

People Living with HIV Needs Assessment

Baton Rouge Transitional Grant Area

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
A. Background.....	3
HIV/AIDS Status.....	3
HIV-Related Knowledge.....	5
Background Characteristics	6
Employment.....	11
Income.....	12
Housing	14
B. Medical Care	20
Health Insurance and Medical Coverage.....	20
Medical Services	24
C. Health and Health Behaviors.....	25
Overall Health	25
Health-Seeking Behavior	29
HIV Medication and Medical Adherence.....	31
D. Need and Use of Services.....	33
Appendix A – Ranked Needs and Gaps.....	37
Appendix B – Methods.....	39
Appendix C – List of Partners	43
Appendix D – Survey Instrument	44

Introduction

Purpose of the Louisiana Statewide Needs Assessment

This report was prepared by The Policy & Research Group (PRG) for the *Louisiana Office of Public Health STD/HIV Program (OPH SHP)* within the Department of Health and Hospitals. The purpose of the *2015 Needs Assessment* is to gain an understanding of the current care service needs of people living with HIV (PLWH) in the nine administrative regions of Louisiana. In particular, the *2015 Needs Assessment* aims to provide an estimate of the extent of PLWH's unmet primary care and HIV-related support service needs, their experiences in accessing those services, their perceived barriers to those services, and some insight into their reported knowledge of those services.

Layout of the Report

This report presents the characteristics of survey respondents in the Baton Rouge Transitional Grant Area (BR TGA) and provides basic aggregate results of responses provided to survey questions. A description of the methods used to conduct the *2015 Needs Assessment* and analyze the data, as well as a copy of the survey instrument, are included as appendices to this report.

Survey Respondents

A convenience sample of 375 questionnaires¹ was submitted to PRG after the conclusion of the data collection period (May 18 to July 10, 2015). This represents 93.75% of the goal of 400 responses as set by the *Baton Rouge Ryan White Program*.

¹ A total of 381 PLWH from the BR TGA responded to the *2015 Needs Assessment*, but six respondents were excluded because the survey instrument was formatted differently than all other questionnaires submitted, and we were unable to determine the source of the questionnaires.

A. Background

HIV/AIDS Status

Figure A1. HIV/AIDS Status of Respondents (n=354)

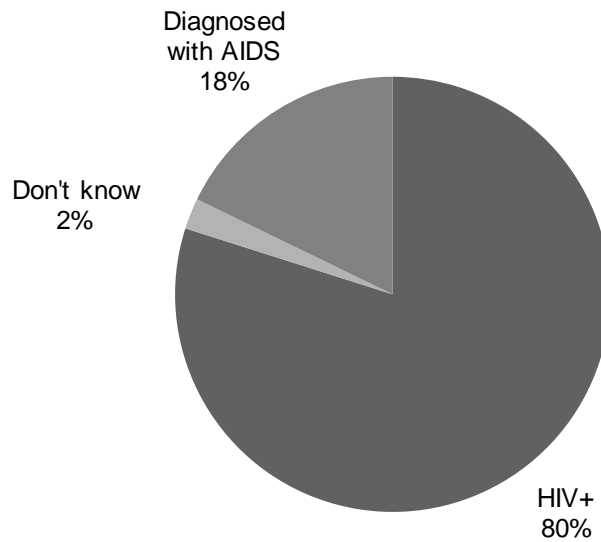


Figure A2. Length of Time Since HIV Diagnosis (n=321)

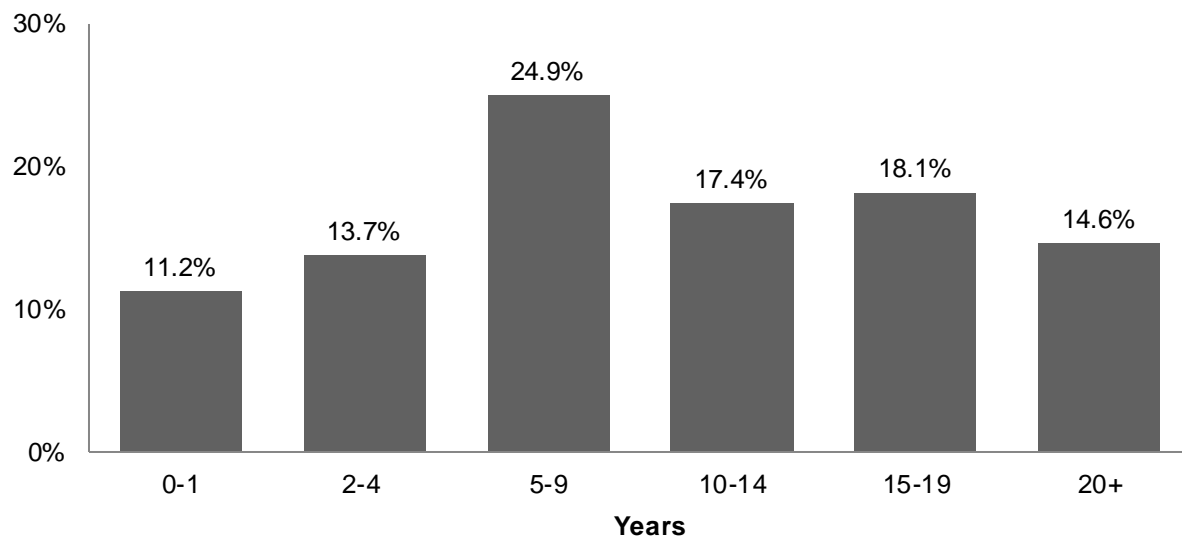
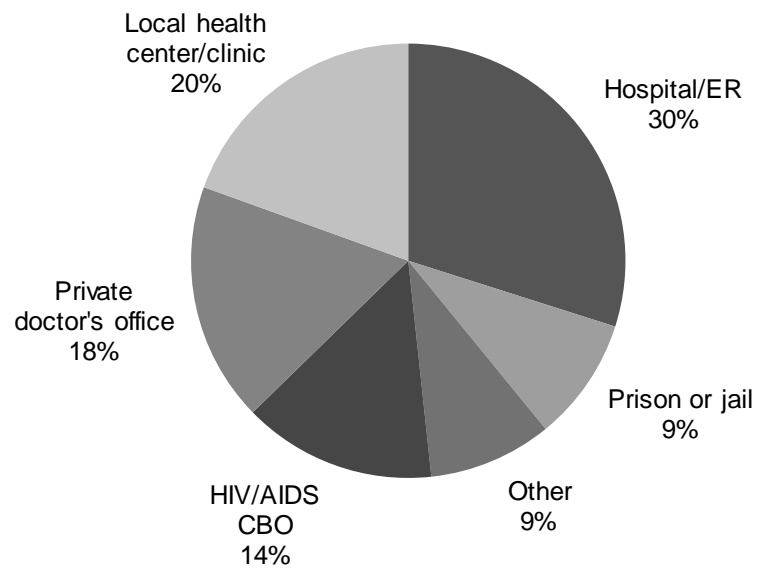


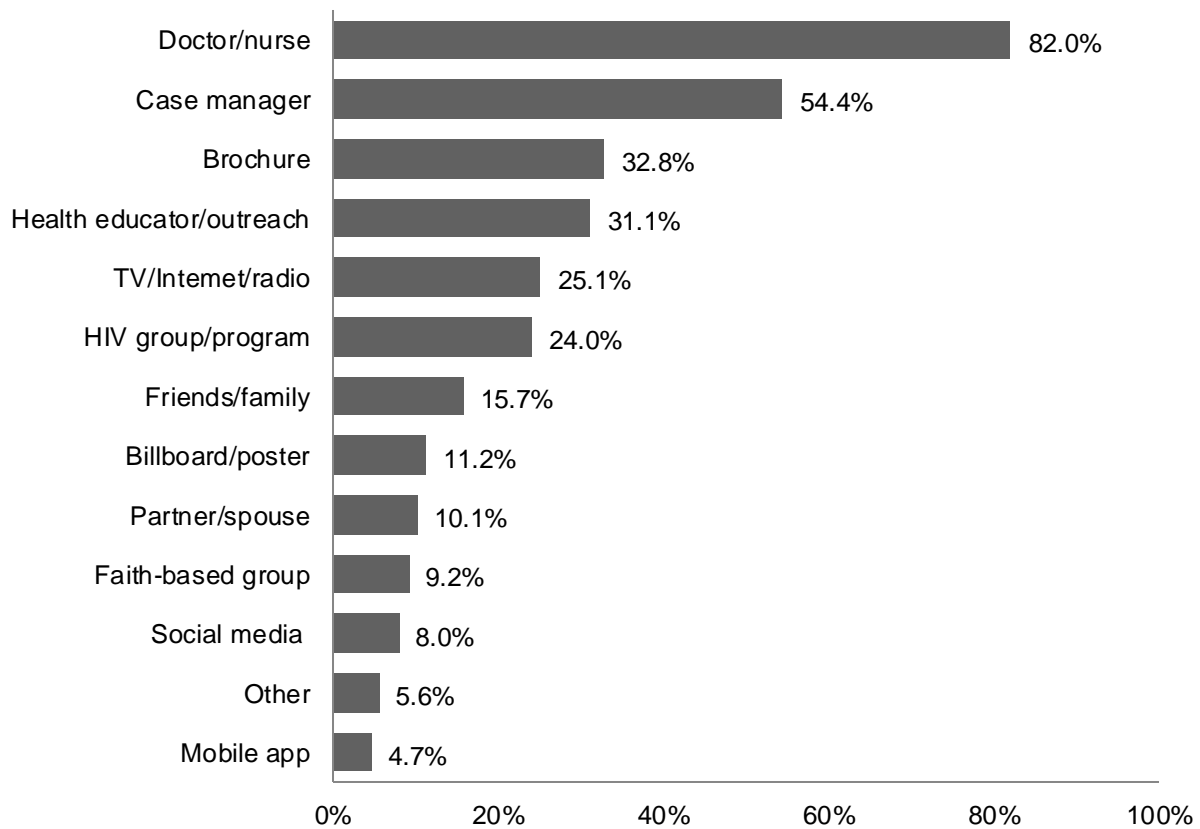
Figure A3. Place Where Respondents Were Told of HIV Diagnosis (n=348)



- The category *other* includes individuals who specifically chose the response option *other* (2.6%) as well as those who chose *organizations providing other services* (6.6%). The category *prison or jail* includes individuals who specifically chose the response option *prison* (3.7%), as well as those who chose *jail* (5.5%).

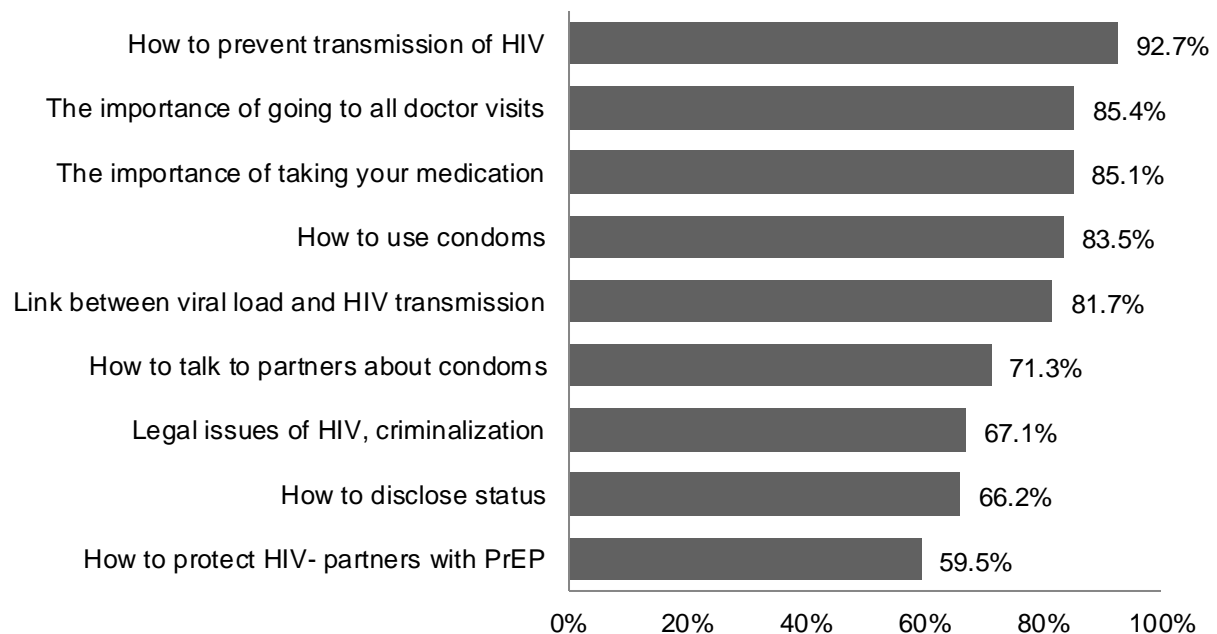
HIV-Related Knowledge

Figure A4. Sources of HIV-related Information (n=338)



- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 338 respondents who responded to this question, 239 (70.7%) reported two or more sources of HIV-related information.

Figure A5. Percent Reporting that Someone Has Explained Issues Related to HIV (n=328)



- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 328 respondents who responded to this question, 304 (92.7%) reported having knowledge of two or more issues related to HIV.

Background Characteristics

Table A1. Current Parish of Residence (n=335)

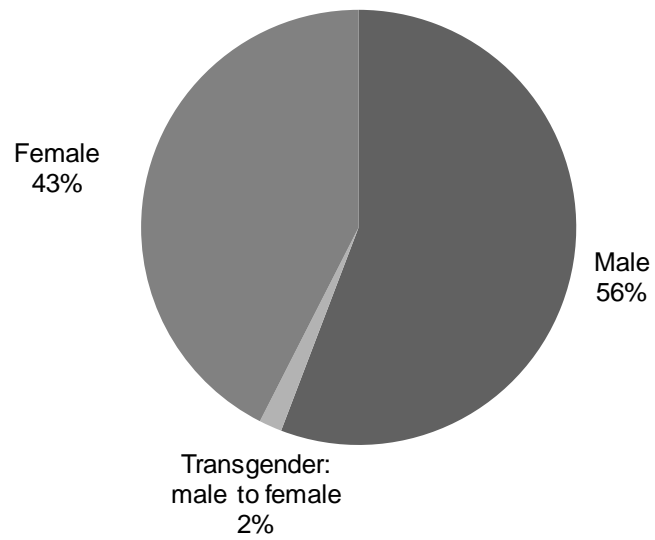
Parish	Number Reporting (Percent)
East Baton Rouge	286 (85.4%)
Livingston	12 (3.6%)
Pointe Coupee	6 (1.8%)
West Baton Rouge	5 (1.5%)
Iberia	4 (1.2%)
St. James	4 (1.2%)

- All respondents were asked to indicate their ZIP code; a total of 335 respondents provided a response. *The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development United States Postal Services (HUD USPS)* 1st quarter 2015 ZIP Code Crosswalk File (Retrieved May 27, 2015 from http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/usps_crosswalk.html) was used to determine the parish corresponding to each ZIP code. Three ZIP codes reported by three respondents (7012, 7082, and 707815) are not valid Louisiana ZIP codes; therefore, the parish could not be reported. In addition, in some instances ZIP codes cross parish lines (i.e., the same ZIP code is found in multiple parishes). In order to address this problem, we assigned a parish to a ZIP code if that county accounted for the majority of the population residing in that ZIP code. Out of the 335 respondents for whom we designated a parish of residence, 24 provided ZIP codes that were contained in more than one parish; therefore, in these cases, the parish of residence may not be accurate.
- Not included in the table are the less than 1% of individuals who indicate they reside in Ascension Parish, Assumption Parish, East Feliciana Parish, Iberville Parish, Orleans Parish, Rapides Parish, St. Helena Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, Washington Parish, and West Feliciana Parish.

Figure A6. Map of Current Parish of Residence (n=335)



Figure A7. Gender of Respondents (n=355)



- No respondents reported being *transgender: female to male*.

Figure A8. Sexual Orientation (n=341)

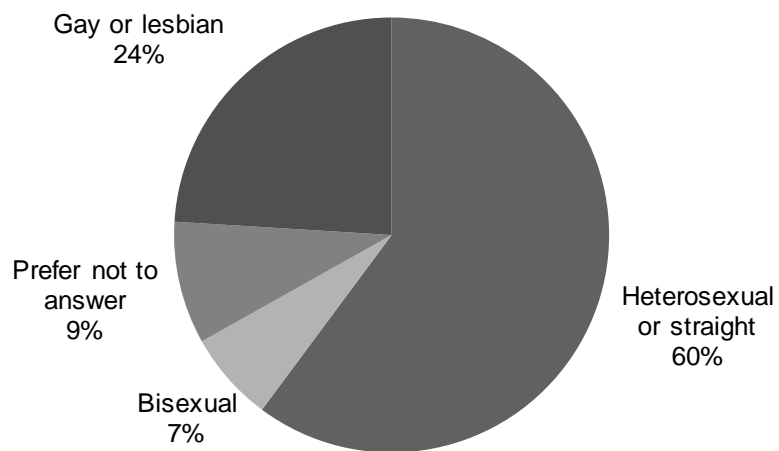
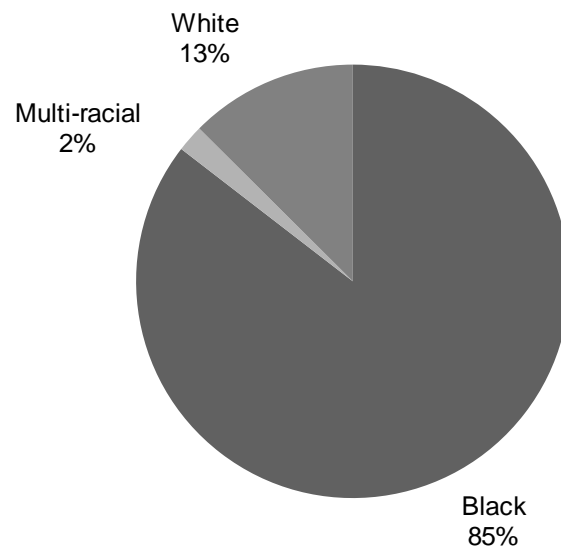


Figure A9. Race of Respondents (n=352)



- Included in calculations but not presented in this figure are those persons who specifically chose *other* (<1%).

