

# UTAH FACT SHEET

## HIV Continuum of Care, 2015

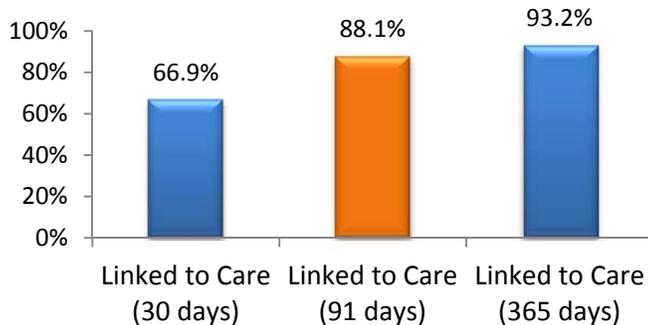


### Linkage to Care

Monitoring the time it takes to link an individual newly diagnosed with HIV to HIV treatment and care is essential to ensure that individual achieves viral suppression.

In 2015, Utah's linkage to care efforts have been successful but still require improvement (Figure 1). Of the newly diagnosed persons with HIV, 66.9% were linked to care within 1 month after their diagnosis. By 3 months, over 88% were linked to care. The current standard for appropriate care linkage is 3 months. Utah is doing very well according to these data. Unfortunately, only 93.2% of all the newly diagnosed persons with HIV were eventually linked to care within a year.

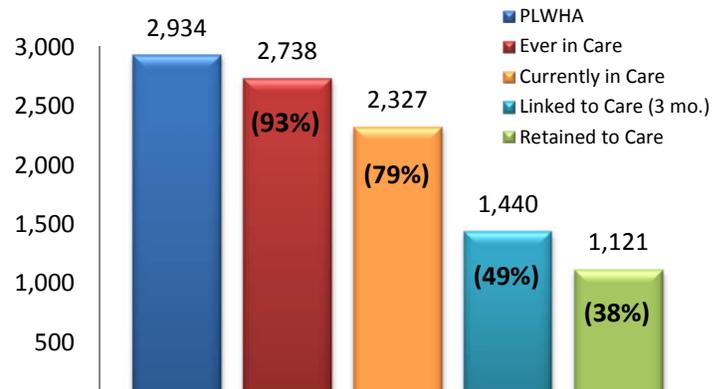
**Figure 1: Percentage of Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases who were Linked to Care, Utah, 2015**



### Continuum of Care

In 2015, the HIV Continuum of Care revealed some successes and some challenges facing HIV prevention and care efforts in the state of Utah (Figure 2). Of the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Utah by the end of 2015, only 7% have never entered care and 79% of them were considered to be currently receiving or in care. Of the PLWHA, only 49% were linked to care within 3 months of their diagnosis. Retention to care is another measure that shows how many PLWHA are having HIV laboratory testing done in a year to monitor their health. Only 38% of those living with HIV had more than one medical visit in 2015. This may be an indication of retention to HIV care or simply how often medical providers are running HIV tests.

**Figure 2: HIV Continuum of Care, Utah, 2015**



### Viral Suppression

Over the past few years, recent research and publications have shown that reducing the viral load of a person infected with HIV will greatly reduce the chances of transmission to another person. The current efforts focused on linkage and retention to HIV medical care all continue to focus on a primary outcome, viral suppression. In 2015, PLWHA in Utah who were considered "In-Care" were in the majority at almost 80%. However, of those who were in care, only 58% were virally suppressed (Figure 3).

While 58% was surprisingly low, a large majority of those who were in care did not have a viral load result reported to public health. When reevaluating those who were virally suppressed when a test result was reported, 79% were found to have achieved viral suppression.

**Figure 3: Viral Suppression among HIV-positive individuals who had a Viral Load Reported, Utah, 2015**

