

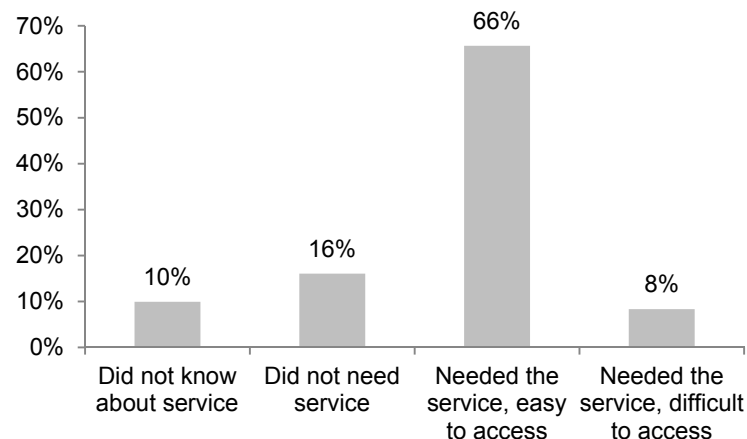
## LOCAL HIV MEDICATION ASSISTANCE

*Local HIV medication assistance*, technically referred to as the *Local Pharmacy Assistance Program (LPAP)*, provides HIV-related pharmaceuticals to persons living with HIV (PLWH) who are not eligible for medications through other payer sources, including the state AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

(**Graph 1**) In the 2016 Houston HIV Care Services Needs Assessment, 74% of participants indicated a need for *local HIV medication assistance* in the past 12 months. 66% reported the service was easy to access, and 8% reported difficulty. 10% stated that they did not know the service was available.

(**Table 1**) When barriers to *local HIV medication assistance* were reported, the most common barrier type was related to health insurance coverage (24%). Health insurance-related barriers reported include having coverage gaps and being uninsured.

**GRAPH 1-Local HIV Medication Assistance, 2016**



**TABLE 1-Top 5 Reported Barrier Types for Local HIV Medication Assistance, 2016**

	No.	%
1. Health Insurance Coverage (I)	8	24%
2. Administrative (AD)	4	12%
3. Education and Awareness (EA)	3	9%
4. Eligibility (EL)	3	9%
5. Financial (F)	3	9%

(**Table 2 and Table 3**) Need and access to services can be analyzed for needs assessment participants according to demographic and other characteristics, revealing the presence of any potential disparities in access to services. For *local HIV medication assistance*, this analysis shows the following:

- More females than males found the service accessible.
- More other/multiracial PLWH than other race/ethnicities found the service accessible.
- More PLWH age 18 to 24 found the service accessible than other age groups.
- In addition, rural and recently released PLWH found the service difficult to access when compared to all participants.

**TABLE 2-Local HIV Medication Assistance, by Demographic Categories, 2016**

Experience with the Service	Sex		Race/ethnicity				Age		
	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	18-24	25-49	50+
Did not know about service	10%	9%	7%	12%	9%	0%	5%	11%	8%
Did not need service	18%	11%	16%	17%	11%	53%	14%	14%	20%
Needed, easy to access	65%	68%	71%	62%	73%	33%	76%	66%	64%
Needed, difficult to access	7%	11%	7%	9%	7%	13%	5%	8%	8%

**TABLE 3-Local HIV Medication Assistance, by Selected Special Populations, 2016**

Experience with the Service	Unstably Housed <sup>a</sup>	MSM <sup>b</sup>	Out of Care <sup>c</sup>	Recently Released <sup>d</sup>	Rural <sup>e</sup>	Transgender <sup>f</sup>
Did not know about service	12%	8%	100%	13%	0%	14%
Did not need service	19%	18%	0%	3%	12%	14%
Needed, easy to access	61%	67%	0%	74%	73%	71%
Needed, difficult to access	8%	8%	0%	11%	15%	0%

<sup>a</sup>Persons reporting housing instability <sup>b</sup>Men who have sex with men <sup>c</sup>Persons with no evidence of HIV care for 12 mo.

<sup>d</sup>Persons released from incarceration in the past 12 mo. <sup>e</sup>Non-Houston/Harris County residents <sup>f</sup>Persons with discordant sex assigned at birth and current gender