Figure A10. Latino/Hispanic (n=352)

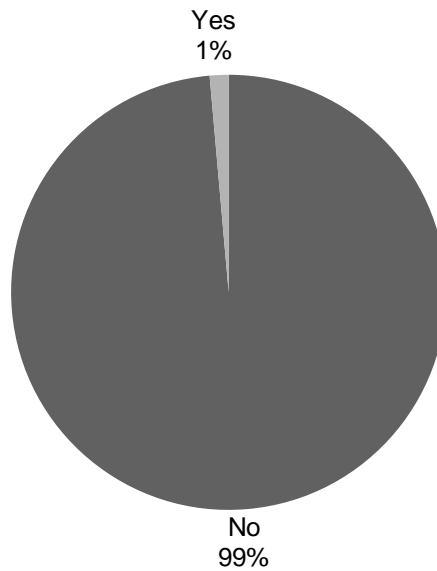
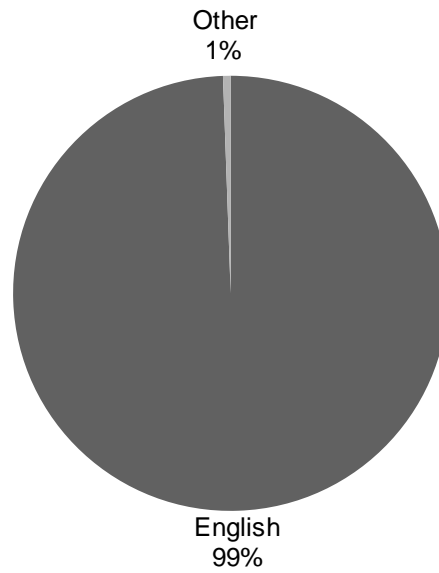


Figure A11. Primary Language of Respondents (n=354)



- The category *other* includes individuals who specifically chose the response option *other* (0.3%) as well as those who chose *Spanish* (0.3%).

Figure A12. Age of Respondents (n=353)

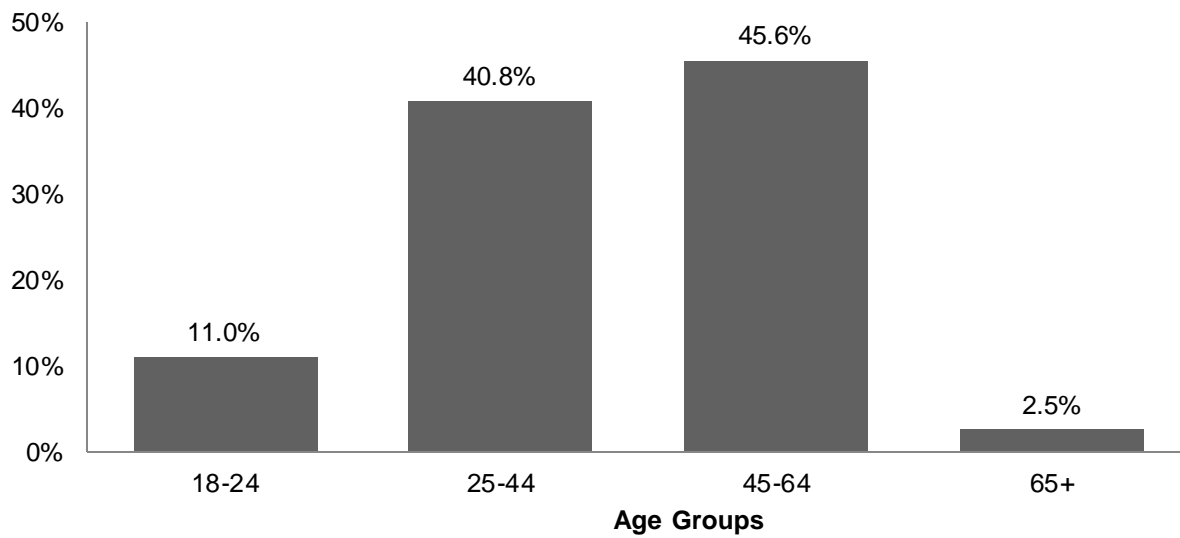
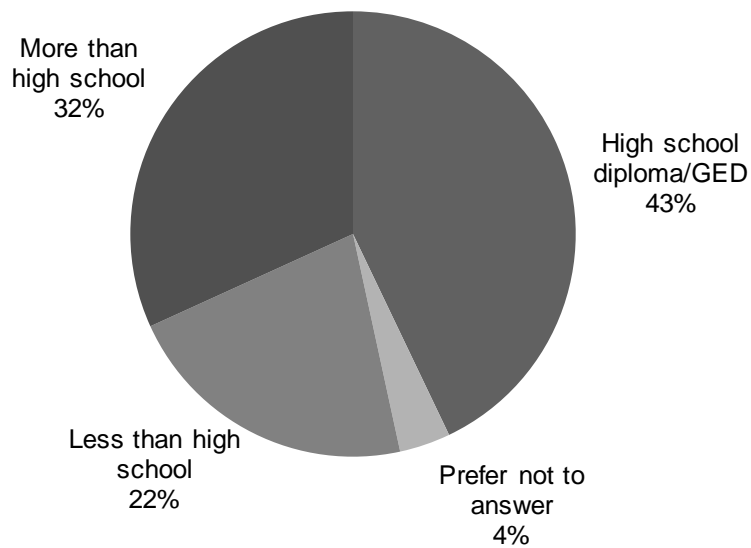
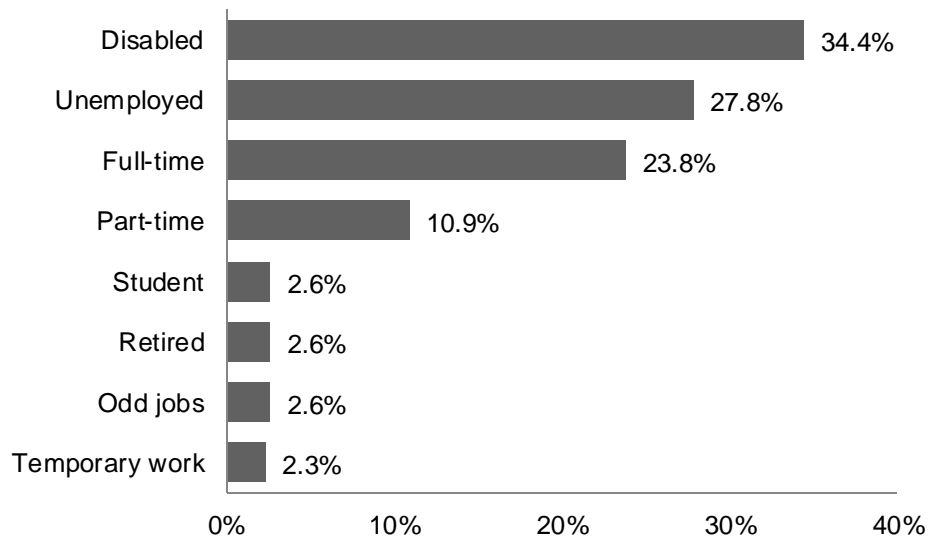


Figure A13. Highest Level of Education Completed by Respondents (n=352)



Employment

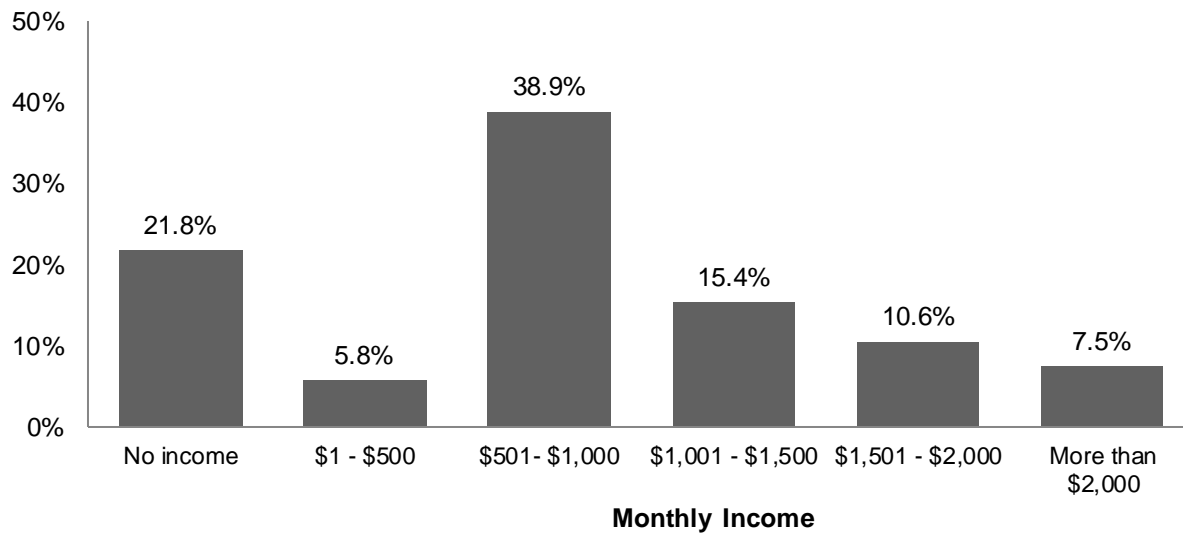
Figure A14. Employment Status in the Last Six Months (n=349)



- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 349 respondents who responded to this question, 22 (6.3%) reported having two or more employment situations in the last six months.

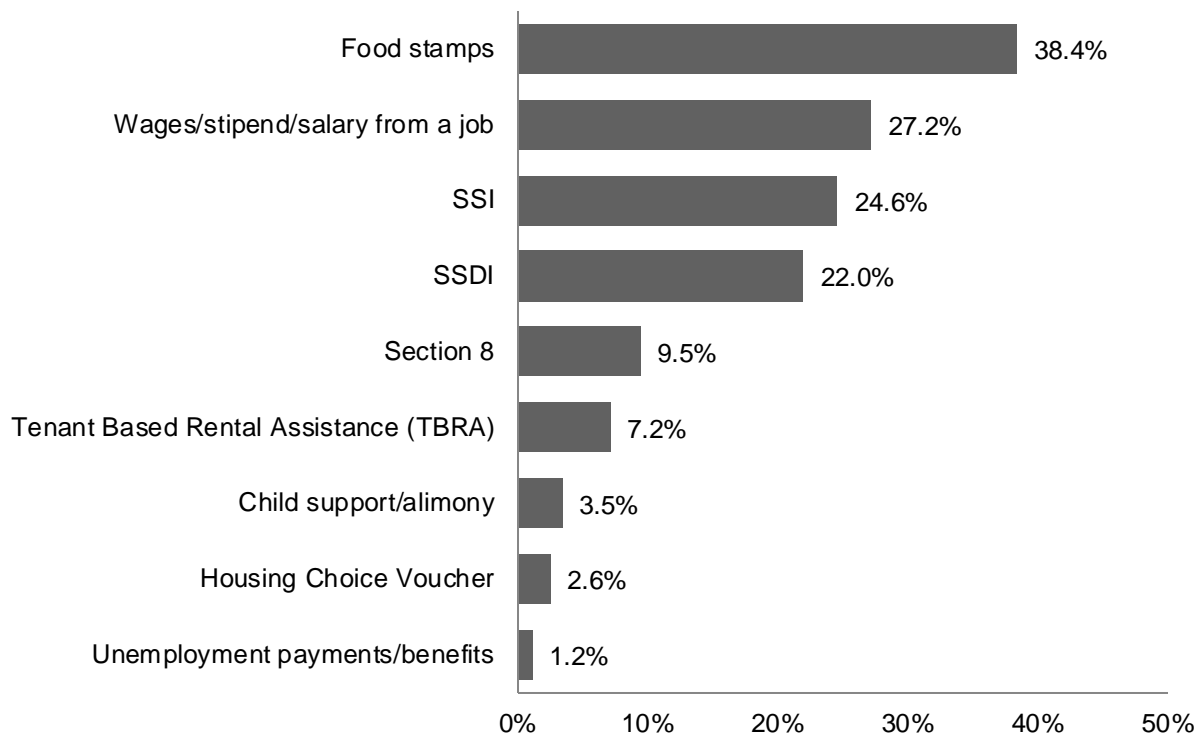
Income

Figure A15. Household Income in Month Prior to Survey (n=293)



- The category *more than \$2,000* includes individuals who reported an income of \$2,501-\$3,000 (0.7%), individuals who reported an income of \$3,001-\$3,500 (0.7%), and individuals who reported an income of *more than \$3,500* (2.4%).

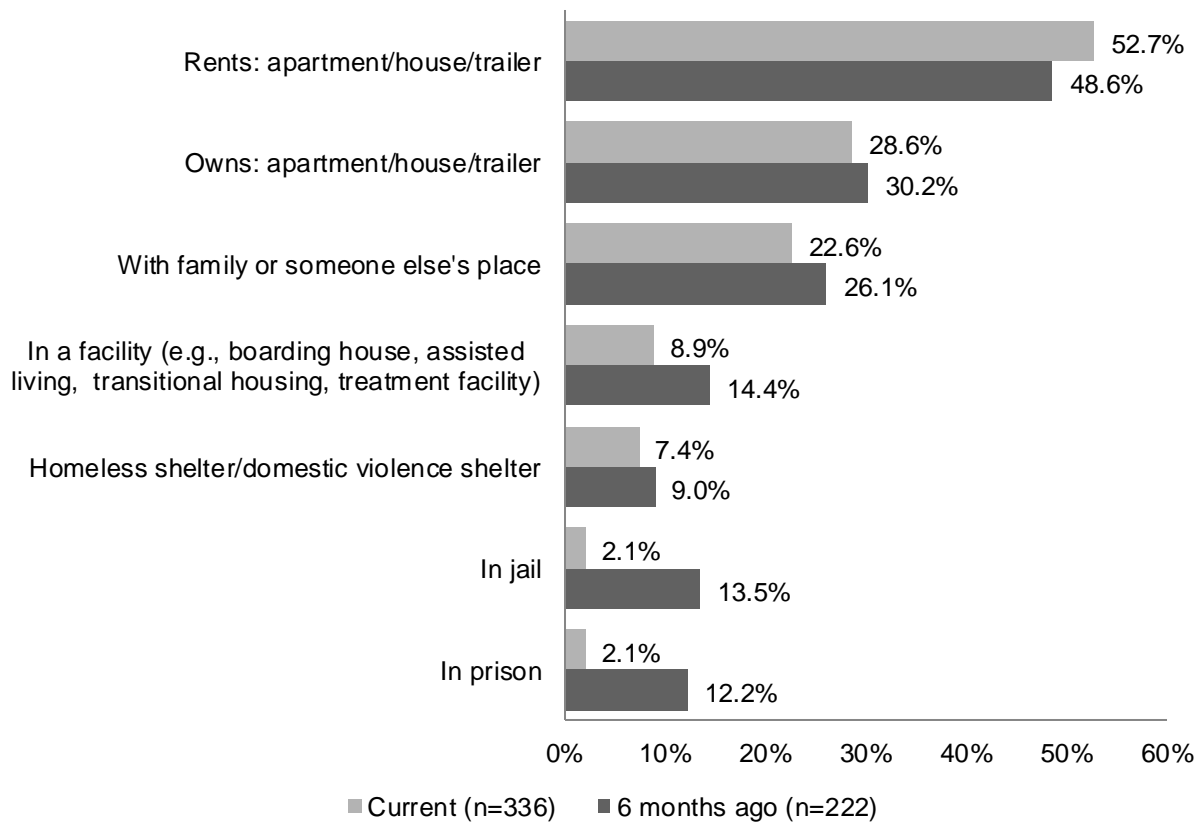
Figure A16. Sources of Income and Assistance (n=350)



- Abbreviations: SSI = Supplemental Security Income; SSDI = Social Security Disability Income
- In addition to what is reported in the table, 63.3% of respondents indicated they do not receive housing assistance, and 25.1% indicated they do not receive financial assistance. Also, less than one percent of respondents indicated they received Veteran's Housing (0.6%) and Aid to Families with Dependent Children/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (0.9%).
- Out of the 346 respondents who reported needing at least one form of assistance, 294 (85.0%) reported receiving two or more forms of assistance.
- Excluded from calculations are four respondents who indicated they received at least one form of financial or housing assistance and that they do not receive any financial or housing assistance respectively. The forms of assistance these respondents indicated they have are: *food stamps* (4 respondents), *received section 8* (1 respondent), and *received a Housing Choice Voucher* (1 respondent).

