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 (PWHA).
- Transgender women in NYC RWPA are more likely than other RWPA clients 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

1. Examine demographic, clinical and housing-status differences between transgender women, cisgender women and cisgender men who have sex with men (MSM) in NYC RWPA.
2. Measure RWPA housing need for each of the three groups.
3. Investigate the extent to which RWPA clients’ housing need was addressed with support services from the RWPA or HOPWA programs.

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.
- 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 unsuppressed: last viral load (VL) ≥200 copies mL or no VL

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

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<tbody>
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<td>Housing Status</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Virally unsuppressed</td>
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<td>32</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 unsuppressed (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.

Acknowledgements

Kalani Thaler, MPH
Graham Harriman, MA
X. Pamela Farquhar, MPA
Sonny Ly, MS
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\(^1\)Thomas JA. NYC Ryan White Part A service utilization and satisfaction among HIV-positive transgender women, cisgender women and men who have sex with men, National Transgender Health Summit, Oakland, CA, November 11, 2017.