



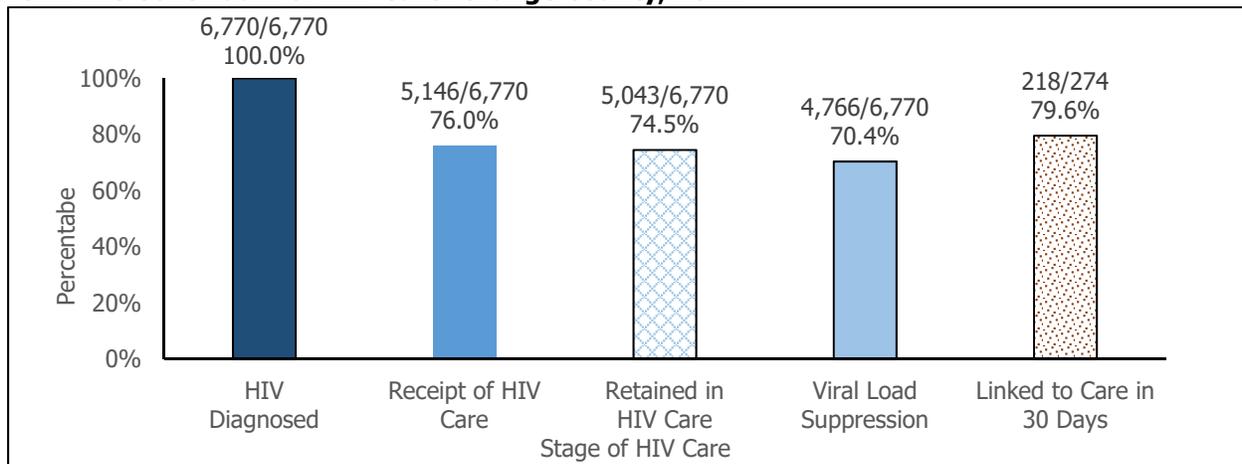
The Continuum of HIV Care in Orange County – 2021

Introduction

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analysis¹ indicates that only 57% of the estimated 1.2 million Americans living with HIV are virally suppressed. The Continuum of Care provides a visual “cascade” of people living with HIV (PLWH). In 2019, the CDC² released updated guidance for a diagnosis-based HIV Care Continuum based on the percentage of the number of people age 13 years and older diagnosed with HIV. The key changes included adding a “Receipt of HIV Care” stage and updating the Linkage to Care timeframe from 90 days to 30 days. In Orange County, the updated stages of the continuum include:

1. **Diagnosed with HIV:** This is the percent of the total number of people living with HIV age 13 years and over who are aware of their status;
2. **Receipt of HIV care:** This is the percent of persons age 13 years and over diagnosed with HIV who had at least one (1) medical care visit (as indicated by having at least one viral load and/or CD4 count blood test) during 2021;
3. **Retained in HIV care:** This is the percent of persons age 13 years and over diagnosed with HIV, whose most current address was in Orange County as of December 31, 2021 and had at least two (2) CD4 or viral load results with at least three (3) months in-between the first and last result. For persons diagnosed prior to 2021, the two results occurred in 2020 and/or 2021. For persons diagnosed in 2021, the results occurred between January 2021 and February 2022;
4. **HIV Viral Load Suppression:** This is the percent of persons age 13 years and over diagnosed with HIV with a viral load test result of less than 200 copies/mL at the most recent viral load test during 2021;
5. **Linked to Care in 30 Days:** This is the percent of persons age 13 years and over newly diagnosed with HIV in 2021 who had one (1) or more medical care visits (as indicated by having at least one (1) viral load and/or CD4 count blood test) within 30 days of their diagnosis.

Figure 1: The Continuum of HIV Care: Orange County, 2021



- Of the 6,770³ diagnosed persons age 13 years and over living with HIV in Orange County in 2021:
 - 5,146 (76.0%) received HIV care.
 - 5,043 (74.5%) were retained in HIV care.
 - 4,766 (70.4%) achieved viral suppression.
- Of the 274 persons age 13 years and over newly diagnosed with HIV in 2021:
 - 218 (79.6%) were linked to care in 30 days.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Estimated HIV incidence and prevalence in the United States, 2014–2018. HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;25(No. 1). Published May 2021. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html>.