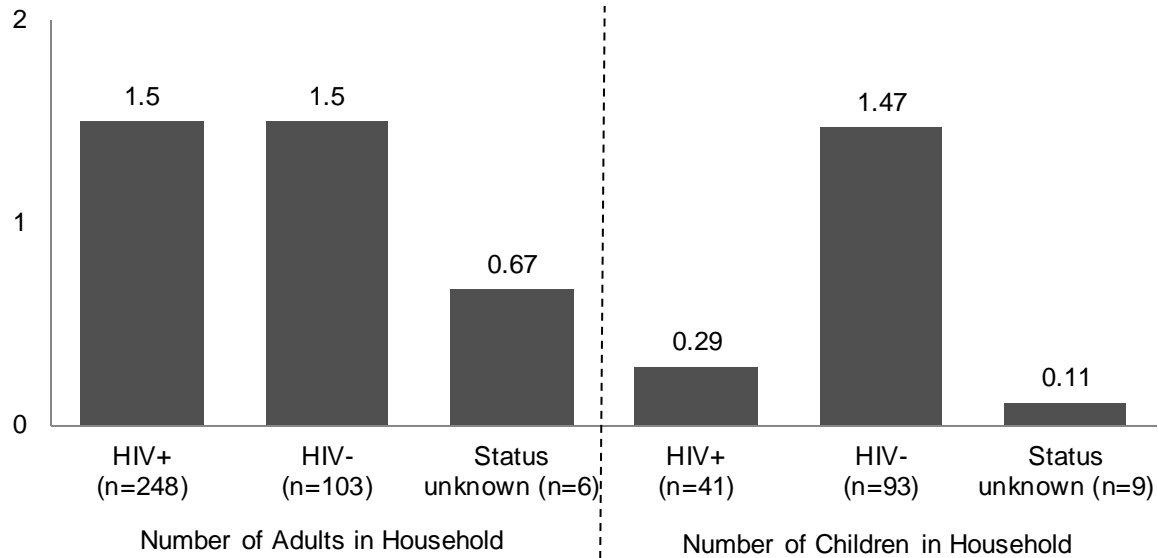
Housing

Figure A17. Housing at the Time of Survey and 6 Months Prior to Survey



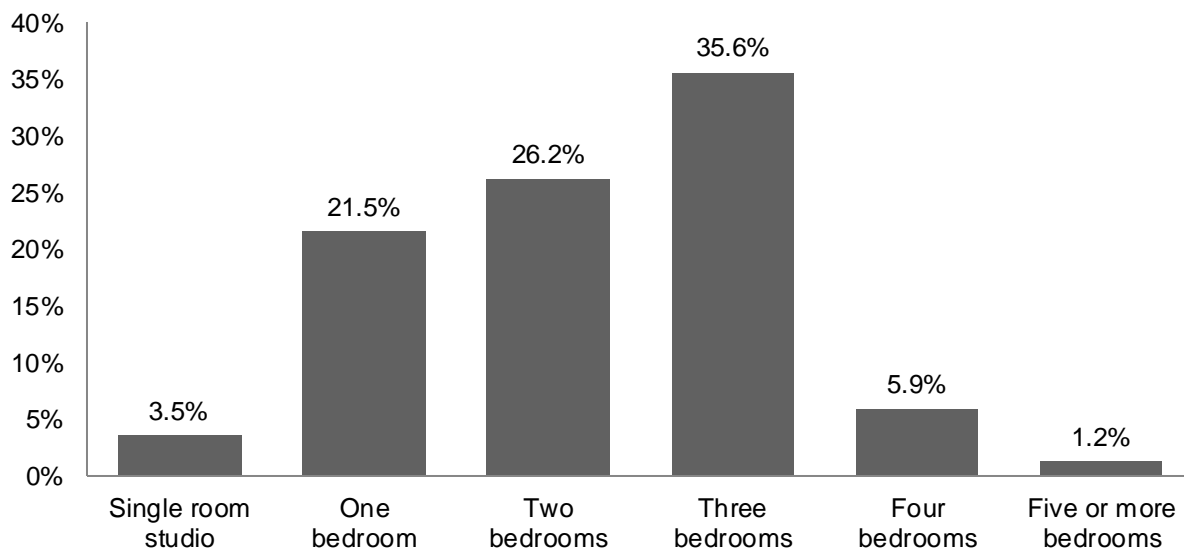
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 336 respondents who responded to the question of where they currently live, 54 (16.1%) reported two or more types of housing. Out of the 222 respondents who responded to the question of where they lived six months ago, 58 (26.1%) reported two or more types of housing. It is important to note that the questionnaire did not indicate what respondents should do in the case that they lived in more than one place; therefore, respondents may not have chosen all responses that applied to their living situation.

Figure A18. Average Number of Adults and Children in Household by HIV Status



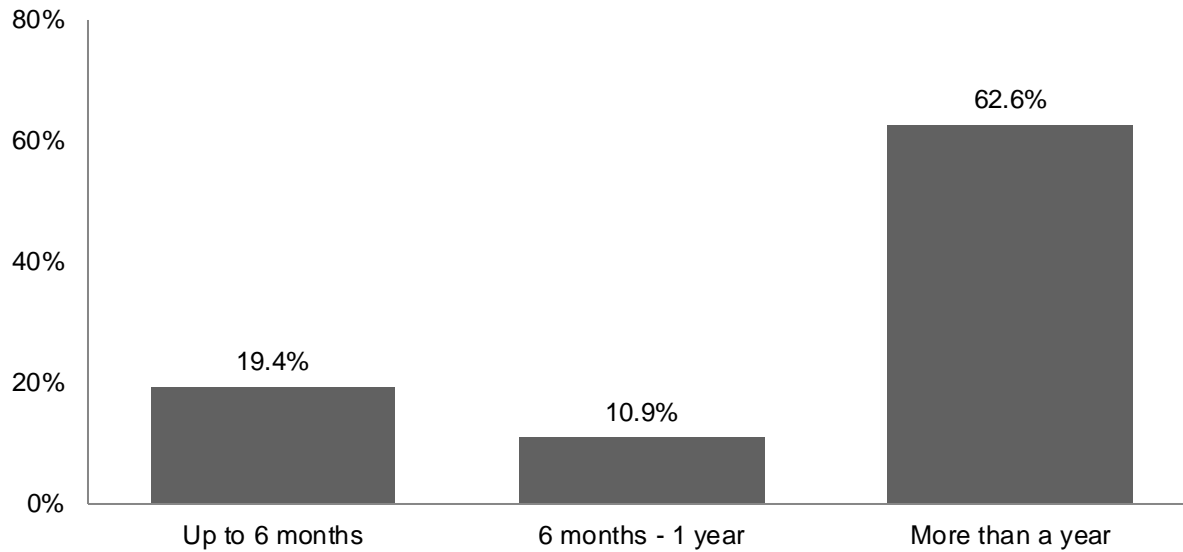
- The following outliers (extreme values) are retained in calculations: *number of adults in their household who are HIV-: 5 (5 respondents); number of children in their household who are HIV-: 7 (1 respondent) and 5 (2 respondents).*

Figure A19. Number of Bedrooms in Respondents' Residences (n=340)



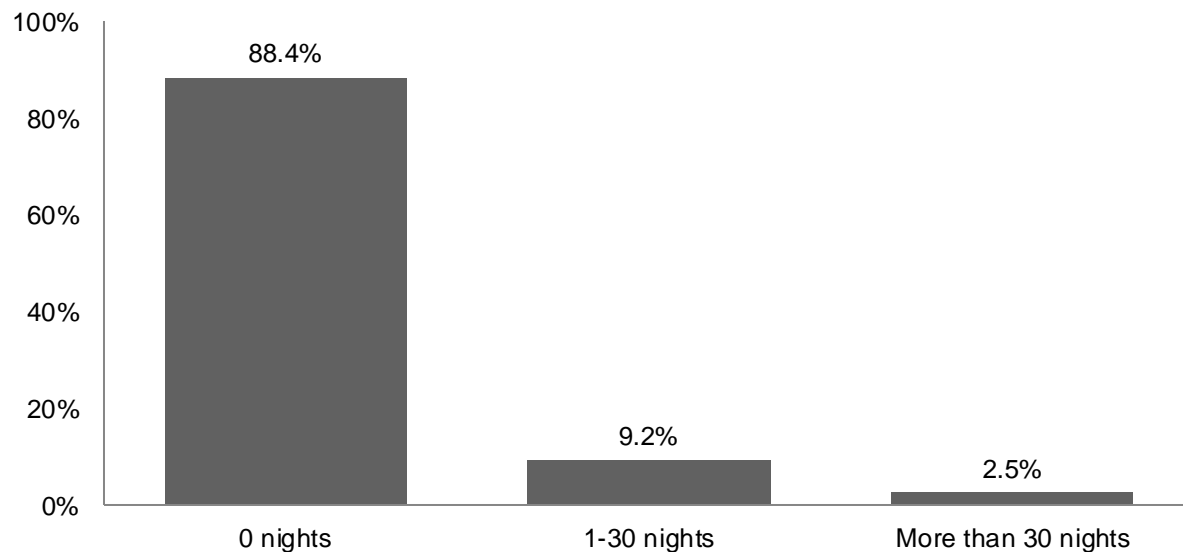
- In addition to what is presented in the figure, 6.2% of individuals selected the response option *none, I'm homeless*.

Figure A20. Length of Time at Current Residence (n=350)



- In addition to what is reported here, 7.1% of respondents selected the response option *I'm homeless*.

Figure A21. Nights Spent Homeless or Without a Place to Sleep in the Last Six Months (n=284)



- The category *more than 30 nights* includes individuals who specifically chose the response option *31-90 nights* (0.7%) as well as those who chose *more than 90 nights* (1.8%).

Figure A22. Had Difficulty Obtaining Housing in the Last 6 months (n=327)

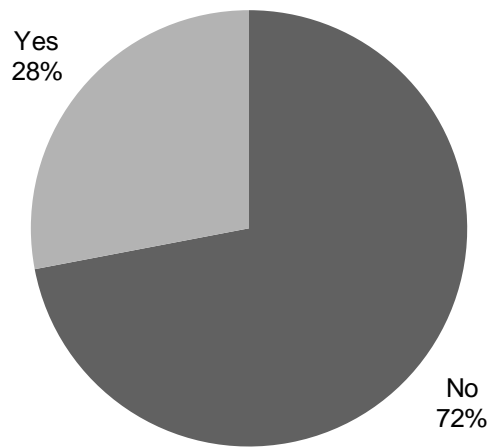
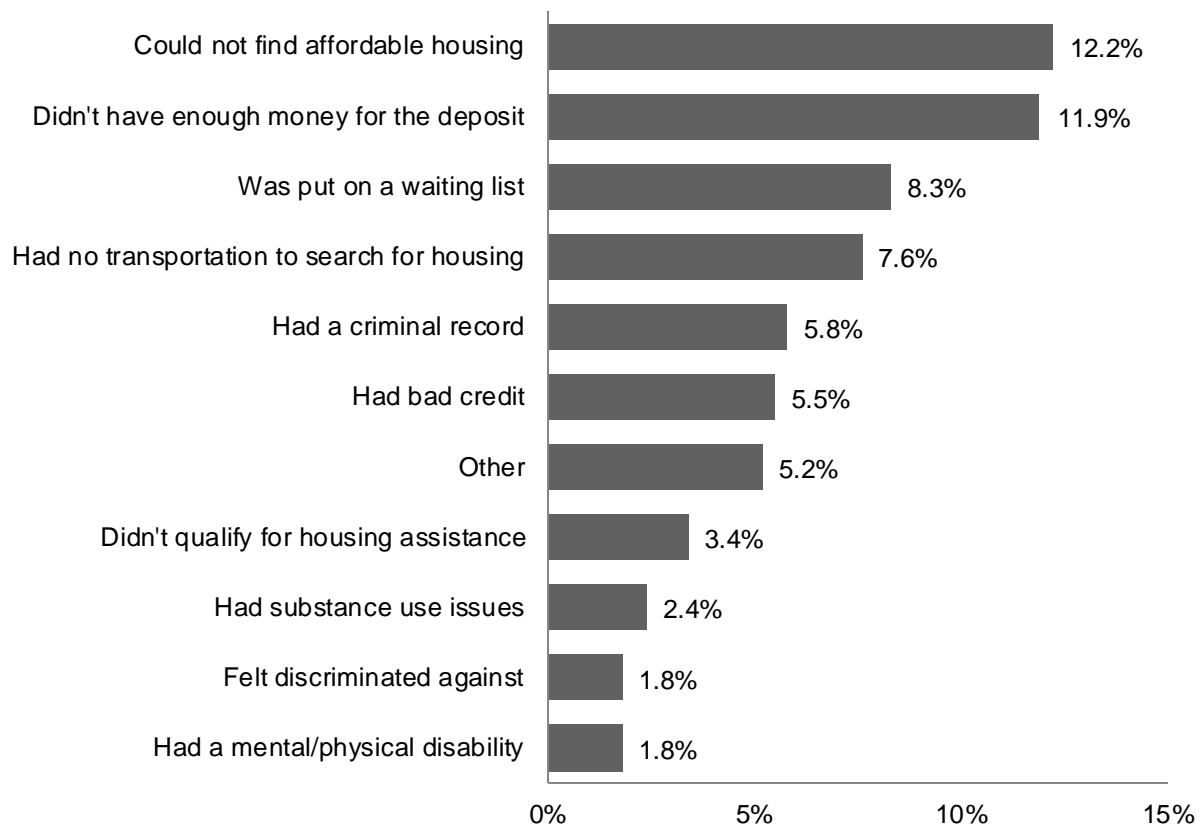


Figure A23. Barriers to Obtaining Housing (n=327)



- In addition to what is reported here, 71.6% of respondents indicated they did not have problems finding housing.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 93 respondents who reported at least one barrier to obtaining housing, 51 (54.8%) reported having two or more barriers.
- Excluded from calculations are 4 respondents who indicated they experienced at least one barrier in obtaining housing in the last six months and that they do not have any problems obtaining housing. The barriers these respondents indicated they have are: *didn't have enough money for a deposit* (1 respondent), *had bad credit* (1 respondent), *had a mental/physical disability* (1 respondent), *had a criminal record* (2 respondents) and *other trouble with housing* (1 respondent).

Figure A24. Rent/Mortgage Contribution Paid “Out of Pocket” (n=293)

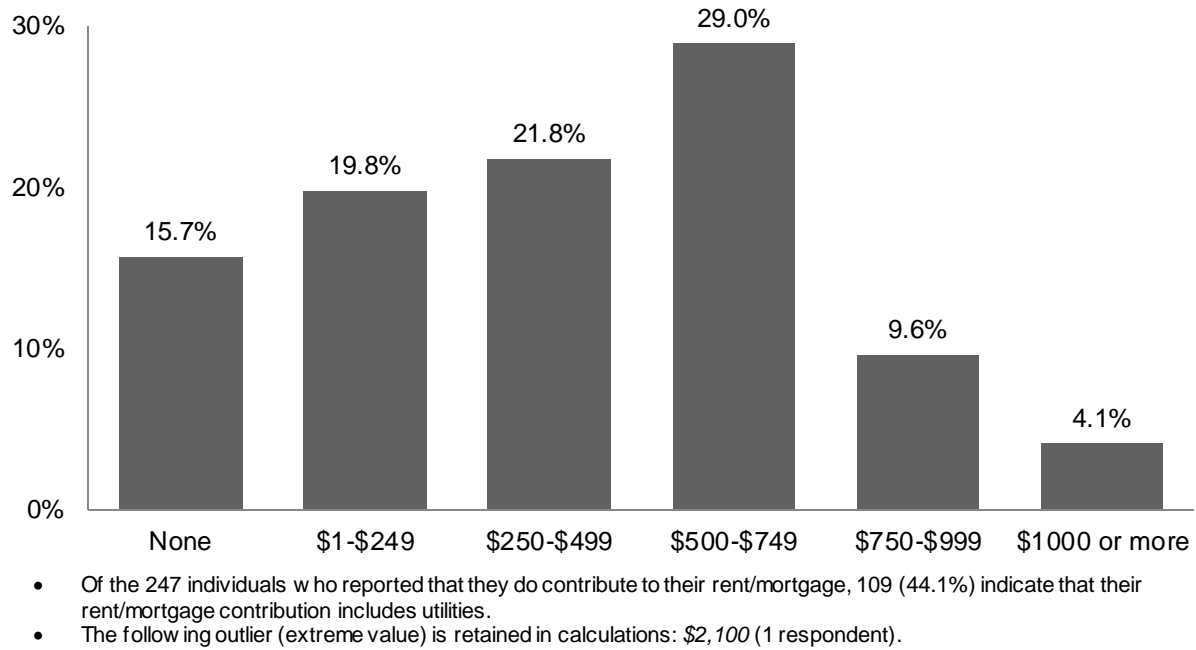
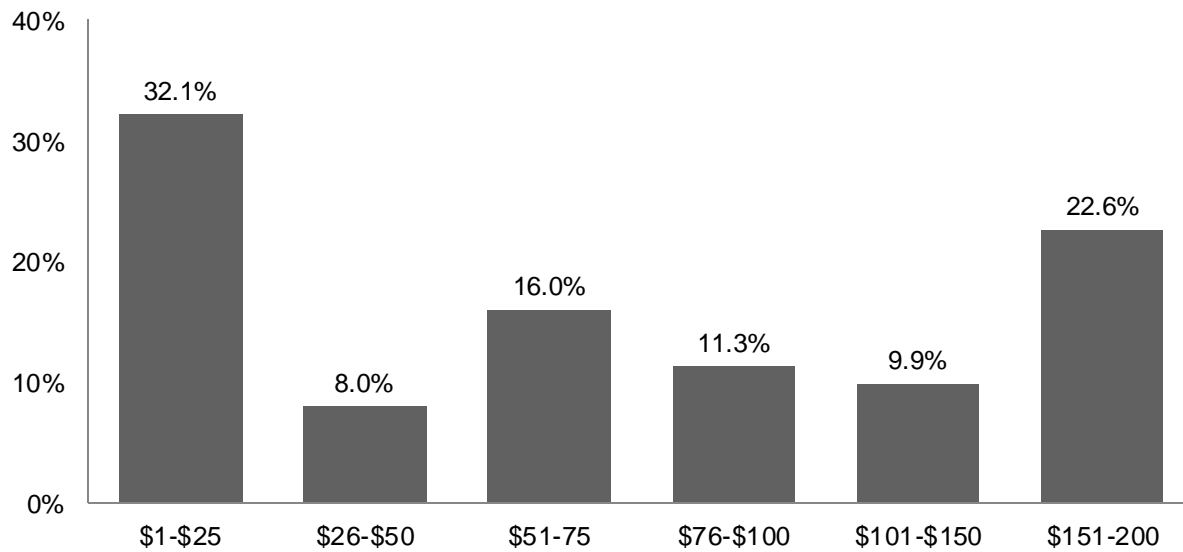


