

**THE RHODE  
ISLAND  
RYAN WHITE  
PROGRAM  
HIGHLIGHTS &  
SUCCESSSES**

HIV Provision of Care &  
Special Populations Unit



December 2016

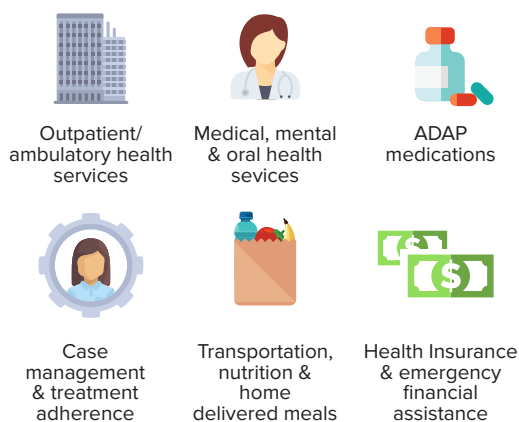
In 2014, an estimated **44,073** people in the United States were diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. **About 1 in 8 people with HIV in the United States does not know that he or she is infected.**

In 2014, an estimated 97 adults and adolescents were diagnosed with HIV in Rhode Island.\*

The Rhode Island Ryan White HIV Care Program gives people in Rhode Island who live with HIV access to culturally and linguistically appropriate medical and support services. Situated within the HIV Provision of Care & Special Populations Unit of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the program has made many advances over the last three years.

**Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), services include:**

**The Rhode Island Ryan White HIV Care Program Services include:**



- Outpatient/ambulatory health services
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program medications
- Oral health care
- Health insurance premium and cost-sharing assistance
- Medical nutrition therapy
- Psychosocial, mental health services
- Medical case management services including treatment adherence support
- Non-medical case management services
- Transportation, food bank/home-delivered meals
- Emergency financial assistance

**“The Ryan White Program at EOHHS has done an excellent job of securing additional grant funding and has worked closely with federal, state, and local partners to expand services. Through these partnerships, HIV care in Rhode Island is better coordinated, more accessible to consumers, and continues to achieve improved health outcomes like viral suppression.”**

**-Elizabeth Roberts**  
Secretary, EOHHS

**ABOUT ADAP**

**The Ryan White HIV Care Program AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides FDA-approved HIV and related medications to low-income people who have limited or no coverage from private insurance or Medicaid.**

**As of October 2016, more than 600 people were receiving medication and/or insurance premium assistance through this program.**

**ADAP eligibility was expanded from 400% to 500% Federal Poverty Level (July 2016).**

**ADAP premium assistance was expanded to include individual dental coverage and family medical plans (October 2016).**

**Medications available through ADAP were expanded to include related illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, and alcohol and opioid dependence (November 2016).**







\*US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rhode Island Department of Health



## Notable Successes

### Additional Funding

Through a \$3.2 million supplemental federal grant from HRSA awarded in the summer of 2016, the RI Ryan White HIV Care Program will enhance access to high-quality, community-based care and treatment options for HIV-affected low-income individuals and families by:

-  Expanding the health insurance premium and cost-sharing program to include family and dental plans with the state-based marketplace, HealthSource RI.
-  Enhancing case management through an HIV peer outreach program.
-  Administering and providing oversight to the RI Department of Health to implement early intervention services to identify HIV-positive individuals who are unaware of their HIV status, link them to care and treatment, and provide health education to enable them to navigate the HIV system of care.
-  Implementing Medlink TAVIE™ VirtualNurse™, a web and smartphone-based program that has been proven to increase medication adherence among people living with HIV, particularly those who are not virally suppressed. The virtual nurse application teaches consumers about adherence strategies and side-effect management and facilitates communication with providers even if they drop out of care.

