

Integrated analysis of New York City Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and Ryan White Part A data to assess gender disparities in access to HIV housing support

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Introduction

- Federal Ryan White Part A (RWPA) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds support medical and social services for low-income persons with HIV (PWH).
- Transgender women in NYC RWPA are more likely than other RWPA client groups to need housing assistance, yet are no more likely to receive RWPA services to address those needs.¹
 - To better isolate any unmet need for housing services, we examined whether housing need was addressed with support services from the RWPA or HOPWA programs.

Aims

- Examine demographic, clinical and housing-status differences between transgender women, cisgender women and cisgender men who have sex with men (MSM) in NYC RWPA.
- Measure RWPA housing need for each of the three groups.
- Investigate the extent to which RWPA clients' housing need was met with housing services from NYC RWPA or HOPWA, through a merge of the programmatic data sources.

Methods

Data Sources

- The Electronic System for HIV/AIDS Reporting and Evaluation (eSHARE)**
 - Demographic and services data, as well as housing status assessments, for clients served by the local RWPA program
- HIV housing databases, including Electronic Comprehensive Outcomes Measurement Program for Accountability and Success (NYC eCOMPAS)**
 - Demographics, enrollment, services, and other housing data for clients of NYC HOPWA programs
- The NYC HIV Surveillance Registry (the "Registry")**
 - All HIV-related laboratory tests ordered by NYC clinical providers.

Client Population

- The analysis included HIV-positive clients with an assessment in an NYC RWPA supportive services program between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017.

Data Merge

- NYC client-level RWPA data and HOPWA data are routinely matched against Registry data. For this analysis, these program datasets were merged with one another using the Registry ID.

Definitions

- Housing instability/housing need:** homelessness or transitional/temporary housing
- Housing assistance:** receipt of ≥ 1 housing service in RWPA and/or HOPWA within 6 months after the assessment indicating the housing need
- Virally suppressed:** last viral load (VL) ≥ 200 copies/mL or no VL

Results - Table 1. Characteristics of RWPA Clients by Subgroup, NYC 2015-2017

Characteristic (based on latest data reported for 2015-17)	Transgender Women (N=608)	Cisgender Women (N=6,157)	Cisgender MSM (N=6,765)
	%	%	%
Housing Status			
Unstable	47	25	35
Age Group (years)			
Under 30	24	8	19
Race/Ethnicity			
Black	51	61	43
Hispanic	40	32	37
White	5	4	15
Other	5	3	6
Household Income			
<100% Federal Poverty Level	86	81	71
HIV Treatment Status			
Virally suppressed	40	32	34

Figure 1. RWPA or HOPWA Housing Assistance by RWPA Subgroup, NYC 2015-2017

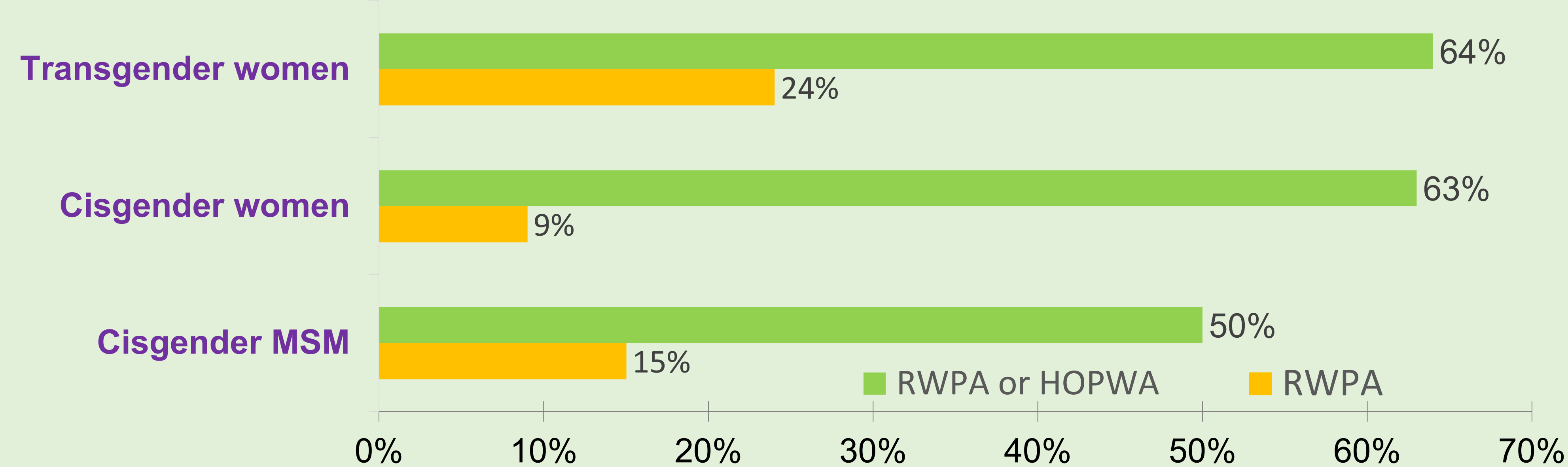


Table 2. Housing Assistance among Those with Need, by Subgroup, NYC 2015-2017

Transgender Women (N= 608)		Cisgender Women (N=6,157)		Cisgender MSM (N=6,765)	
Housing Need*	Housing Assistance [†]	Housing Need*	Housing Assistance [†]	Housing Need*	Housing Assistance [†]
N	%	N	%	N	%
368	61	233	63	2,086	34
				1,226	59
				3,163	47
				1,933	61

*On any RWPA assessment in 2015-17

[†]Among those with housing need (unstable housing)

Results - Summary

Characteristics

- Compared to cisgender women, transgender women were more often younger and Hispanic/Latina.
- Transgender women were more often unstably housed and living below 100% of federal poverty level.
- Transgender women were more often virally suppressed (a sign of not being successfully treated for HIV).

RWPA and HOPWA Housing Assistance

- Among RWPA clients active in 2015-17, a higher proportion of transgender women received housing services, as compared to cisgender MSM and transgender women.

Housing Assistance among Those with Need

- Receipt of RWPA and/or HOPWA housing assistance to meet the assessed housing need was not significantly more or less common in any one of the three client groups examined.

Conclusions

- The integrated analysis of RWPA and HOPWA housing service data substantially improves ascertainment of housing assistance, in all three subgroups.
- For all three groups of clients, we found that assessed housing need was not consistently met with a RWPA and/or HOPWA housing service within a six-month period, and there were no consistent differences between groups in rates of receipt.
- Given housing's influence on HIV outcomes,² efforts should be directed to reduce disparities in access to stable housing.

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²Aidala, AA. et al. Housing Status, Medical Care, and Health Outcomes Among People Living With HIV/AIDS: A Systematic Review, American Journal of Public Health 106, no. 1 (January 1, 2016): pp. e1-e23.