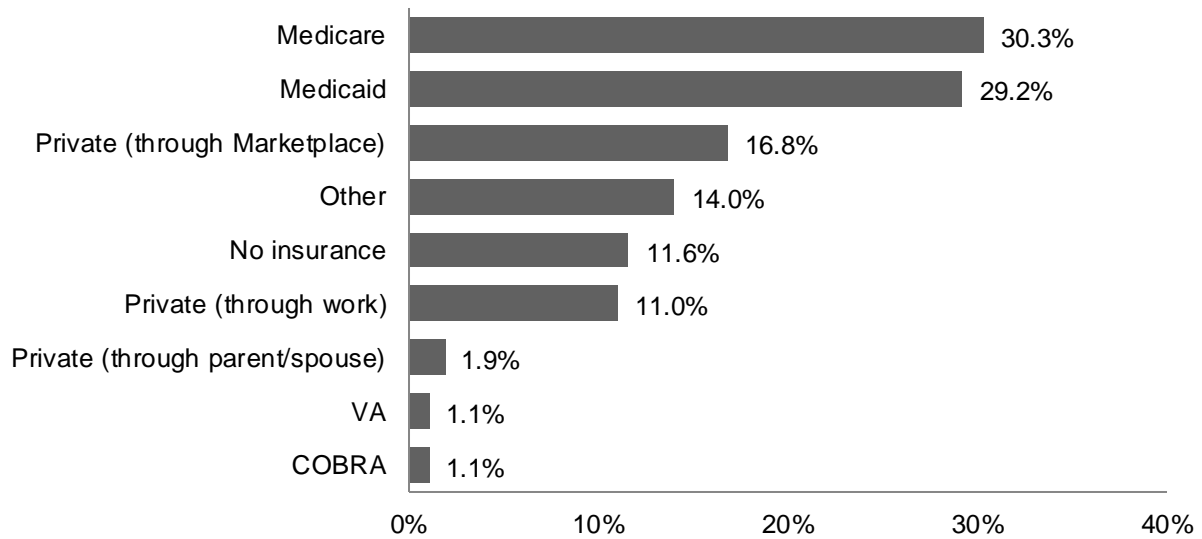
Figure A25. Increase per Month in Rent/Mortgage That Would Cause Respondents to Move (n=212)



B. Medical Care

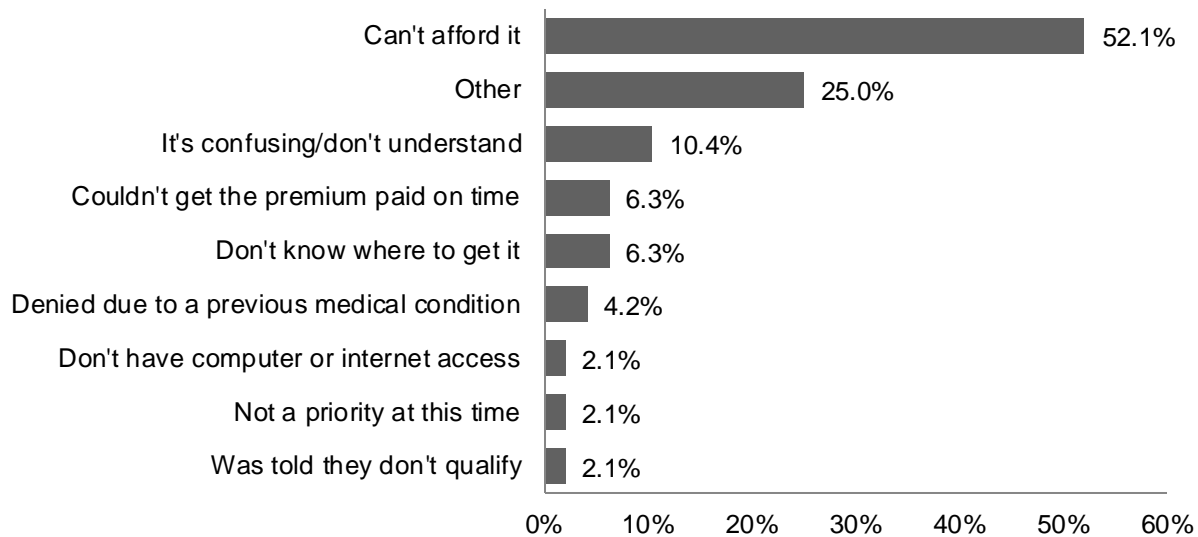
Health Insurance and Medical Coverage

Figure B1. Sources of Health Insurance for HIV-related Medical Care (n=363)



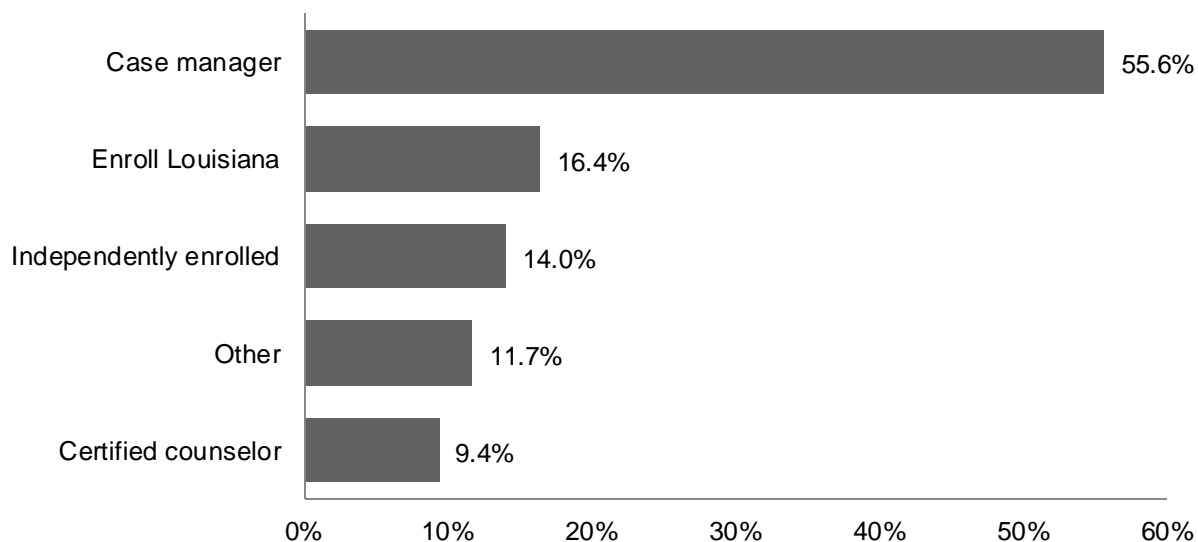
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 321 respondents who reported having at least one type of health insurance, 61 (19%) reported having two or more sources of health insurance for their HIV/AIDS medical care.

Figure B2. Barriers to Obtaining Health Insurance Coverage (n=48)



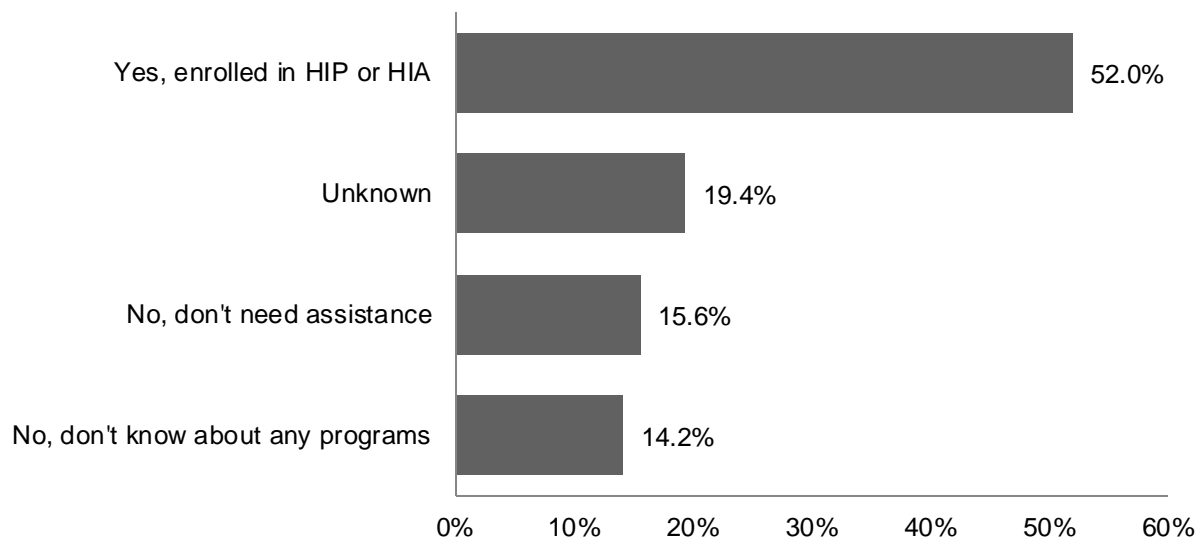
- In addition to what is reported here, 3 respondents (6.25%) reported having insurance and that the question does not apply.
- No respondents reported being denied health insurance coverage due to not having proper U.S. residency documents.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 48 respondents who reported at least one barrier to obtaining health insurance coverage, 6 (12.5%) reported having two or more barriers to obtaining health insurance coverage.
- Respondents were able to identify barriers other than those given for obtaining health insurance coverage. Out of the 22 respondents who chose *other*, 10 provided written responses. None of the written responses for *other* were reported by more than one respondent.

Figure B3. Enrollment in a Marketplace Plan (n=171)



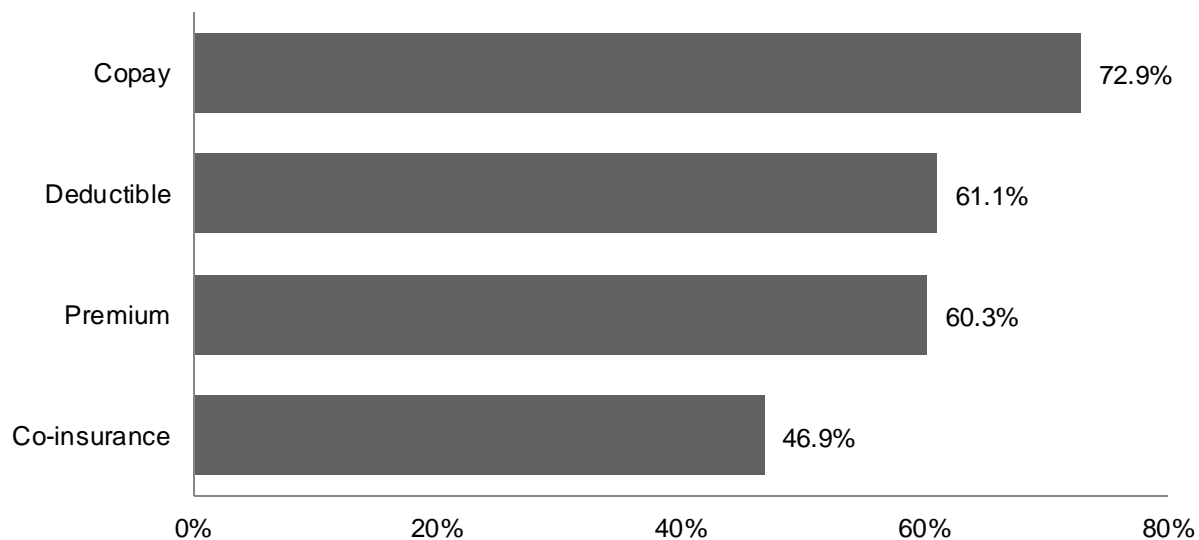
- Excluded from this calculation are 161 individuals (48.5%) who responded that they are not on a Marketplace plan.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 171 respondents who responded to this question, 10 (5.8%) reported having two or more ways that they enrolled in a Marketplace plan.
- Respondents were able to identify barriers other than those given for obtaining health insurance coverage. Out of the 20 respondents who chose *other*, 16 provided written responses. Two respondents reported being enrolled by *state work*.

Figure B4. Receives Help with Insurance Premiums (n=346)



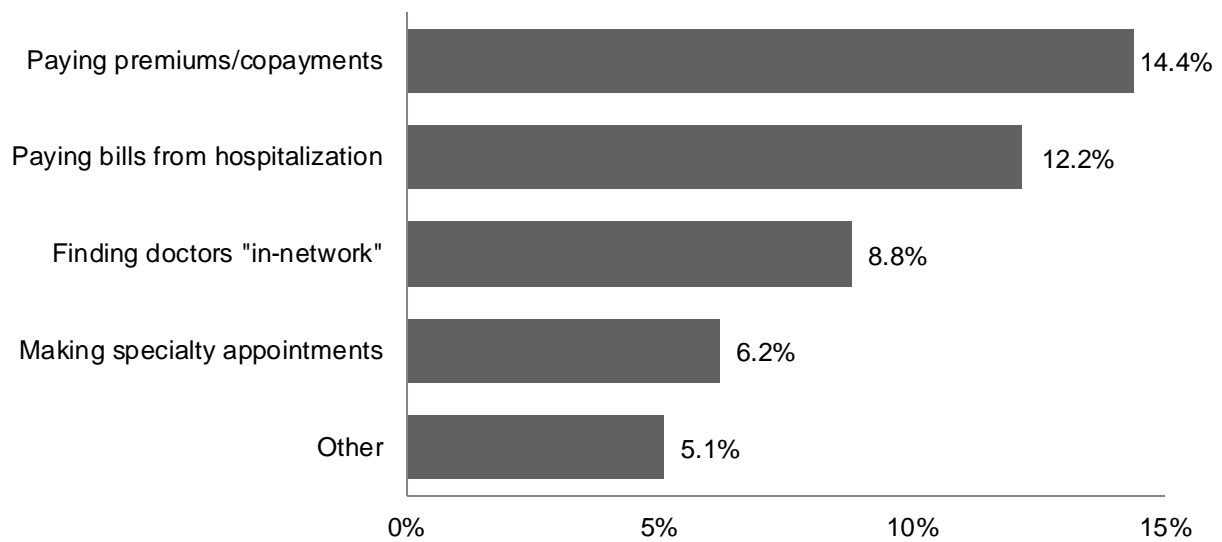
- Included in calculations, but not presented in the figure are the less than 1% of individuals who chose the response option *Yes, use tax subsidies*.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 346 respondents who responded to this question, 6 (1.7%) reported having two or more sources of help with insurance premiums.

Figure B5. Percentage of Respondents Who Report Understanding Common Insurance Terms (n=350)



- In addition to what is reported here, 20.9% of respondents indicated that they understood *none of these terms*.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 277 respondents who indicated they understood at least one of these terms, 225 (81.2%) reported understanding two or more of these insurance terms.
- Excluded from calculations are nine respondents who indicated that they understood all of these terms, but also indicated that they understood *none of these terms*.

Figure B6. Problems Encountered with Health Insurance (n=353)



- In addition to what is reported here, 65.7% of respondents indicated that they encountered *none* of these problems.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 121 respondents who reported encountering at least one problem with health insurance, 29 (24%) reported two or more problems.
- Excluded from calculations is one respondent who indicated that he/she encountered no problems with health insurance, but also indicated that he/she had trouble finding doctors in his/her network.

Figure B7. Other Coverage Needed (n=356)

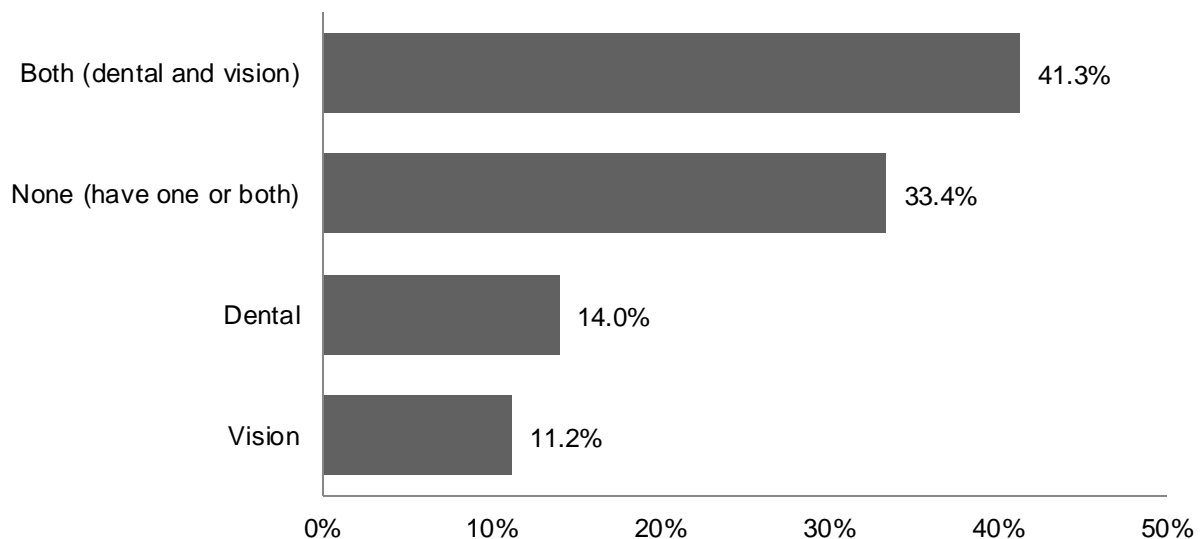
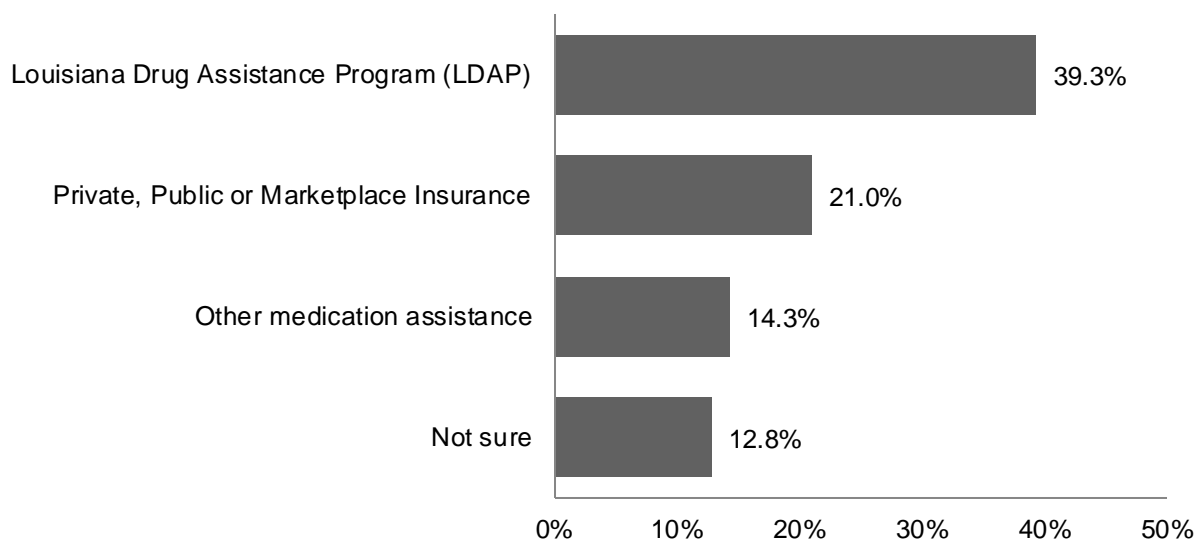


