of individuals with evidence of met need and viral suppression, while White (non-Hispanic) PLWH had the lowest proportion of retention in care in 2021.

Among those newly diagnosed with HIV, Black (non-Hispanic) females and Other (non-Hispanic) males had the highest proportion linked to care within 1 month of diagnosis in 2021 (75% and 87%, respectively).

Overall, Other (non-Hispanic) females living with HIV had the lowest proportion of individuals with met need across all birth sex and race/ethnicity groups. However, this group had few individuals and percentages can vary widely with small increases/decreases. White (non-Hispanic) females, and Black (non-Hispanic) males living with HIV had the next lowest proportion of individuals with met need.

Overall, White (non-Hispanic) females living with HIV had the lowest proportion of individuals retained in care across all birth sex and race/ethnicity groups. White (non-Hispanic) females living with HIV had the next lowest proportion of individuals retained in care across all birth sex and race/ethnicity groups.

Overall, White (non-Hispanic) females living with HIV had the lowest proportion of individuals virally suppressed across all birth sex and race/ethnicity groups. Other (non-Hispanic) males living with HIV had the highest proportion of individuals virally suppressed.
Houston/Harris County HIV Care Continuum by Transmission Risk, 2021

LINKAGE TO CARE AMONG PERSONS NEWLY DIAGNOSED

HIV Care Continuum – Houston/Harris County

Last revised: 08/17/2023
Although MSM have a higher number of PLWH than the other risk groups, the proportion of diagnosed MSM living with HIV with evidence of met need and retention in care is similar to those observed for MSM/PWID, and Heterosexual risk groups.

Those with a transmission risk factor of PWID saw a lower proportion of met need, retention in care and viral suppression compared to all other risk groups in 2021.

MSM have the highest proportion of diagnosed PLWH who are virally suppressed in 2021. Those with a transmission risk factor of Heterosexual had the highest proportion of people linked to care within one month of initial diagnosis (74%), while those with a transmission risk of MSM/PWID had the lowest proportion of people linked to care within one month of initial diagnosis (63%).