



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Ryan White Boston EMA Planning Council

Planning Council Meeting, September 7, 2017

Question	Answer
Can we set up recycling here-plastic H2O bottles, etc?	PCS has reached out to the operations team at the Old South Church and recycling bins will be available at each meeting. In addition, plastic Ziploc bags will be provided to reduce the amount of food that is wasted and members can take food home.
Is there information on Opioid deaths and HIV? Can this data be run at state labs?	To be determined.
I don't understand the definition of "retained in care, prescribed ART, and virally suppressed"-how can % /abs # of virally suppressed be more than retained in care?"	<p>Each stage in the Care Continuum presented on 9/7 has the same denominator: the total known number of people living with HIV in the EMA. The estimates are based on data gathered from e2Boston and a report by John Snow Inc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Retained in the care” is the reported number of diagnosed people living with HIV who at least one reported medical care visit in the six months leading up their service with a Ryan White funded agency. This is directly measured in e2Boston. • “Prescribed ART” is the estimate of diagnosed PLWH have an active prescription for HIV medication. This is not measured in e2Boston, but estimated from a report by JSI. • “Virally suppressed” is the reported number of diagnosed PLWH whose viral load count was most recently measured as less than 75 copies of HIV viral per milliliter of blood. This is directly measured in e2Boston. <p>With changes in how PLWH obtain medication and frequent medical care, it’s entirely possible to count as having seen a medical provider maintain viral suppression. If only PLWH retained in medical care could be counted as virally suppressed, we would underestimate the number of people who are virally suppressed.</p>



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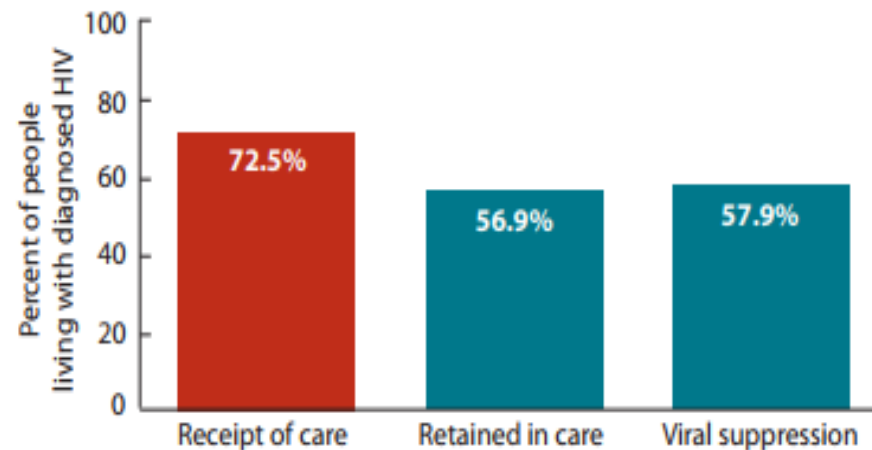
Who defined the EMA and gave it its name?

“The boundaries of EMAs...are based on the U.S. Census designation of Metropolitan Statistical Areas and may span more than one state. To qualify for EMA status, an area must have reported at least 2,000 AIDS cases in the most recent five years and have a population of at least 50,000.”

– HRSA HIV AIDS Bureau Website¹

Please show or summarize how Boston EMA compares to U.S in terms of the care continuum and vs. other similar EMA's. Help members understand even with our challenges the Boston EMA also has high success to help encourage hope.

The Boston EMA and the national Ryan White Program compares very favorably to the national population of people living with HIV. In the EMA, almost 30% more clients are virally suppressed than nationally among diagnosed PLWH.² The Care Continuums look different because many care continuums are measured in different ways that depend on the data available. The Boston EMA measure of “Retained in Care” is closest to how the CDC measures “Receipt of Care”, which looks at the client receiving one or more medical visit.



¹ Part A: Grants to Eligible Metropolitan and Transitional Areas, <https://hab.hrsa.gov/about-ryan-white-hiv-aids-program/part-a-grants-emerging-metro-transitional-areas>

² CDC HIV Care Continuum Factsheet, <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/factsheets/cdc-hiv-care-continuum.pdf>



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAM	Assessment of Administrative Mechanism	SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Resources Administration
ACA	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	TA	Technical Assistance
ADAP/HDAP	AIDS Drug Assistance Program/HIV Drug Assistance Program	TGA	Transitional Grant Area
BPHC	Boston Public Health Commission		
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention		
EIIHA	Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS		
EIS	Early Intervention Services		
EMA	Eligible Metropolitan Area		
FY	Fiscal Year		
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration		
IDB	Infectious Disease Bureau		
MA	Massachusetts		
MAI	Minority AIDS Initiative		
MCM	Medical Case Management		
MDPH	Massachusetts Department of Public Health		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men		
NH	New Hampshire		
NHAS	National HIV/AIDS Strategy		
NHDHHS	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services		
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS		
PCS	Planning Council Support		
PO	Purchasing Order		
RFP	Request for Proposals		
RWHAP	Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program		
RWSD	Ryan White Services Division-BPHC		
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Resources Administration		