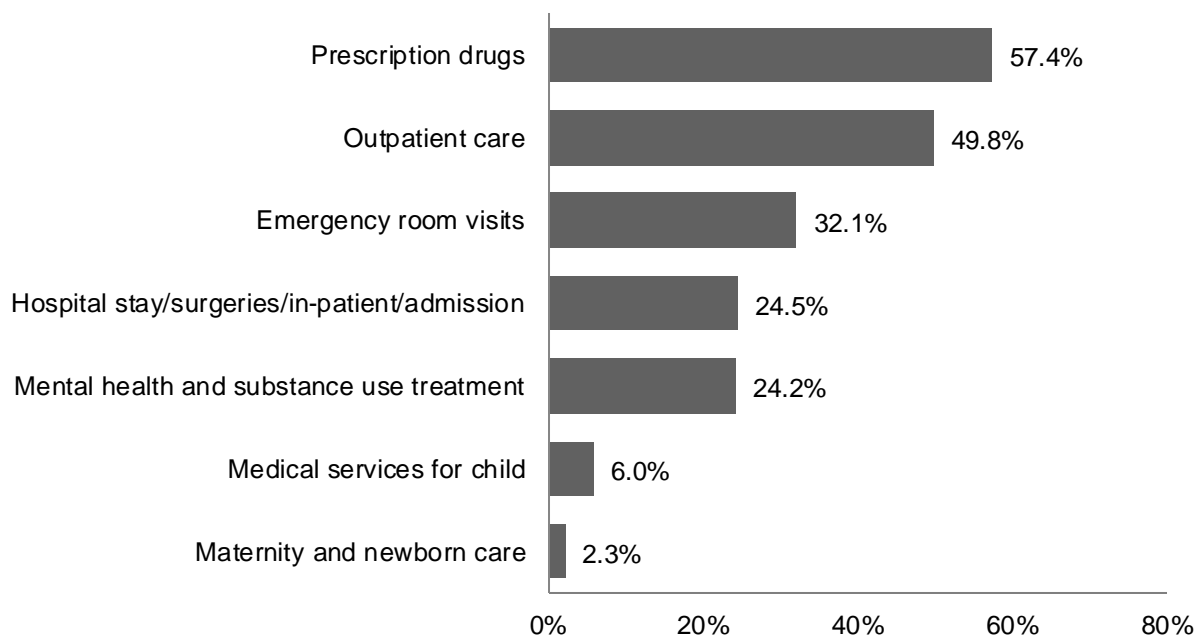
Figure B8. Method of Payment for Medications (n=328)



- In addition to what is presented here, 12.5% of respondents indicated the question *does not apply*.

Medical Services

Figure B9. Non-HIV-Related Medical Services Needed (n=265)



- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 265 respondents who indicated they needed at least one of the listed services for non-HIV-related reasons, 120 (45.3%) reported that they needed two or more of these services.

C. Health and Health Behaviors

Overall Health

Figure C1. Self-Reported Overall Health Status (n=370)

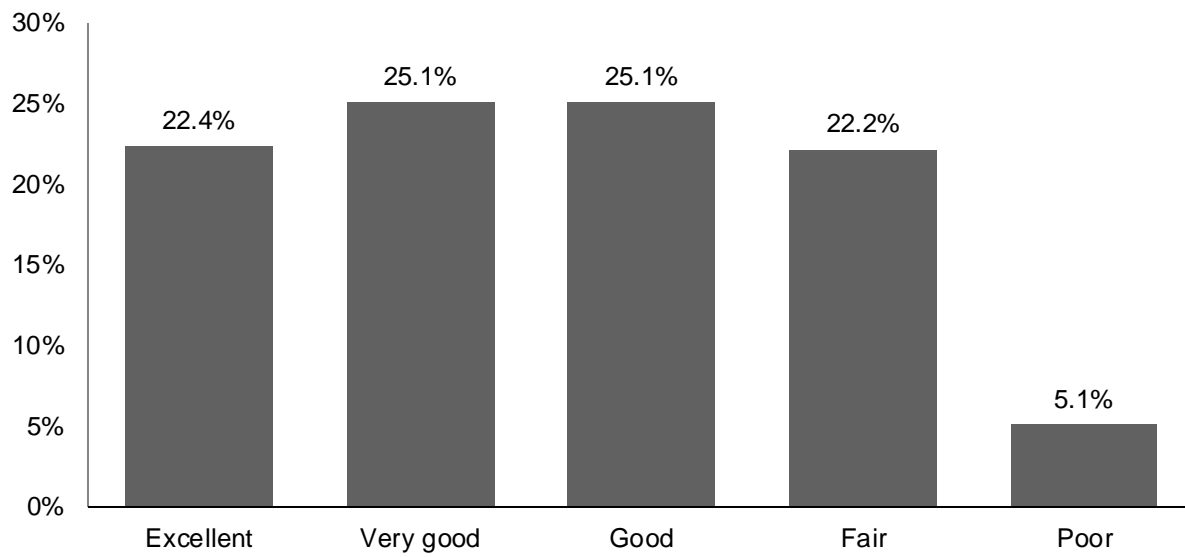


Figure C2. Current Viral Load (n=351)

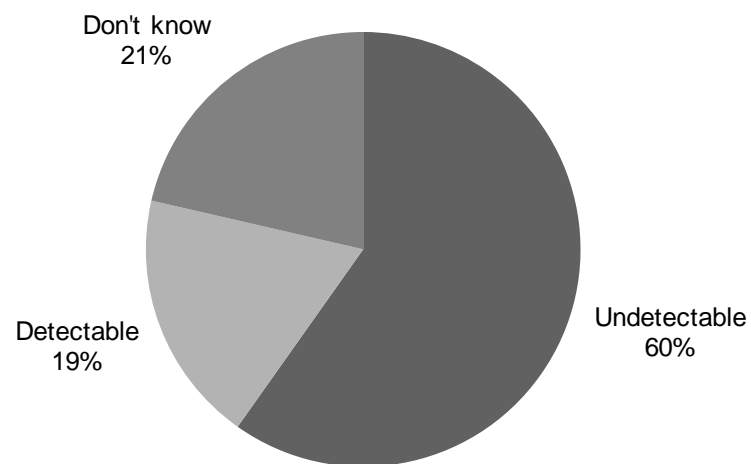
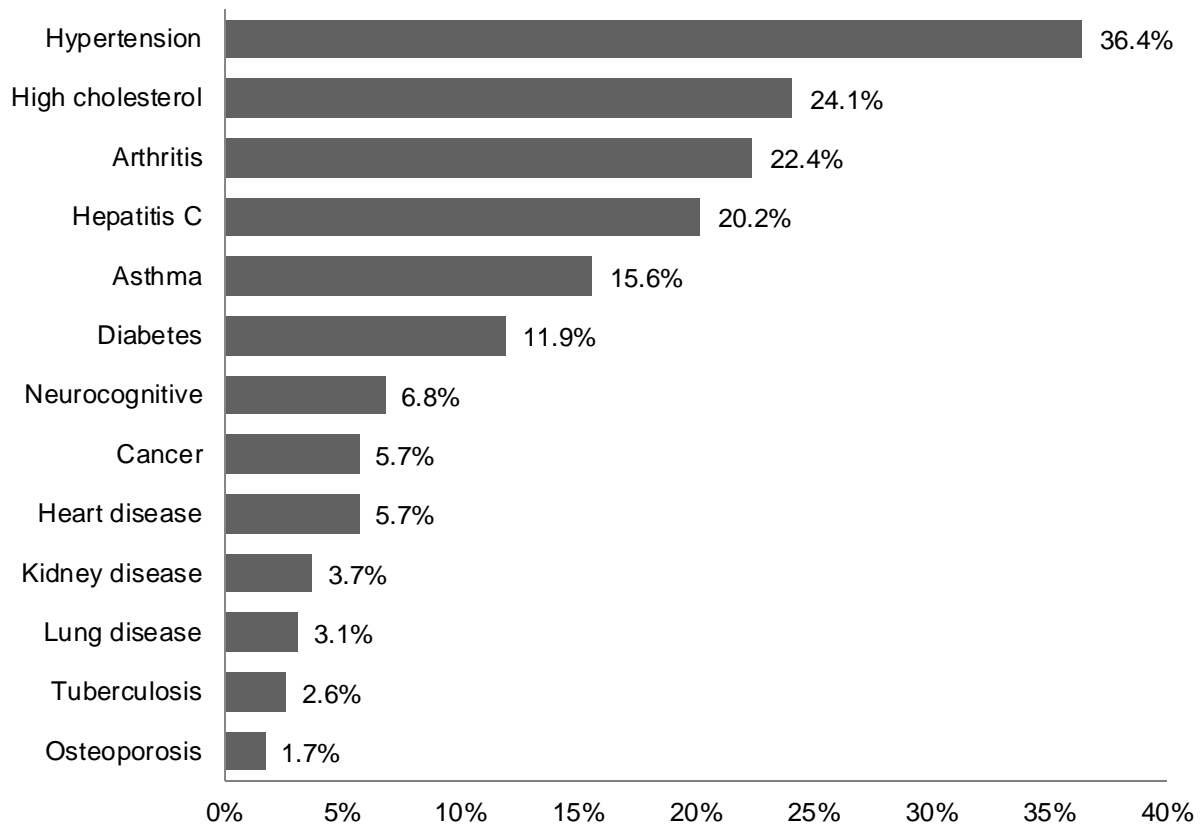
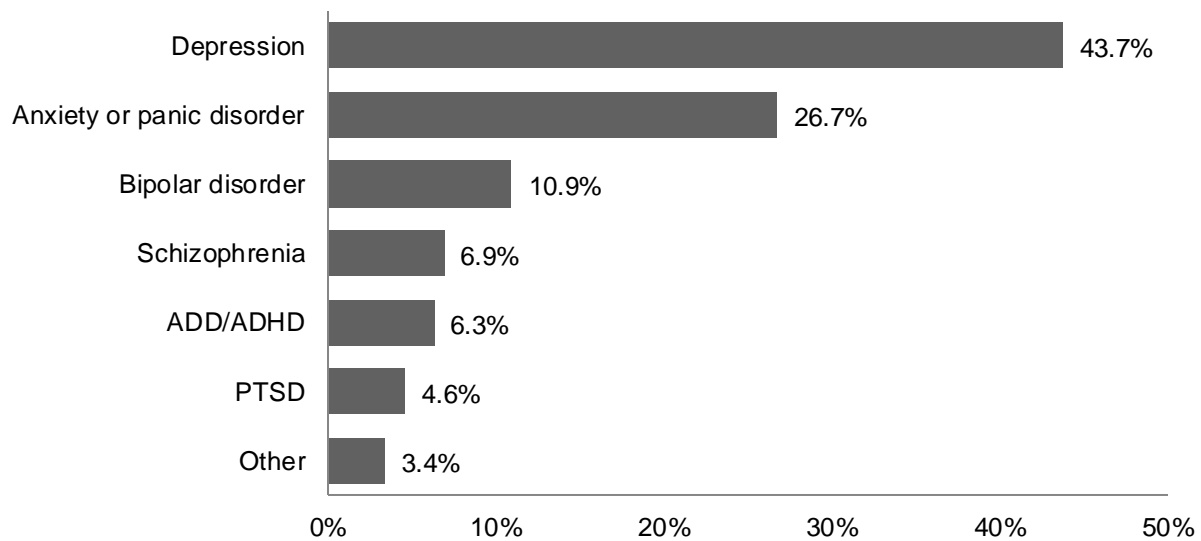


Figure C3. Medical Diagnoses (n=352)



- In addition to what is reported here, 29.8% of respondents indicated they have *none* of the listed diagnoses.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 247 respondents who indicated they have at least one of these diagnoses, 138 (55.9%) reported two or more medical diagnoses.
- Excluded from analysis is one respondent who indicated that he/she had *tuberculosis* and indicated that he/she had *none* of the listed diagnoses.

Figure C4. Mental Health Diagnoses (n=348)



- Abbreviations: PTSD = Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; ADD/ADHD= Attention Deficit Disorder/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- In addition to what is reported here, 45.1% of respondents indicated they have *none* of the listed diagnoses.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 191 respondents who indicated they have at least one of these diagnoses, 101 (52.9%) reported two or more mental health diagnoses.
- Excluded from calculations is one respondent who indicated that he/she had *bipolar disorder* in addition to reporting *none* of the listed diagnoses.

Figure C5. Self-Reported Depressive Symptoms Over the Last Two Weeks (n=337)

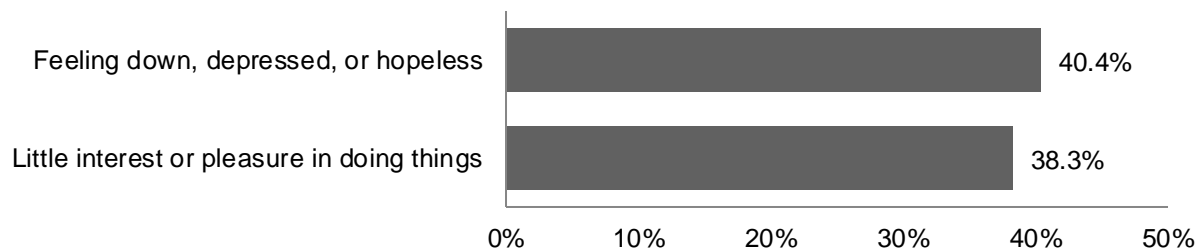
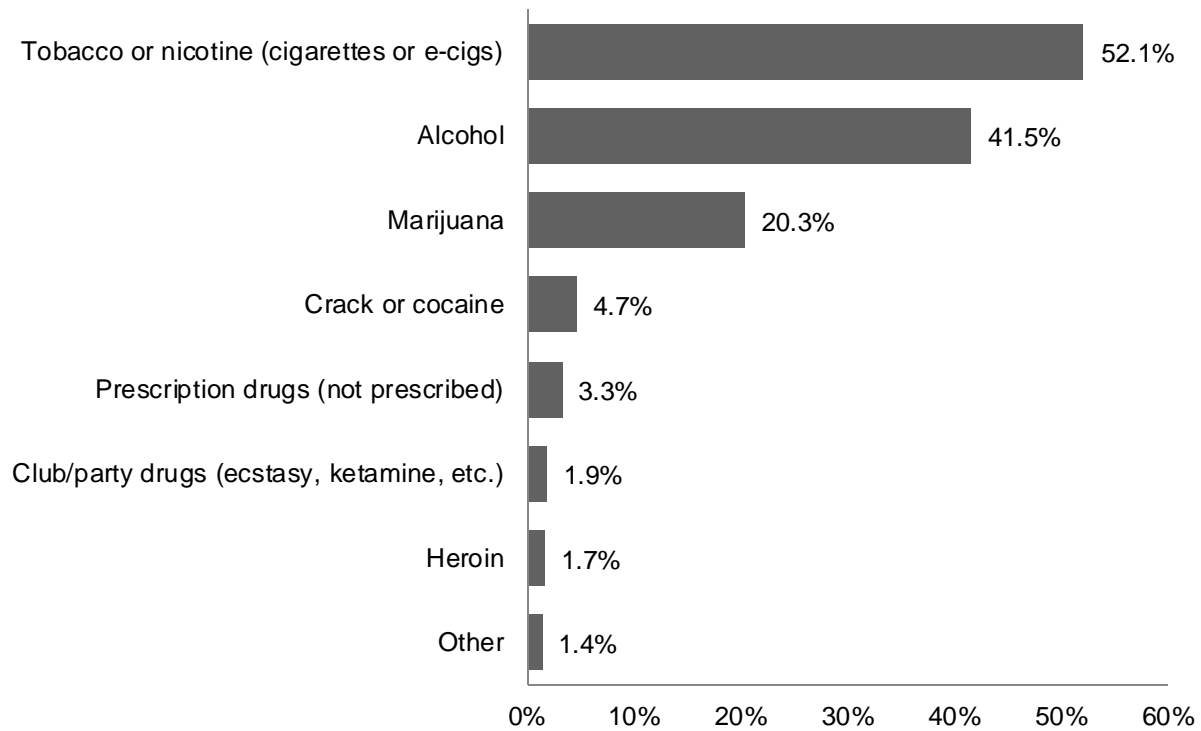


Figure C6. Self-Reported Substance Use in the Past 12 Months (n=359)



- In addition to what is reported here, 29.2% of respondents indicated they used *none* of the listed substances, and less than 1% of individuals reported that they used *Inhalants, hallucinogens, etc.*
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 254 respondents who indicated they used at least one of these substances, 127 (50%) reported using two or more substances.
- Excluded from calculations is one respondent who indicated using *tobacco or nicotine (cigarettes or e-cigs)* and indicated using *none* of the listed substances.

