

Appendix I: Types of Data Reviewed by Planning Councils for Priority Setting and Resource Allocation

Epidemiologic profile: A description of the HIV epidemic in the EMA or TGA, usually prepared annually by local or state HIV surveillance staff, for use in both HIV prevention and HIV care planning. It usually describes characteristics of the general population, persons newly diagnosed with HIV infection, persons living with HIV disease, and persons at risk for HIV. Data help planning councils identify trends in the epidemic that will affect service needs.

Needs assessment data: Information about the number, characteristics, and service needs and barriers of people living with HIV, both in and out of care; current provider resources available to meet those needs; and service gaps. These data help the planning council improve service access and quality, overall and for specific subpopulations.

Service expenditure and cost data: Information provided by the recipient showing how much money is spent for each funded service category and what it costs to provide one “unit” of service or to serve one client for a year. Planning councils use this information in funding decisions and estimating the costs of serving additional clients.

Client characteristics and service utilization data: Data on the total number and characteristics of local RWHAP clients, including the number and characteristics of RWHAP Part A clients served in each service category. Data usually come from the annual Ryan White Services Report (RSR). Data help planning councils understand the demand for specific services and identify subpopulations facing barriers to access.

HRSA performance measures and clinical outcomes data: Data used to monitor and improve the quality of care across the EMA/TGA and in individual provider organizations, usually based on the percent of clients that meet the goal or service standard. Measures may relate to a process (such as frequency of medical visits or development of a case management care plan) or clinical outcome (such as viral suppression). Data help planning councils make funding decisions and agree on changes in service standards or models of care.

Clinical Quality Management (CQM) data: Information on patient care, health outcomes, and patient satisfaction. Performance measures are gathered through CQM processes. Then subrecipients work together on structured quality improvement projects that make changes to address identified weaknesses. CQM data help planning councils decide whether program or funding changes are needed to improve service quality and outcomes.

Testing/EIHA data: Data on the number of people who receive HIV tests, the number and percent testing positive and their characteristics, and the number referred to needed services. HRSA/HAB requires RWHAP Part A programs to implement a strategy for the Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS (EIHA). This includes identifying key target populations, locating individuals with HIV who do not know their HIV status, informing them of their status through testing, and helping link them to medical care and support services.

Unmet Need data: An estimate of the number of people living with HIV in the service area who know they are HIV-positive but are not receiving HIV-related medical care. May also include an assessment of the characteristics of individuals with unmet need and their service barriers and gaps. Planning councils use this information to make decisions about use of funds to find people with unmet need and link or relink them to care.

HIV care continuum data: Data that outline the steps or stages of HIV care that people living with HIV go through, and the number and proportion of individuals at each stage in the EMA or TGA. The continuum may begin with the estimated total number of people living with HIV (including those unaware of their status) or with the number diagnosed and living with HIV. Typical steps include diagnosis, linkage to care, retention in care (based on doctor visits and/or laboratory tests), treatment with antiretroviral therapy, and viral suppression (a very low level of HIV in the body). Planning councils use this information to improve services all along the continuum, often based on HIV care continuum data for specific RWHAP Part A subpopulations (for example, young gay men of color or African American women).