

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).

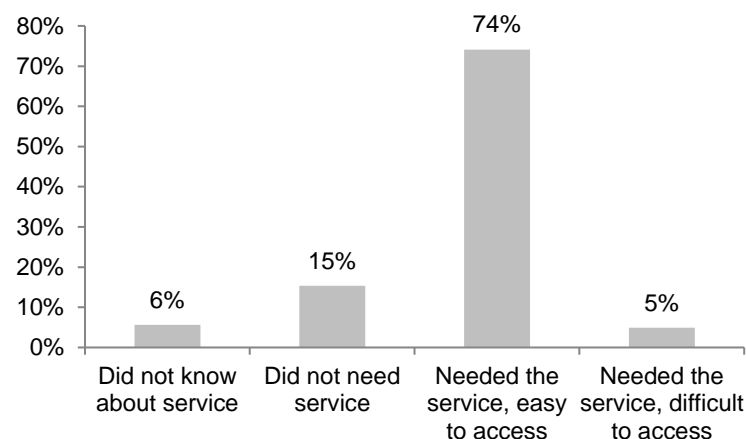
(**Graph 1**) In the 2020 Houston HIV Care Services Needs Assessment, 79% of participants indicated a need for *local HIV medication assistance* in the past 12 months. 74% reported the service was easy to access, and 5% reported difficulty. 6% stated that they did not know the service was available.

(**Table 1**) When barriers to *local HIV medication assistance* were reported, the most common barrier type was eligibility (25%). Eligibility barriers reported include redundant or complex processes for meeting/renewing eligibility, problems obtaining documentation needed for eligibility and not meeting eligibility requirements.

TABLE 1-Top 5 Reported Barrier Types for Local HIV Medication Assistance, 2020

| | No. | % |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Eligibility (EL) | 7 | 25% |
| 2. Administrative (AD) | 4 | 14% |
| 3. Education and Awareness (EA) | 4 | 14% |
| 4. Health Insurance Coverage (I) | 4 | 14% |
| 5. Interactions with Staff (S) | 3 | 11% |

GRAPH 1-Local HIV Medication Assistance, 2020



(**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 males than females found the service accessible.
- More White PLWH than other race/ethnicities found the service accessible.
- More PLWH age 50+ found the service accessible than other age groups.
- In addition, homeless, MSM, rural, and transgender PLWH found the service difficult to access when compared to all participants.

TABLE 2-Local HIV Medication Assistance, by Demographic Categories, 2020

| Experience with the Service | Sex (at birth) | | Race/ethnicity | | | | Age | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | Male | Female | White | Black | Hispanic | Other | 18-24 | 25-49 | 50+ |
| Did not know about service | 7% | 2% | 1% | 5% | 7% | 8% | 0% | 6% | 6% |
| Did not need service | 16% | 12% | 29% | 17% | 10% | 4% | 14% | 15% | 16% |
| Needed, easy to access | 73% | 79% | 69% | 72% | 76% | 88% | 81% | 73% | 75% |
| Needed, difficult to access | 4% | 7% | 1% | 5% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 3% |

TABLE 3-Local HIV Medication Assistance, by Selected Special Populations, 2020

| Experience with the Service | Homeless ^a | MSM ^b | Out of Care ^c | Recently Released ^d | Rural ^e | Transgender ^f |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Did not know about service | 11% | 6% | 10% | 6% | 6% | 8% |
| Did not need service | 15% | 17% | 20% | 8% | 17% | 46% |
| Needed, easy to access | 68% | 71% | 70% | 83% | 71% | 42% |
| Needed, difficult to access | 6% | 6% | 0% | 3% | 6% | 4% |

^aPersons reporting current homelessness ^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