Health-Seeking Behavior

Figure C7. HIV-Specific Primary Medical Care Visits in Past Year (n=365)

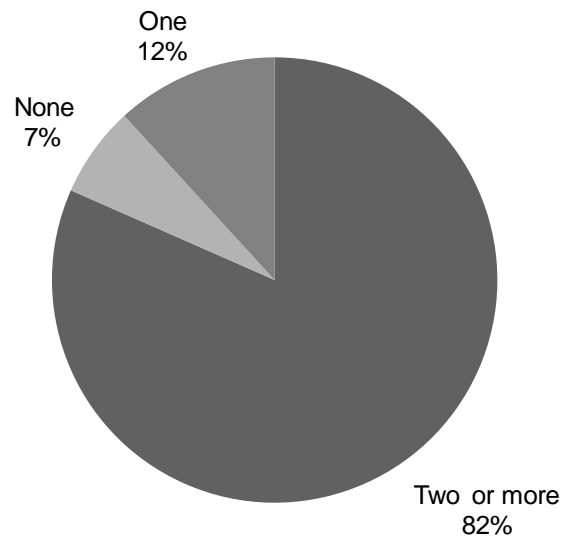
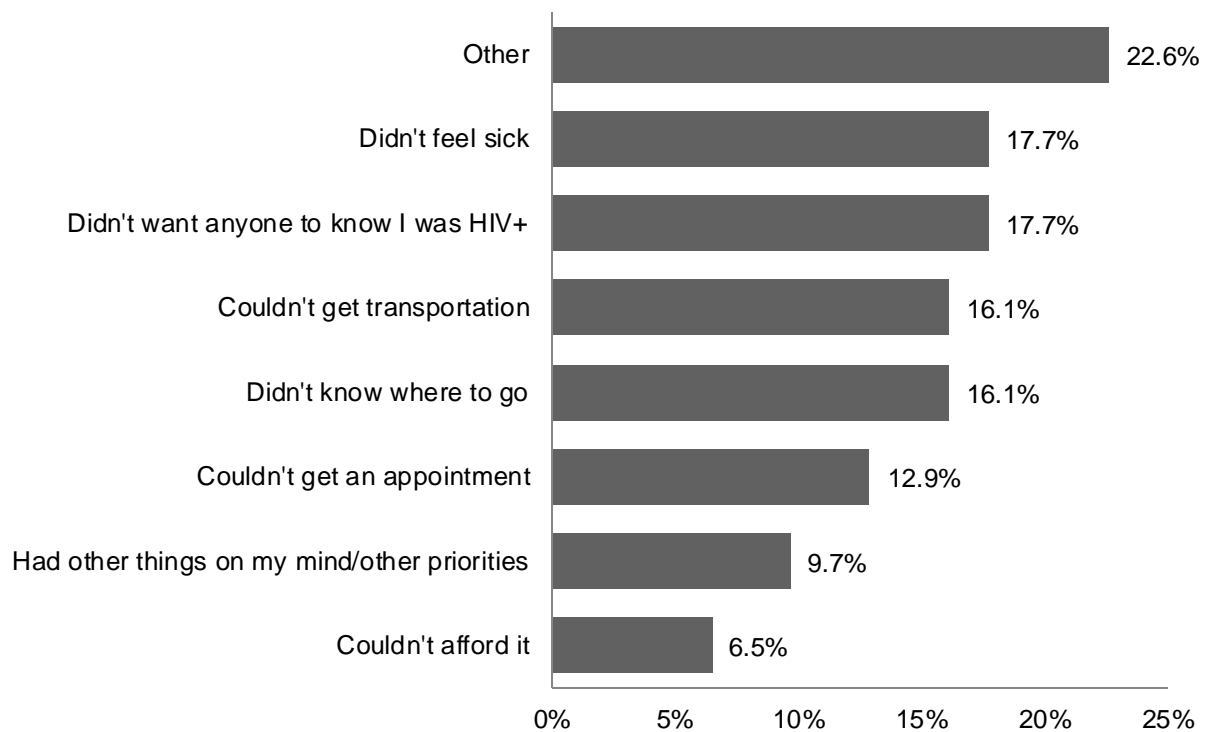
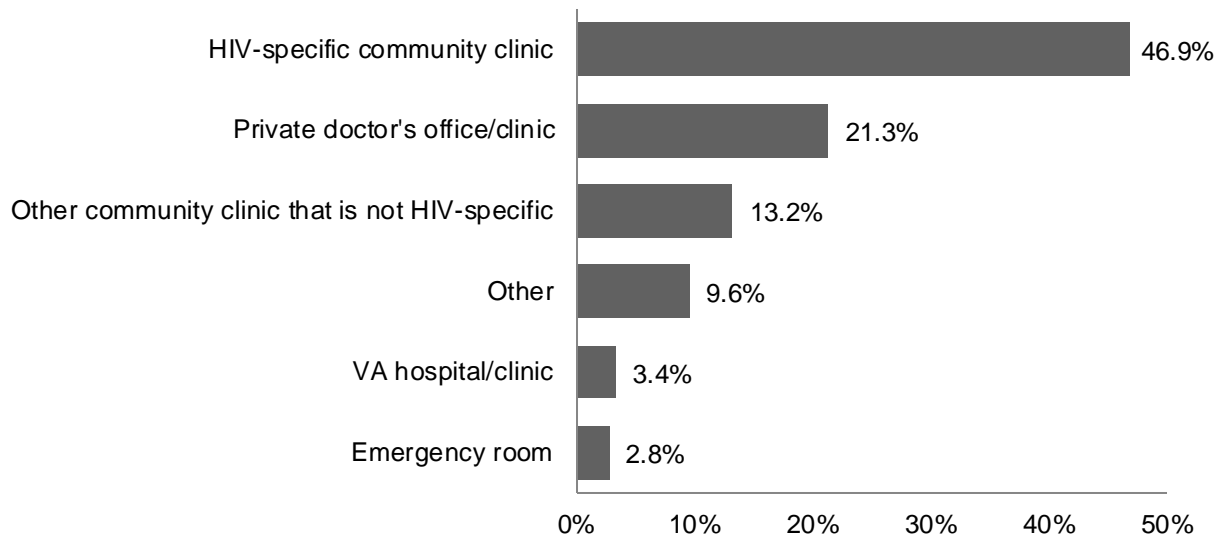


Figure C8. Reasons for Not Having an HIV-Related Primary Care Visit in the Last Year (n=62)



- Excluded from this calculation are 262 individuals (80.9%) who responded that they had a HIV-related primary care visit in the last year.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 62 respondents who indicated at least one reason for not having an HIV-related primary care visit in the last year, 8 (12.9%) reported two or more reasons.
- Respondents were able to identify reasons other than those given for not having an HIV-related primary care visit in the last year. Out of the 14 respondents who chose *other*, 8 provided written responses. None of the written-in responses for *other* were reported by more than one respondent.

Figure C9. Places Where Respondent Regularly Receives HIV/AIDS-Related Medical Care (n=356)



- In addition to what is reported here, 2.8% of respondents indicated they *don't receive any HIV-related medical care*.

HIV Medication and Medical Adherence

Figure C10. Currently Taking HIV Medications Prescribed by a Doctor (n=360)

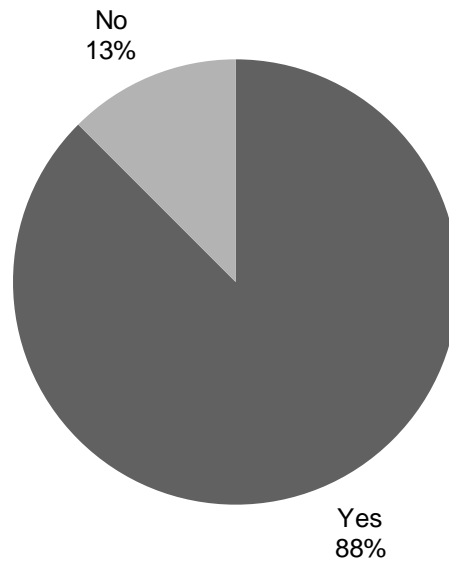
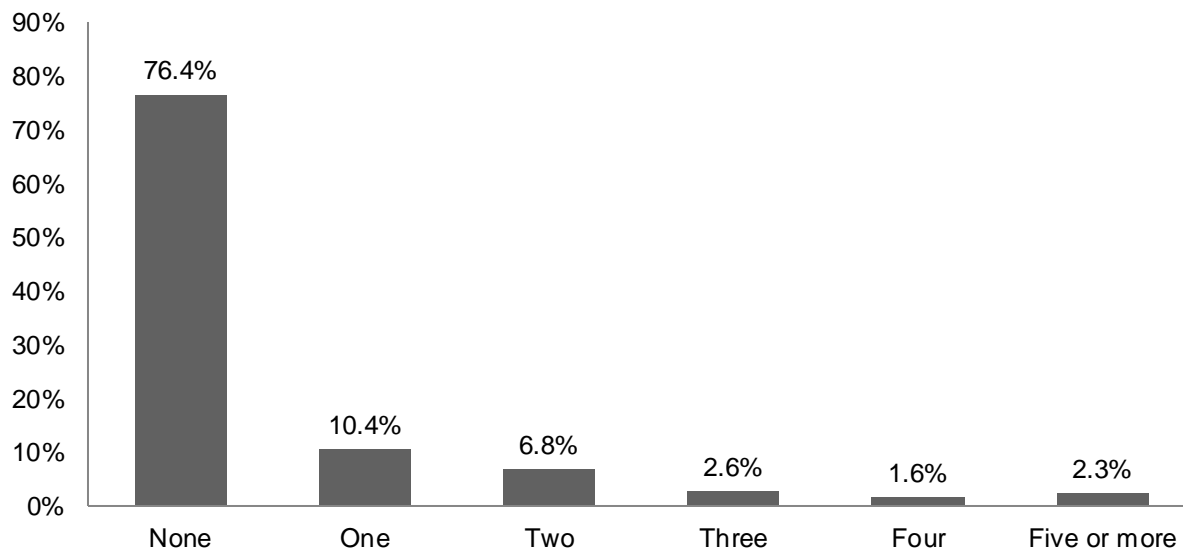
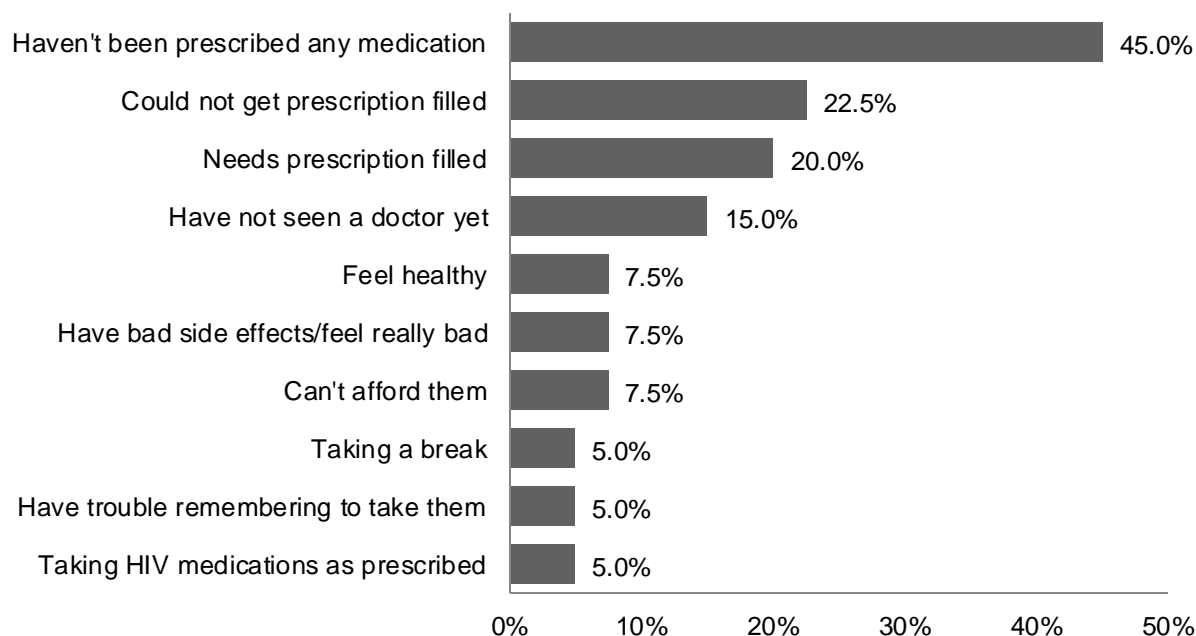


Figure C11. Number of Doses Missed in Last Three Days (n=309)



- Of the respondents that answered this question, 56 provided the following reasons for why they missed a dose of medication in the last three days: they forgot to take it (18 respondents); they fell asleep or overslept (8 respondents); N/A (7 respondents); they did not have the medication (5 respondents); the medication has negative side effects (4 respondents); they are homeless (3 respondents); they did not eat (2 respondents); and, they had other priorities (2 respondents).

Figure C12. Reasons for Not Taking HIV/AIDS Medication (n=40)



- In addition to what is reported here, 5% of respondents indicated *N/A: I am taking HIV medications as prescribed*.
- Since respondents were permitted to select more than one category or not answer the question at all, the sum of all categories may not meet or may exceed 100%. Out of the 38 respondents who indicated at least one reason for not taking their HIV/AIDS medication, 9 (23.7%) reported two or more reasons.