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). *Understanding the HIV Care Continuum*. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/factsheets/cdc-hiv-care-continuum.pdf>.

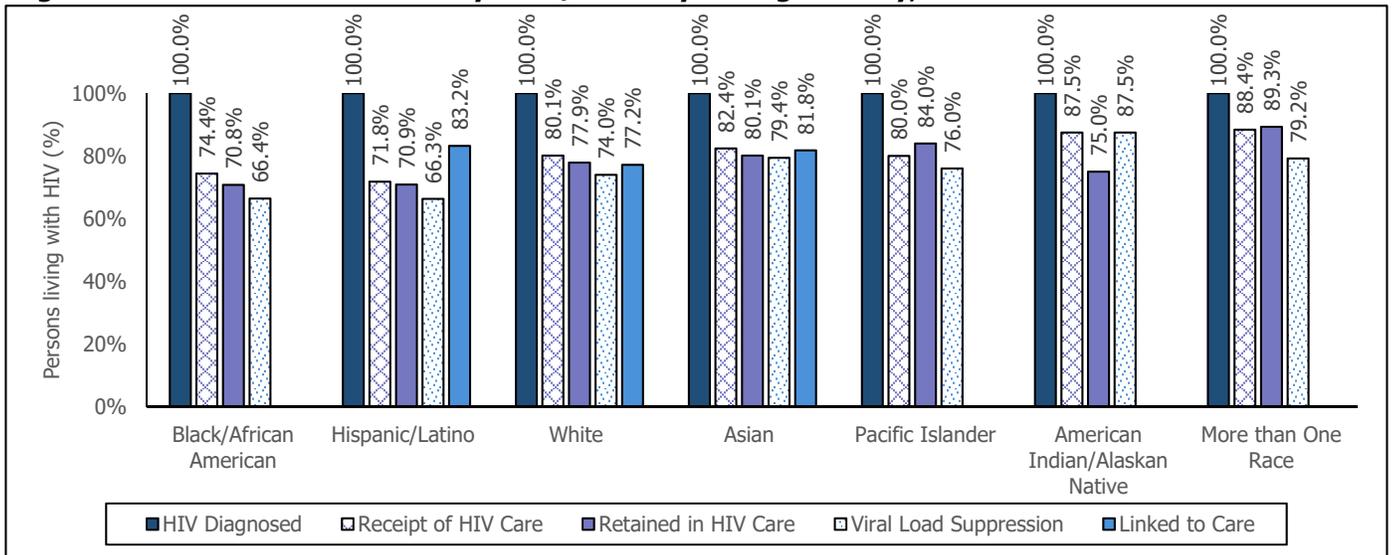
³ The total number of individuals diagnosed presented in the Continuum of HIV Care document differs from the HIV Fact Sheet as the total diagnosed on the Continuum of HIV Care document only includes individuals diagnosed age 13 years and older in accordance with current CDC guidance. The HIV Fact Sheet includes all persons diagnosed with HIV (all ages).

2021 Highlights

- Of the 6,770 diagnosed Orange County residents age 13 years and over living with HIV, 70.4% had achieved viral suppression (Figure 1).
- Hispanics have the lowest percentages of receiving care (71.8%) and being virally suppressed (66.3%), Blacks have the lowest percentage of being retained in care (70.8%), and Whites have the lowest percentage of being linked to care (77.2%) (Figure 2). Percentages for Pacific Islanders, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives are based on a small number of PLWH and should be compared with caution.
- Persons age 56 years and over have the lowest percentages of receiving care (74.0%) and being linked to care (65.5%), while persons age 19-25 years have the lowest percentages of being retained in care (71.4%) and being virally suppressed (67.4%) (Figure 3).
- Transgender individuals have the lowest percentages of receiving care (63.1%), being retained in care (66.7%), and being virally suppressed (54.1%), while females have the lowest percentage of being linked to care (70.4%) (Figure 4).
- Persons who inject drugs have the lowest percentages of receiving care (62.8%), being retained in care (58.1%), being virally suppressed (55.1%), and being linked to care in (65.0%) (Figure 5).

