

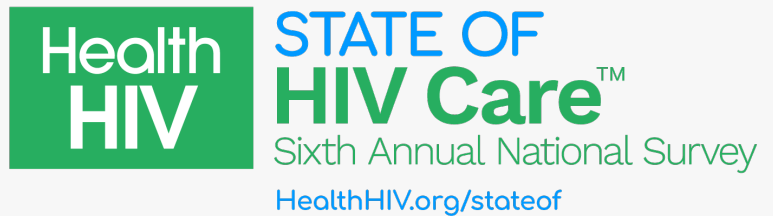
# Workforce Shortages, Behavioral Health Service Gaps and Treatment Access Barriers Reflect Current State of HIV Care

*HealthHIV's State of HIV Care™ Sixth Annual National Survey report findings released in advance of World AIDS Day, Sunday, December 1, 2024*

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shortages driven by burnout and inadequate pay are creating behavioral health service gaps, while limited patient access to innovative treatments continues to challenge the state of HIV care, according to HealthHIV's State of HIV Care™ Sixth Annual National Survey. The survey of HIV



care and service providers highlights national trends, showing a workforce facing significant obstacles in delivering effective HIV care due to systemic inequities and ongoing financial constraints, which hinder equitable access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment.



Our healthcare providers face immense pressure and significant stressors in this changing landscape, at the same time that we see remarkable advancements in HIV prevention and treatment."

*Brian Hujdich, HealthHIV  
Executive Director*

Key findings include:

□ Workforce Shortages, Inadequate Compensation, and Provider Burnout Create Challenges to Quality HIV Care: Providers report that workforce shortages, inadequate compensation, and burnout are the primary barriers to quality care, underscoring an urgent need for increased

funding and staffing support.

□ Providers Request Training on New Treatments and Health Equity: Clinicians and service providers emphasize the need for training in innovative HIV treatments, such as long-acting injectables, as well as guidance on addressing health disparities and navigating funding challenges. These areas are vital for improving care delivery and addressing systemic inequities.

□ Lack of Essential Behavioral Health Services Driving Gaps and Undermining Care for People



treatment innovation, as evidenced by widespread adoption of long-acting injectables, reflects the rapid advancements in HIV care and growing provider enthusiasm for novel strategies. At the same time, participants highlighted the ongoing need to combat stigma and dismantle barriers to care that disproportionately impact marginalized groups.

These dynamics are mirrored in how respondents describe the current State of HIV Care: 'improving' prominently stands at the center, encapsulating advancements in treatment and support. Other terms like 'evolving,' 'progressing,' 'lacking,' and 'hopeful,' paint a nuanced picture of persistent challenges, opportunities for growth, and a shared optimism about the future.

## About the Survey

The survey gathered insights from 966 healthcare professionals across 46 states, who work in Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Community Health Centers, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Clinics, and Health Departments. Clinical respondents included Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, Pharmacists, Licensed Practical Nurses, Mental Health Professionals, Nurse Managers, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Physician Associates, Medical Assistants, Dentists, Mental Health Case Managers, Dietitians/Nutritionists, Endocrinologists, and Occupational Therapists, who work in clinical specialties, such as HIV medicine, infectious disease, and family medicine. Non-clinical respondents included Administrators, Case Managers/Medical Case managers, Community Health Workers, Health Education Specialists, Outreach Workers, Advocates, Non-Clinical Social Workers, Health Navigators, Disease Intervention Specialists, Researchers, Harm Reductionists/Risk Reductionists, Medical Billing Professionals, Mental Health Professionals, Substance Use Counselors/Professionals, Clergy/Faith-Based Professionals, and Students.

Survey questions were developed using the HIV Care Continuum, a status-neutral framework that outlines the stages of HIV care. "By framing the survey around this continuum, this ensures a comprehensive understanding of the interconnected nature of prevention and care in addressing HIV," states HealthHIV Associate Director of Health Services Research and Evaluation Sarah Brodt. "HealthHIV developed the survey to identify the barriers HIV care providers encounter in delivering care, gather their perspectives on existing resources, and understand their experiences in achieving patient outcomes in 2024."

Insights from the survey will inform the creation of vital education and training materials for the HIV care workforce, as well as advocacy and research priorities for the coming year.

## About the Report

To access the full HealthHIV State of HIV Care™ Sixth Annual National Survey report, [please visit HealthHIV.org/stateof/hivcare](https://HealthHIV.org/stateof/hivcare).

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