D. Need and Use of Services

Figure D1. Need and Receipt of Core Medical Services

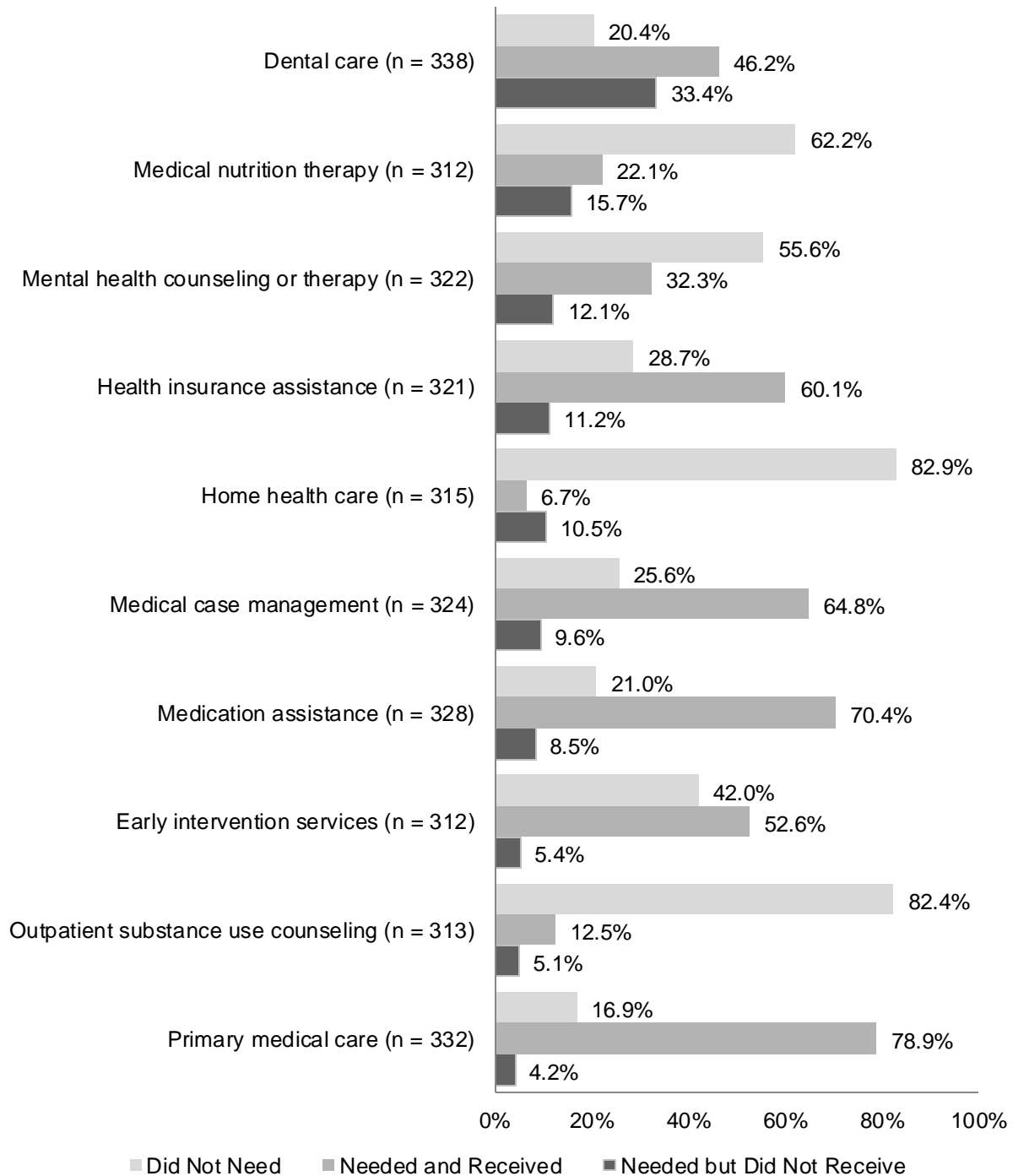


Figure D2. Use of Housing Services

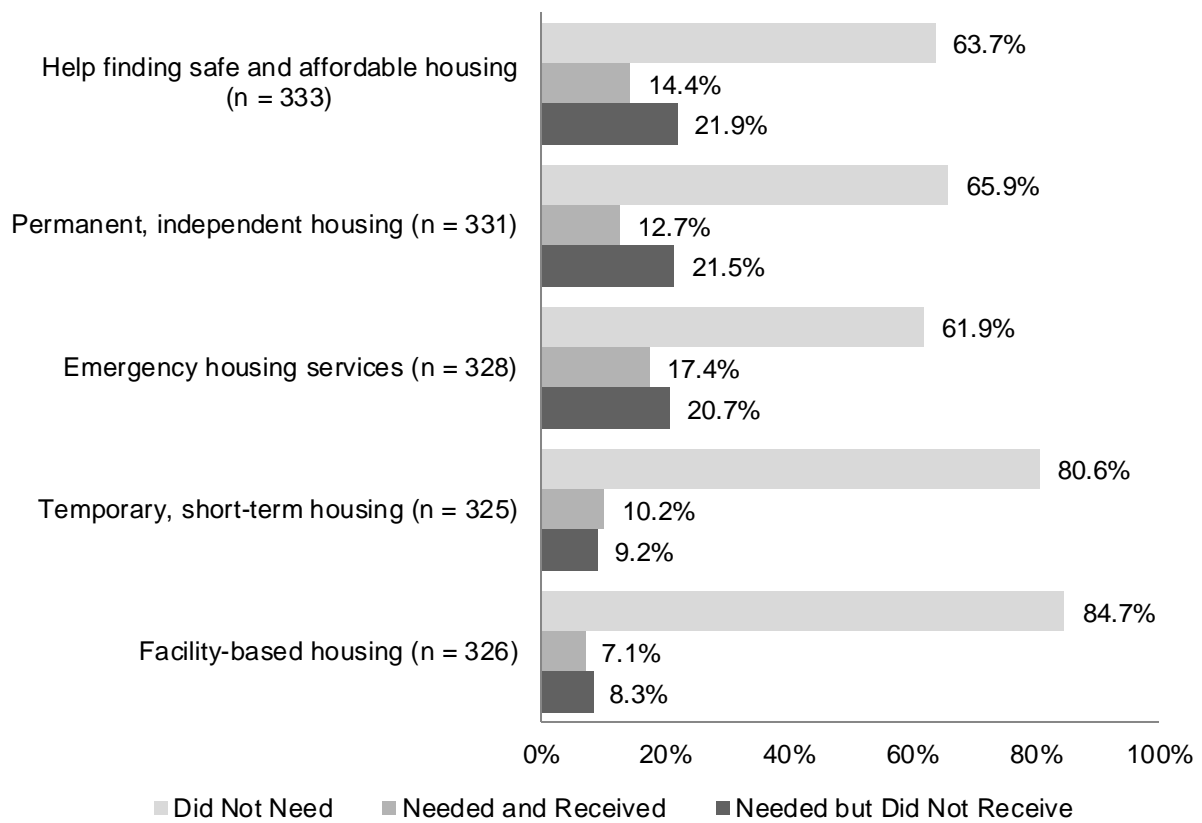


Figure D3. Use of Support Services

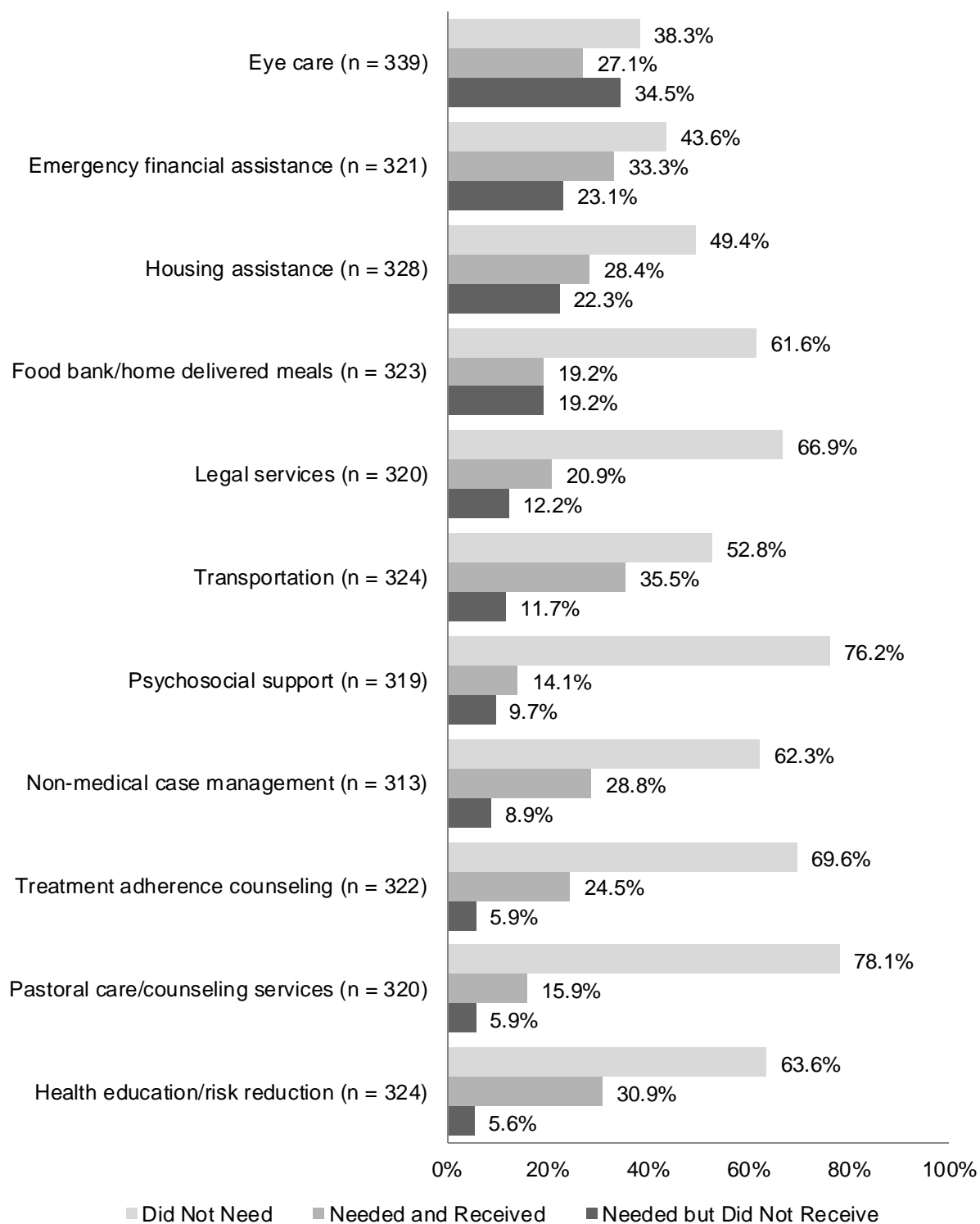
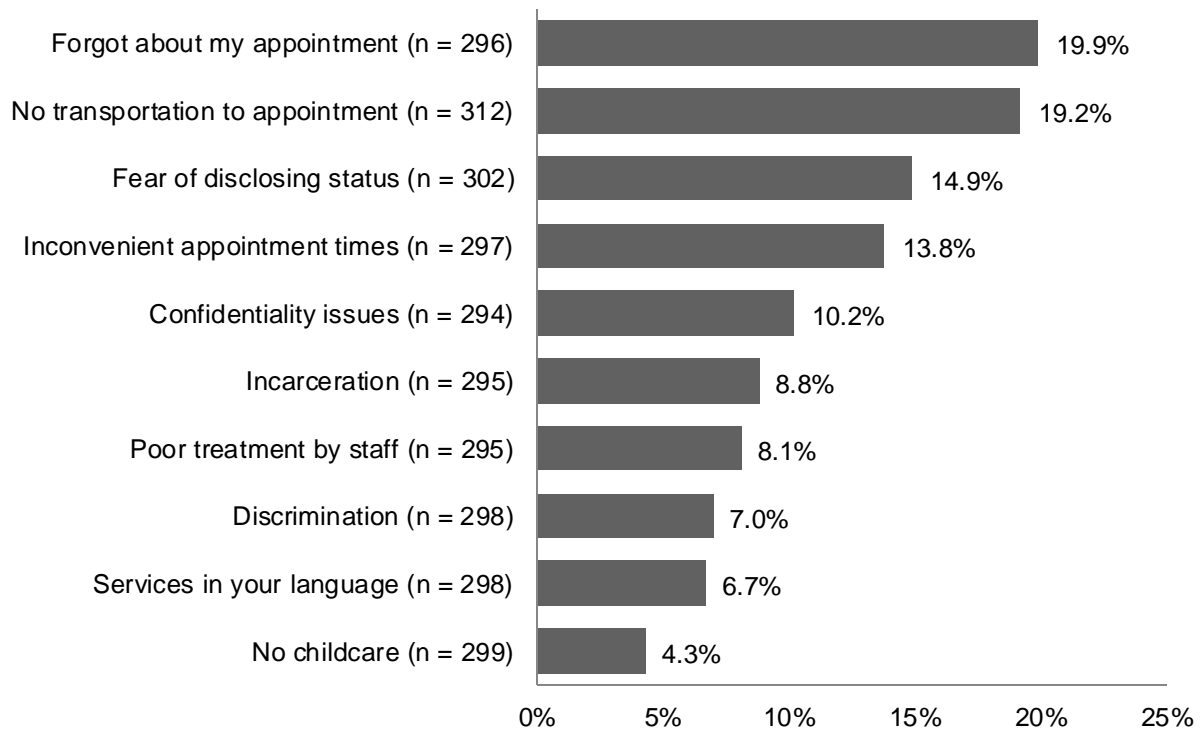


Figure D4. Reasons Unable to Get Services



Appendix A – Ranked Needs and Gaps

Table I1. Services Ranked by Needs

Ranking	Service	Total responses (n)	Persons reporting need	
			N	%
1	Primary medical care	332	276	83%
2	Dental care	338	269	80%
3	Medication assistance	328	259	79%
4	Medical case management	324	241	74%
5	Health insurance assistance	321	229	71%
6	Eye care	339	209	62%
7	Early intervention services	312	181	58%
8	Emergency financial assistance	321	181	56%
9	Housing assistance	328	166	51%
10	Transportation	324	153	47%
11	Mental health counseling or therapy	322	143	44%
12	Emergency housing services	328	125	38%
13	Food bank/home delivered meals	323	124	38%
14	Help finding safe and affordable housing	333	121	36%
15	Medical nutrition therapy	312	118	38%
16	Non-medical case management	313	118	38%
17	Health education/risk reduction	324	118	36%
18	Permanent, independent housing	331	113	34%
19	Legal services	320	106	33%
20	Treatment adherence counseling	322	98	30%
21	Psychosocial support	319	76	24%
22	Pastoral care/counseling services	320	70	22%
23	Temporary, short-term housing	325	63	19%
24	(Outpatient) substance use counseling or therapy	313	55	18%
25	Home health care	315	54	17%
26	Facility-based housing	326	50	15%

- This table presents services ranked by need.
- The “total responses” or “n” represents the number of respondents who answered each question about the need of services. Those who responded “needed and received” or “needed but did not receive” are included in the “Persons reporting need” column.
- Because there is variation in “n,” the percentages do not accurately reflect how needs for services compare (i.e., the percentages may not capture which services are needed most). Therefore, needs are ranked by frequency, or the number of respondents reporting they needed a service.

Table I2. Services Needed but Not Received

Ranking	Service	Total responses (n)	Persons reporting unmet need	
			N	%
1	Eye care	339	117	35%
2	Dental care	338	113	33%
3	Emergency financial assistance	321	74	23%
4	Housing assistance	328	73	22%
5	Help finding safe and affordable housing	333	73	22%
6	Permanent, independent housing	331	71	22%
7	Emergency housing services	328	68	21%
8	Food bank/home delivered meals	323	62	19%
9	Medical nutrition therapy	312	49	16%
10	Legal services	320	39	12%
11	Mental health counseling or therapy	322	39	12%
12	Transportation	324	38	12%
13	Health insurance assistance	321	36	11%
14	Home health care	315	33	11%
15	Psychosocial support	319	31	10%
16	Medical case management	324	31	10%
17	Temporary, short-term housing	325	30	9%
18	Non-medical case management	313	28	9%
19	Medication assistance	328	28	9%
20	Facility-based housing	326	27	8%
21	Pastoral care/counseling services	320	19	6%
22	Treatment adherence counseling	322	19	6%
23	Health education/risk reduction	324	18	6%
24	Early intervention services	312	17	5%
25	(Outpatient) substance use counseling or therapy	313	16	5%
26	Primary medical care	332	14	4%

- This table presents services ranked by gaps experienced.
- The “total responses” or “n” represents the number of respondents who answered each question about the need of services. Those who responded “needed but did not receive” are included in the “Persons reporting unmet need” column.
- Because there is variation in “n,” the percentages do not accurately reflect how gaps in services compare (i.e., the percentages do not capture which services have the largest gaps). Therefore, gaps are ranked by the frequency of gaps or the number of respondents reporting they needed a service but did not receive it.

Appendix B – Methods

To collect data for the *2015 Needs Assessment*, a convenience sample survey on the current care service needs of PLWH was conducted with consumers of HIV/AIDS services in the Baton Rouge Transitional Grant Area (BR TGA). The survey was conducted at six agencies that provide HIV/AIDS-related medical care and services using a self-administered questionnaire in English. Consumers were eligible to take the survey over a 7½ week period, from May 18, 2015 to July 10, 2015. Survey administration was managed by the *Baton Rouge Ryan White Program Office*. As incentives for their participation, consumers who participated in the survey were offered a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of five \$100 Walmart gift cards. Peer coordinators promoted the *2015 Needs Assessment* at their local agencies and in the community, assisted consumers in completing the questionnaire, and distributed and documented raffle tickets. This section describes the instrument, sample, and procedures used in this needs assessment.

Instrument

The *2015 Needs Assessment Survey* was created by the Baton Rouge Ryan White Program in conjunction with the *Louisiana Office of Public Health STD/HIV Program (OPH SHP)* and the New Orleans Eligible Metropolitan Area.

The questionnaire comprises the following six sections: Health Insurance, HIV-Specific Primary Medical Care, HIV Medication, Housing, General Information, and Income. The instrument has a total of 35 primary questions, five sub-questions to account for skip patterns and questions not applicable to certain individuals, and ten multiple-category questions with 54 total categories. Thus, the instrument contains 94 total questions within six pages. Questions are mostly closed-ended, including multiple-selection, dichotomous, and select-all-that-apply response options. Some questions include an “other” category so that consumers can write in a unique response if the available categorical response options are not comprehensive. The questionnaire is expected to take between 30 and 45 minutes to complete.

Sample

Ryan White funding structures were used to organize administration of the *2015 Needs Assessment*. In the BR TGA, the *Ryan White Program* determined that the desired sample size would be 400 people, stratified by agency. The BR TGA includes all parishes in Region II (East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, East Feliciana, and Iberville), one parish from Region III (Ascension), and two parishes from Region IX (Livingston and St. Helena). These parishes are highlighted in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Map of Louisiana with the Baton Rouge Transitional Grant Area in Gray



The survey used convenience sampling, which means that the sample is not considered representative of all PLWH in the BR TGA, but rather a subset of that population that shares the characteristics – observed and unobserved – with those who were asked and responded to the questionnaire. Because the survey was additionally stratified by agency, the resulting sample will be weighted according to the proportions of the sub-samples. Any PLWH who walked into any one of the participating agencies and was at least 13 years old during the administration period was eligible to complete the *2015 Needs Assessment Survey*. The *Baton Rouge Ryan White Program* staff were in regular communication with each local agency during survey administration to ensure that the sampling size target was being met.

Partners

The BR TGA *2015 Needs Assessment* was conducted with the cooperation of six agencies. Partner agencies were responsible for distributing questionnaires and raffle tickets to consumers and tracking the distribution of raffle tickets. A partner list is provided in Appendix B.

Peer coordinators worked at each partner agency managing administration of questionnaires and distribution of raffle tickets, as well as serving as the point of contact during data collection for the *Baton Rouge Ryan White Program*. Peer coordinators were employees of each agency who routinely conduct Peer-Based Early Intervention Services. The peer coordinators' responsibilities included promoting the *2015 Needs Assessment* at their local agency and in the community, helping consumers complete the survey, collecting all surveys, and distributing and documenting raffle tickets.

Training

Staff from the *OPH SHP* provided training for all participating agencies during a statewide conference call held on May 20, 2015. The training covered survey administration, an overview of the questionnaire, management of incentives, logistics and planning, and appropriate ways to engage consumers.

Administration

All of the materials necessary to begin collecting data, including questionnaires, raffle tickets, and writing utensils, were provided by the *Baton Rouge Ryan White Program* to the partner agencies. Data were collected in the BR TGA from May 18, 2015 to July 10, 2015. Each agency had a target for the number of questionnaires it aimed to administer to consumers. Agencies were provided with the specific number of questionnaires needed to reach their target.

During the data collection period, each consumer who visited a participating agency was offered the chance to take the *2015 Needs Assessment Survey* by a peer coordinator. Participation in both the survey and the raffle was completely voluntary. Peer coordinators asked each consumer whether they would be willing to take an anonymous survey about the services they need. Each consumer who agreed to participate was given survey materials, including the paper version of the questionnaire, instructions, a clipboard, and a pen. The instruction sheet explained the purpose of the *2015 Needs Assessment*, how long it would take to complete the questionnaire, that participation was completely voluntary, details about the raffle, a reminder that each respondent should only complete the questionnaire once, and contact information for the *Baton Rouge Ryan White Program Office*.

The questionnaire was completed by the consumer at the designated agencies. Consumers were assured that the survey was completely anonymous, that their responses would not be used to identify them, and that the information collected would be used only for planning purposes. For consumers requiring assistance with the survey, the peer coordinator read each question and marked the corresponding response.

Once the consumer completed his/her questionnaire, the peer coordinators performed quality checks on a specific set of questions. Consumers were then given the opportunity to fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of five \$100 Walmart gift cards as a gesture of appreciation for his/her time and participation. Completed raffle tickets were returned to the *Baton Rouge Ryan White Program Office*. Completed surveys were placed in secure envelopes and mailed to PRG weekly.