The figures below provide an overview of Orange County data.

Figure 2: Continuum of HIV Care by Race/Ethnicity: Orange County, 2021



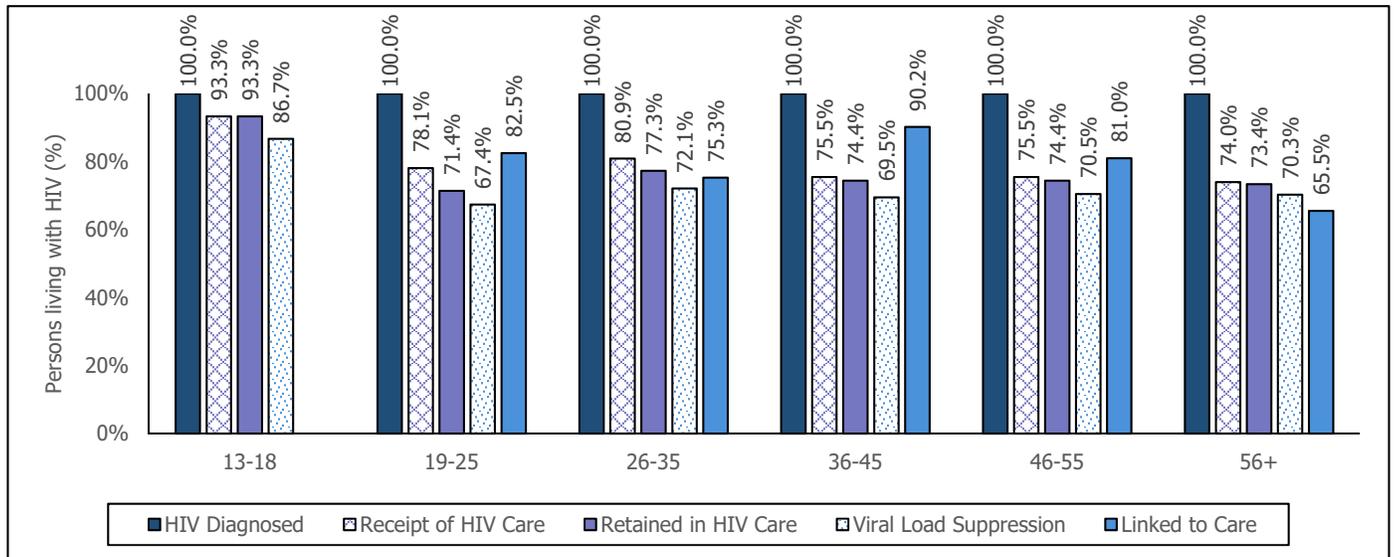
There were fewer than 10 Black, Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and persons of more than one race diagnosed in 2021. Thus, Linkage to Care data for these ethnic groups are not included in the figure.

Race/Ethnicity

- Hispanics have the lowest percentages of receiving care (71.8%) and being virally suppressed (66.3%), Blacks have the lowest percentage of being retained in care (70.8%), and Whites have the lowest percentage of being linked to care (77.2%).
- Persons of more than one race have the highest percentage of receiving care (88.4%) and being retained in care (89.3%), American Indian/Alaskan Natives have the highest percentage of viral suppression (87.5%), and Hispanics have the highest percentage of being linked to care (83.2%).
- Percentages for Pacific Islanders, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives are based on a small number of PLWH and should be compared with caution.