### Integrated Prevention & Care Planning

In September 2016, the Ryan White Program submitted the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan and Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need, CY 2017–2021 to HRSA. The plan has measurable goals and objectives and aims to reduce health disparities. For the integrated plan and supporting research reports go to:





[www.eohhs.ri.gov/ProvidersPartners/HIVAIDSProviders.aspx](http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ProvidersPartners/HIVAIDSProviders.aspx)



TAVIE™ VirtualNurse™ Program Phone App

### Quality Management Program

The RI Ryan White HIV Care Program implements quality management activities that focus on enhancing the quality of HIV care and increasing access to services, including:

-  Helping grantees review, develop, and implement new HRSA performance measures for service categories.
-  Working with community-based agencies and providers to identify and launch agency-specific quality improvement projects.
-  Partnering with Rhode Island College's quality management program.
-  Publishing professional articles including "Implications of the Affordable Care Act on Access to Effective HIV Services in Rhode Island" in the Rhode Island Medical Journal (2015).

### Rhode Island Consumer Advisory Board (CAB)

The CAB's mission is to advise the staff of EOHHS and to work collaboratively on a range of strategies, policies, and programmatic issues affecting people living with and those at risk of HIV.

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**“The Rhode Island legislature’s decision to situate the Ryan White Program within EOHHS five years ago was highly beneficial given the changing health care landscape. HIV care and treatment needed to be part of the State’s health and human services system to maximize cost savings and state and community partnerships. The program continues to be a national leader in quality and programmatic outcomes.”**

**-Paul Loberti**

EOHHS Administrator for Medical Services, RI Medicaid Division,  
HIV Provision of Care & Special Populations Unit

## Partnerships

**The RI Ryan White HIV Care Program fosters strong partnerships across the HIV/AIDS services community, locally and nationally,** to ensure that RI HIV consumers continue to receive high quality medical care and support services. Program's partners include:

Agape Center, Community Care Alliance, Miriam Hospital, Thundermist Health Center, AIDS Care Ocean State, AIDS Project Rhode Island, Brown University, Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island, the Providence Center, RI State Consumer Advisory Board, the Miriam Consumer Advisory Board, John Snow, Inc., RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, RI Department of Education, RI Department of Health, and the RI Governor's Office. The RI Ryan White HIV Care Program also serves in a leadership capacity with the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors.

## Training & Capacity Building

**The RI Ryan White HIV Care Program is committed to providing capacity-building training and resources to our community-based agencies. Efforts include:**

- **Quality Management Academy** trainings help community-based agencies develop quality improvement projects, performance measures, and plans.
- **The Vigorously Pursue/Eligibility/Recertification training** gave agencies information on EOHHS policies, Ryan White guidelines, and guidance on HRSA's requirement of vigorously pursuing other methods of payment, as Ryan White is the payer of last resort.
- **A tax reconciliation training** focused on the procedures that EOHHS will use to calculate tax reconciliation for health insurance premium assistance.
- **Health HIV's technical assistance** helped community-based agencies consider fiscal sustainability in today's changing HIV landscape.

### Key Partnership: HIV Care and RI Medicaid

**The RI Ryan White HIV Care Program at EOHHS has been working closely with our Medicaid managed care organizations to track viral load suppression via incentive-based performance measures. Approximately 1,200 people living with HIV are enrolled in RI Medicaid's managed care organizations.**

## Looking Ahead

**The Ryan White HIV Care Program continues to enhance and expand services to people living with HIV in Rhode Island.**

The program aims to strengthen the National HIV/AIDS Strategy by offering enhanced targeted HIV testing, referrals, and linkage to care; a stronger focus on those who drop out of care; universal viral suppression; and risk-reduction counseling. Exciting opportunities include working with new partners like 360 MedLink/TAVIE, public colleges, and universities, to advance HIV medical and support services across the state.

### Contact

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[www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/Adults/RyanWhiteHIVAIDS.aspx](http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/Adults/RyanWhiteHIVAIDS.aspx)

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**Elizabeth Roberts**, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

**Darren McDonald**, Deputy Director

**Deb Florio**, Deputy Director

**Paul G. Loberti**, Administrator for Medical Services, HIV Care and Treatment Director