Data Entry and Cleaning

Data entry began as soon as the questionnaires were received by PRG. Questionnaires were counted, marked with a unique ID number, and grouped into stacks of 50. Each group of questionnaires was entered into an online *Remark Web Survey* data form that was created by PRG. Once a stack of 50 questionnaires was entered, 10% of the questionnaires from the stack were randomly chosen, and responses on the paper instruments were compared with the corresponding data in the data set. If any errors were found in the first 10% data check, a subsequent 10% data check was completed. This process continued until no errors were found in a 10% data check, or all 50 questionnaires in a stack were checked. This was done to ensure data entry accuracy. Once all questionnaires were entered and cleaned, they were converted to Stata 12.1.

Data Preparation

Responses to all questions were tabulated and corresponding figures and tables were created to depict distribution of responses. The total number of people who responded to each question (“*n*”) was reported for each figure. However, the reported “*n*” varies throughout the report. Some respondents chose not to answer certain questions. Furthermore, respondents were excluded from analyses if (1) they did not provide an answer to a particular question, (2) they provided multiple responses to a question in which only one response was permitted, (3) they did not belong to the subpopulation of respondents to which the question pertained, or (4) they provided conflicting information (e.g., indicated they had not used drugs and also named drugs they had used).

As previously mentioned, some questions allowed respondents to provide “other” responses if they felt that their situation was not represented by the given answers. PRG reviewed responses to all questions with an “other” category. For each particular question, if over 20% of respondents in the BR TGA selected the “other” category, we report any response written in by more than one respondent below the appropriate figure. The responses are presented from most common to least common. It should be noted that not all persons who responded “other” provided written-in responses.

For pie charts and bar charts, if the response percentage to a category was less than one percent, the category was still retained in the calculation, but it was either omitted from the figure or included in the “other” category percentage. In all of these cases, a note was included below the appropriate figure describing the distribution. For all questions, any category with zero responses was omitted from figures and was noted below the figure.

For this report, two separate tables were generated, which ranked services needed and services in which respondents reported a gap (needed the service but did not receive it). For Table I1, ranking was determined by the total number of respondents who provided a response that they either “Needed & received” or “Needed but did not receive” each service. For Table I2, ranking was determined by the total number of respondents who provided a response that they “Needed but did not receive” each service. In each table, the service with the highest number of respondents is ranked first, and the service with the lowest number of respondents is ranked last.

Appendix C – List of Partners

Baton Rouge Transitional Grant Area:

Capitol City Family Health Center

Early Intervention Services at Our Lady of the Lake

Family Services of Greater Baton Rouge

HIV Alliance for Region II (HAART)

NOAIDS Taskforce

Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge

Appendix D – Survey Instrument

Please STOP if you have already taken this survey. Each individual is only allowed to take this survey ONE TIME.

What is this survey for?

The survey asks people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Louisiana what HIV/AIDS services they need and what HIV/AIDS services they are getting. The information that is gathered from these surveys helps determine what services will be offered to PLWHA for the next 2 years. Data is being collected from May 18, 2015 to June 26, 2015.

Why should you complete this survey?

Completing this survey gives YOU a voice and helps us understand your needs relating to HIV/AIDS services. We won't know the services you need most unless YOU tell us. Your input *does* matter. Plus, you will be entered in a raffle to win one of five \$100 Walmart Gift Cards just for completing the survey!

How long will this survey take?

This survey takes 30-45 minutes to complete. Please take as long as you need to answer **each** question. If there is a question you do not understand, please ask for help from the survey coordinator.

Do I have to complete this survey in order to receive HIV/AIDS services?

No. Please understand the completion of this survey is strictly voluntary. If you do not want to complete the survey, it will not affect the services you receive. You may stop the survey at any time or skip any question that you do not want to answer.

Will this information be used to identify me as an individual?

No. All information collected through this survey is completely confidential and anonymous. Please do not put your name or any identifying information on this survey. The information is collected for planning purposes only and the individual's information will NOT be shared with anyone.

How will I know if I won the raffle?

Raffle drawing will take place July 8th once all surveys have been completed. Winners will then be contacted to receive their \$100 Walmart gift card!

If you need help taking this survey, please ask a peer advocate or agency staff for help. If you have any further questions regarding this survey, please contact Latoya Winfrey at the Ryan White Program Office at (225) 358-1957.

HEALTH INSURANCE

1) What kind of health insurance do you have that covers your HIV-related medical care and medications? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ NO INSURANCE
- ☐ Private insurance through work/employer
- ☐ COBRA (continuation of insurance paid through your last employer)
- ☐ Private Insurance: Marketplace (ACA)
- ☐ Private Insurance: through parent or spouse
- ☐ Medicare
- ☐ Medicaid (Bayou Health, People's Choice, etc.)
- ☐ Veteran's Administration (VA)
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)

2) If you selected *no insurance*, what is preventing you from getting health insurance? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ N/A: I have insurance
- ☐ I can't afford it
- ☐ I don't know where to get it
- ☐ I was denied because of a previous medical condition
- ☐ I don't have proper U.S. residency (immigration) documents
- ☐ I was told I don't qualify
- ☐ It's not a priority for me at this time
- ☐ I don't have computer or internet access
- ☐ It's confusing, I don't understand
- ☐ I couldn't get the premium paid on time
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)

3) If on a private plan from the MARKETPLACE, how did you enroll? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ N/A: I'm not on a private Marketplace plan
- ☐ Case Manager
- ☐ Certified Counselor
- ☐ Enroll Louisiana
- ☐ I enrolled myself
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)

4) Do you get help with paying insurance premiums? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Yes, I am enrolled in HIP or HIA
- ☐ Yes, I use tax subsidies
- ☐ No, I don't know about any programs
- ☐ No, I don't need assistance
- ☐ I don't know

5) Select all the terms that you understand:

- ☐ Copay
- ☐ Co-insurance
- ☐ Deductible
- ☐ Premium
- ☐ None of these

6) Please tell us about any problems you have encountered with health insurance:

I've had trouble...

- ☐ Finding doctors in my network "in-network"
- ☐ Making specialty appointments
- ☐ Paying bills from hospitalization
- ☐ Paying premiums and/or copayments
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)
- ☐ None

7) Did you need any of the following services for non-HIV related reasons? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Outpatient care: private doctor, urgent care, annual check-up, vaccines, etc.
- ☐ Prescription drugs (excluding HIV medication)
- ☐ Maternity and newborn care
- ☐ Emergency Room visits
- ☐ Mental health and substance use treatment services
- ☐ Medical services for your child
- ☐ Hospital stay/surgeries/in-patient/admission

8) What other insurance coverage do you need?

- ☐ Dental
- ☐ Vision
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None, I have one or both

HIV-SPECIFIC PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE

9) In general, how would you describe your overall health today? (MARK ONE)

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

10) How many HIV-specific PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE visits did you have in the LAST YEAR? (MARK ONE)

- ☐ One
- ☐ Two or more
- ☐ None

11) Where do you REGULARLY receive your HIV-related medical care? (MARK ONE)

- ☐ N/A: I don't receive any HIV-related medical care
- ☐ Emergency Room/ER
- ☐ Community clinic serving only clients living with HIV
- ☐ Private doctor's office/clinic
- ☐ Other community clinic that is not HIV-specific
- ☐ VA Hospital/Clinic
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)

12) If you did not have an HIV-related primary care visit in the last YEAR, why not? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ N/A: I had a HIV-related primary care visit in the last year
- ☐ I didn't know where to go
- ☐ I couldn't get an appointment
- ☐ I couldn't get transportation
- ☐ I couldn't get child care
- ☐ I couldn't afford it
- ☐ I had other things on my mind/other priorities
- ☐ I didn't want anyone to know I was HIV+
- ☐ I didn't feel sick
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)

13) Have you ever been diagnosed or told you have any of the following? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> NONE | <input type="radio"/> Lung Disease |
| <input type="radio"/> Hypertension | <input type="radio"/> Hepatitis C |
| <input type="radio"/> High Cholesterol | <input type="radio"/> Kidney Disease |
| <input type="radio"/> Arthritis | <input type="radio"/> Osteoporosis |
| <input type="radio"/> Asthma | <input type="radio"/> Neurocognitive |
| <input type="radio"/> Diabetes | (memory loss, difficulty moving body parts) |
| <input type="radio"/> Heart Disease | <input type="radio"/> Tuberculosis |
| <input type="radio"/> Cancer | |

14) Have you been diagnosed or told you have any of the following? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ NONE
- ☐ Depression
- ☐ Bipolar Disorder
- ☐ Anxiety or Panic Disorder
- ☐ ADD/ADHD
- ☐ Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- ☐ Schizophrenia
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)

15) Over the last 2 WEEKS, have you been bothered by either of the following problems?

Yes No

- A) Little interest or pleasure in doing things ☐ ☐
- B) Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless ☐ ☐

16) Have you used any of the following during the past 12 MONTHS? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ NONE
- ☐ Tobacco or Nicotine (cigarettes or e-cigs)
- ☐ Alcohol
- ☐ Marijuana
- ☐ Crack or Cocaine
- ☐ Heroin
- ☐ Inhalants, hallucinogens, etc.
- ☐ Club/Party Drugs (Ecstasy, Ketamine, etc.)
- ☐ Prescription drugs (not prescribed to you)
- ☐ Other (specify: _____)

HIV MEDICATION

17) Are you currently taking your HIV medications as prescribed by your doctor?

☐ Yes ☐ No

18) If you are NOT taking HIV medications as prescribed, why not? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ N/A: I am taking HIV medications as prescribed.
- ☐ I haven't been prescribed any medication
- ☐ Could not get prescription filled
- ☐ I can't afford them
- ☐ They have bad side effects/make me feel really bad
- ☐ Taking a break
- ☐ I feel healthy
- ☐ Need prescription refilled
- ☐ I have trouble remembering to take them
- ☐ I have not seen a doctor yet

19) How many doses have you missed in the last three days?

- A) ☐ None ☐ 2 ☐ 4
- ☐ 1 ☐ 3 ☐ 5 or more

B) Why did you miss doses? _____

20) How do you pay for your medication (s)?

- ☐ Louisiana Drug Assistance Program (LDAP) ☐ Other medication assistance
- ☐ Private, Public or Marketplace Insurance ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Does not apply

21) What is your current Viral Load? (MARK ONE)

- ☐ "Undetectable" (below 200 copies/mL)
- ☐ "Detectable" (201-10,000 or more copies/mL)
- ☐ I don't know

HOUSING**22) a) How many people live in your household including yourself? (WRITE THE NUMBER ON THE LINE) _____ Total**

b) Number of adults (18 years or older) **Number of children (under age 18)**

_____ How many are HIV+ _____ How many are HIV+

_____ How many are HIV- _____ How many are HIV-

_____ I Don't know _____ I Don't know

23) Where do you live NOW and where did you live 6 MONTHS ago?

BE SURE TO ANSWER BOTH COLUMNS!!	NOW	6 Months Ago
A) Apartment/house/trailer that I OWN	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B) Apartment/House/Trailer that I RENT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C) With your parents, relatives, or someone else's place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D) In a facility (boarding house, assisted living, half-way house, transitional housing, treatment facility, hospice, nursing home, other)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E) In jail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F) In prison	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G) Homeless/homeless shelter/domestic violence shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24) How much do you and/or your household pay "Out of Pocket" in rent/mortgage each month ?

25) Does this amount also include utilities?

	Yes	No
Water & Garbage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electric & Gas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26) How long have you lived in your current residence?

- ☐ Up to 6 months ☐ More than a year
- ☐ 6 months-1year ☐ I'm homeless

27) How many bedrooms are in your home?

- ☐ Single room/Studio ☐ 4 bdrm
- ☐ 1 bdrm ☐ 5+ bdrm
- ☐ 2 bdrm ☐ None, I'm homeless
- ☐ 3 bdrm

28) In the last 6 months, how many nights have you NOT had a place to sleep?

29) If you had trouble getting housing in the last 6 months, what kept you from getting housing? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ I did not have any problems
- ☐ I didn't have enough money for the deposit
- ☐ I could not find affordable housing
- ☐ I had no transportation to search for housing
- ☐ I had bad credit
- ☐ I was put on a waiting list
- ☐ I had a mental/physical disability
- ☐ I had a criminal record
- ☐ I didn't qualify for housing assistance
- ☐ I feel I was discriminated against
- ☐ I had substance use issues
- ☐ Other: _____

30) How much of an increase PER MONTH in rent or mortgage would cause you to have to find a new place to live?

- ☐ \$1-25 ☐ \$51-\$75 ☐ \$101-\$150
- ☐ \$26-\$50 ☐ \$76-\$100 ☐ \$151-\$200

31) Please tell us about your Core Medical Services needs over the LAST 6 MONTHS. Mark only one answer per service.	DID NOT NEED	NEEDED & RECEIVED	NEEDED BUT DID <u>NOT</u> RECEIVE
A) Medical Case Management			
B) Dental Care			
C) Primary Medical Care			
D) Medication Assistance			
E) Health Insurance Assistance			
F) Early Intervention Services			
G) Mental Health Counseling or Therapy			
H) Medical Nutrition Therapy			
I) Home Health Care			
J) (Outpatient) Substance Use Counseling or Therapy			

32) Please tell us about your Supportive Services needs over the LAST 6 MONTHS. Mark only one answer per service.	DID NOT NEED	NEEDED & RECEIVED	NEEDED BUT DID <u>NOT</u> RECEIVE
A) Emergency Financial Assistance			
B) Eye Care			
C) Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals			
D) Housing Assistance			
E) Legal Services			
F) Psychosocial Support (Support Groups)			
G) Transportation			
H) Non-Medical Case Management			
I) Health Education/Risk Reduction			
J) Pastoral Care/Counseling Services			
K) Treatment Adherence Counseling			

33) Please tell us about your housing services needs over the LAST 6 MONTHS. Mark only one answer per service.	DID NOT NEED	NEEDED & RECEIVED	NEEDED BUT DID <u>NOT</u> RECEIVE
A) Someone to help you find safe and affordable housing			
B) Permanent, independent housing (house or apartment to rent including a place you may share)			
C) Temporary, short-term housing (shelter, hotel/motel, or other very temporary housing)			
D) Emergency housing services (money for utilities, rent, or mortgage)			
E) Facility-based housing (nursing home, assisted living facility for HIV+ residents, etc.)			

GENERAL INFORMATION

34) What is your HIV/AIDS Status? (SELECT ONE)

- ☐ HIV positive
☐ Diagnosed with AIDS
☐ Don't know

35) What year did you find out your HIV diagnosis?

36) Where did you receive your HIV Diagnosis?

- ☐ Hospital/ER
☐ HIV/AIDS community-based organization
☐ Local health center or STD clinic
☐ Private doctor's office
☐ Organization providing other services (e.g. substance use treatment)
☐ Jail
☐ Prison
☐ Other (specify: _____)

37) What is your zip code?

38) What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Transgender: male to female
☐ Transgender: female to male

39) How old are you?

- ☐ <18 years ☐ 45-64 years
☐ 18-24 years ☐ 65+ years
☐ 25-44 years

40) How do you describe your race?

- ☐ Black or African-American
☐ White or Caucasian
☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
☐ Native American
☐ Multi-racial
☐ Other (specify: _____)

41) Do you consider yourself to be Latino or Hispanic?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

42) What is your primary language?

- ☐ English
☐ Spanish
☐ Other (specify: _____)

43) What is your highest level of education completed?

- ☐ Less than high school ☐ More than high school
☐ High school diploma/GED ☐ Prefer not to answer

44) Do you consider yourself to be:

- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
☐ Gay or Lesbian
☐ Bisexual
☐ Prefer not to answer

INCOME

45) What is your employment status? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Full-time
☐ Part-time
☐ Temporary or contract work
☐ "Odd jobs"/work for cash/self-employed
☐ Retired
☐ Unemployed
☐ Disabled
☐ Student

46) What was your total household income LAST MONTH including money from those who live with you?

☐ No income

47) Which of these did you receive in the last 6 months? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Wages

- ☐ Wages/Stipend/salary from a job

Financial Assistance

- ☐ None of these
☐ SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
☐ SSDI (Social Security Disability Income)
☐ AFDC/TANF (Aid to Families with Dependent Children/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)
☐ Child Support/Alimony
☐ Unemployment payments/benefits
☐ Food Stamps

Housing Assistance

- ☐ None of these
☐ Section 8
☐ Housing Choice Voucher
☐ Veteran's Housing
☐ Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

48) During the LAST YEAR, were you unable to get services for any of the following reasons?

(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

	YES	NO
A) No transportation to appointment		
B) No childcare		
C) Services in your language		
D) Trust/Privacy/confidentiality issues		
E) Fear of disclosing my status		
F) Discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity		
G) Incarceration		
H) Inconvenient appointment times		
I) Poor treatment by staff		
J) I forgot about my appointment		

49) Where do you get information about HIV ?

(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Doctor or nurse | <input type="radio"/> Billboard or poster |
| <input type="radio"/> Case manager | <input type="radio"/> Faith-based group |
| <input type="radio"/> Health educator or out-reach | <input type="radio"/> Mobile app |
| <input type="radio"/> HIV group or program | <input type="radio"/> Social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> Brochure | <input type="radio"/> Other (specify: _____) |
| <input type="radio"/> Friends or family | |
| <input type="radio"/> Partner/significant other/spouse | |
| <input type="radio"/> TV/Internet/Radio | |

50) Did someone ever explain the following things to you?

(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ How to prevent transmission of HIV
- ☐ How to use condoms
- ☐ The importance of going to all your doctor visits
- ☐ How viral load is linked to preventing the spread of HIV
- ☐ How to talk to partners about condoms
- ☐ How to disclose status
- ☐ Legal issues of HIV, criminalization
- ☐ How to protect HIV-negative partners with PrEP
- ☐ The importance of taking your medication

THE END! Please tell us about any final comments here or on the back of the page. Thank you for completing this survey!