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Figure 3: Continuum of HIV Care by Age Group – Orange County, 2021

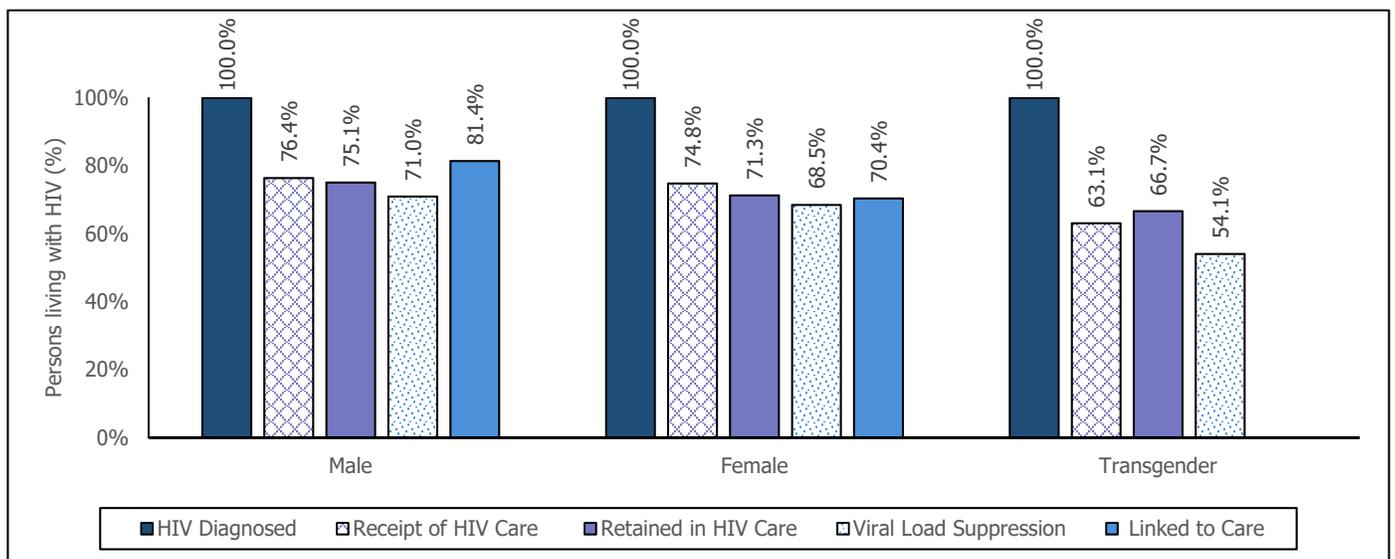


There were fewer than 10 persons age 13-18 diagnosed in 2021. Thus, Linkage to Care data for this age group is not included in the figure.

Age Group

- Persons age 56 years and over have the lowest percentages of receiving care (74.0%) and being linked to care (65.5%), while persons age 19-25 years have the lowest percentages of being retained in care (71.4%) and being virally suppressed (67.4%).
- Persons age 13-18 years have the highest percentages of receiving care (93.3%), being retained in care (93.3%), and being virally suppressed (86.7%), while persons age 36-45 years have the highest percentage of being linked to care (90.2%).

