

PRIMARY HIV MEDICAL CARE

Primary HIV medical care, technically referred to as *outpatient/ambulatory medical care*, refers to the diagnostic and therapeutic services provided to persons living with HIV (PLWH) by a physician or physician extender in an outpatient setting. This includes physical examinations, diagnosis and treatment of common physical and mental health conditions, preventative care, education, laboratory services, and specialty services as indicated.

(**Graph 1**) In the 2016 Houston HIV Care Services Needs Assessment, 94% of participants indicated a need for *primary HIV medical care* in the past 12 months. 84% reported the service was easy to access, and 10% reported difficulty. 5% stated that they did not know the service was available.

(**Table 1**) When barriers to *primary HIV medical care* were reported, the most common barrier type was administrative (19%). Administrative barriers reported include complex processes, staff, hours of operation, understaffing, and service changes without client notification.

GRAPH 1-Primary HIV Medical Care, 2016

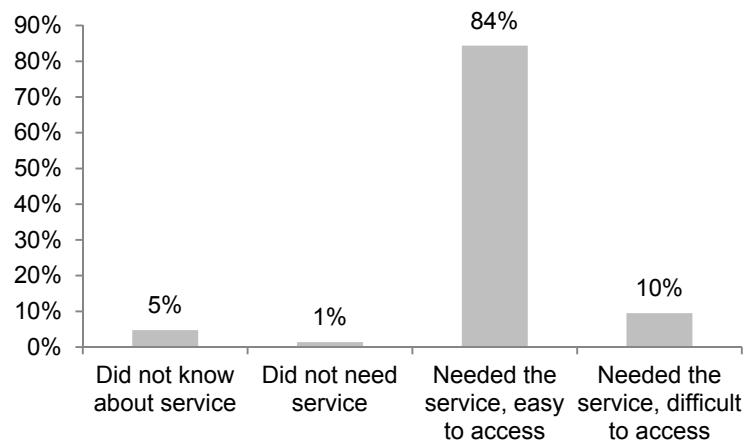


TABLE 1-Top 5 Reported Barrier Types for Primary HIV Medical Care, 2016

	No.	%
1. Administrative (AD)	8	19%
2. Interactions with Staff (S)	6	14%
3. Transportation (T)	6	14%
4. Wait (W)	6	14%
5. Education and Awareness (EA)	4	10%

(**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 *primary HIV medical care*, this analysis shows the following:

- More females than males found the service accessible.
- More other/multiracial PLWH and whites found the service accessible than other race/ethnicities.
- More PLWH age 50+ found the service accessible than other age groups.
- In addition, more out of care, rural, transgender, recently released, and unstably housed PLWH found the service difficult to access when compared to all participants.

TABLE 2-Primary HIV Medical Care, 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	5%	3%	5%	4%	6%	0%	0%	6%	4%
Did not need service	1%	2%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Needed, easy to access	84%	86%	83%	85%	85%	87%	83%	83%	86%
Needed, difficult to access	10%	9%	12%	9%	8%	13%	17%	10%	9%

TABLE 3-Primary HIV Medical Care, by Selected Special Populations, 2016

Experience with the Service	Unstably Housed ^a	MSM ^b	Out of Care ^c	Recently Released ^d	Rural ^e	Transgender ^f
Did not know about service	7%	4%	0%	11%	0%	14%
Did not need service	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Needed, easy to access	81%	85%	67%	79%	79%	73%
Needed, difficult to access	12%	10%	33%	11%	21%	14%

^aPersons reporting housing instability ^bMen who have sex with men ^cPersons with no evidence of HIV care for 12 mo.

^dPersons released from incarceration in the past 12 mo. ^eNon-Houston/Harris County residents ^fPersons with discordant sex assigned at birth and current gender