Figure 4: Continuum of HIV Care by Gender – Orange County, 2021



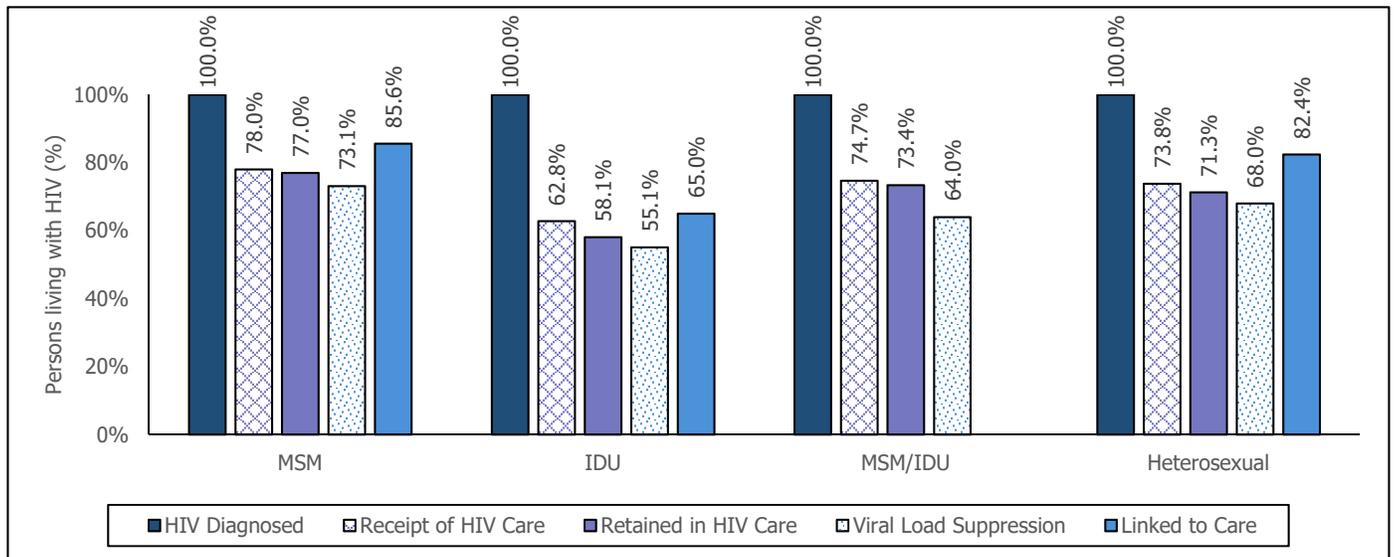
There were fewer than 10 transgender individuals diagnosed in 2021. Thus, Linkage to Care data for this gender is not included in the figure.

Gender

- Transgender individuals have the lowest percentages of receiving care (63.1%), being retained in care (66.7%), and being virally suppressed (54.1%), while females have the lowest percentage of being linked to care (70.4%).
- Males have the highest percentages of receiving care (76.4%), being retained in care (75.1%), being virally suppressed (71.0%), and being linked to care (81.4%).

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Figure 5: Continuum of HIV Care by Risk Group – Orange County, 2021



Note: MSM=men who have sex with men. IDU=injection drug users. There were fewer than 10 MSM/IDU diagnosed in 2021. Thus, Linkage to Care data for this risk group is not included in the figure. Does not include people infected as children, infected through a blood transfusion, are hemophiliacs, or are of unknown transmission source.

Risk Group

- Persons who inject drugs have the lowest percentages of receiving care (62.8%), being retained in care (58.1%), being virally suppressed (55.1%), and being linked to care (65.0%).
- MSM have the highest percentages of receiving care (78.0%), being retained in care (77.0%), being virally suppressed (73.1%), and being linked to care (85.6%).

Closing the Gaps

HIV testing is a critical step in HIV prevention and is the only way to identify Orange County residents with HIV who do not know they are infected (12.3% of the number of persons living with HIV do not know they are infected).

In addition, ensuring that people have access to care, stay in care, and remain on antiretroviral treatment will increase the percentage of HIV-infected individuals who achieve and maintain viral suppression, which is important for improving their health and for preventing HIV transmission.

To reduce the impact of HIV in Orange County, improvements are needed at each stage of the Continuum of HIV Care, with particular efforts aimed to reduce disparities by race, age, gender, and risk group.

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Data Sources, Methods, and Additional Resources

Data Sources

- The data were extracted from the Orange County HIV Case Registry, reported as of January 2022.
- The estimated percentage of persons living with undiagnosed HIV is based on data obtained from the CDC HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report.⁴

Definitions

- Persons living and diagnosed with HIV were defined as current Orange County residents diagnosed with HIV by December 31, 2021 who had their case reported to the Orange County HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Monitoring Program by January 31, 2022.

Additional Resources

- Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019: <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2018-updated-vol-32.pdf>
- National HIV/AIDS Strategy: <https://hivgov-prod-v3.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/NHAS-2022-2025.pdf>
- California's Office of AIDS Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Plan, Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero: California's Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Plan, California Department of Public Health, Center for Infectious Diseases, Office of AIDS, September 2016.: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/GTZ%20Baseline%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

Acknowledgements

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⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Estimated HIV incidence and prevalence in the United States, 2014–2018. HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;25(No. 1). Published May 2021. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html>.