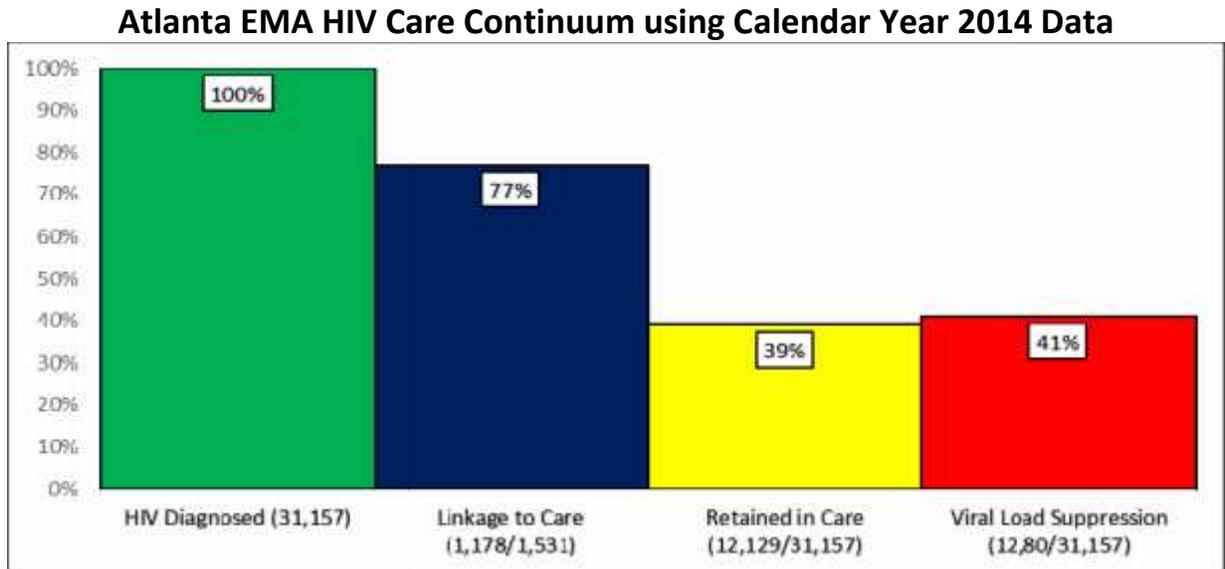


## HIV Care Continuum

The HIV Care Continuum is a model which shows the stages of medical care that people living with HIV go through from the time they find out they have the disease to receiving optimal treatment including antiretroviral therapy (ART) and viral suppression. The continuum shows the proportion of persons living with HIV who are engaged at each stage. The stages are: 1) Diagnosed with HIV infection; 2) Linked to Care (meaning they visited a health care provider within three months after learning they were HIV positive); 3) Retained in Care (meaning they received medical care for HIV infection); 4) Prescribed ART (to control their HIV infection); and, 5: Virally Suppressed.

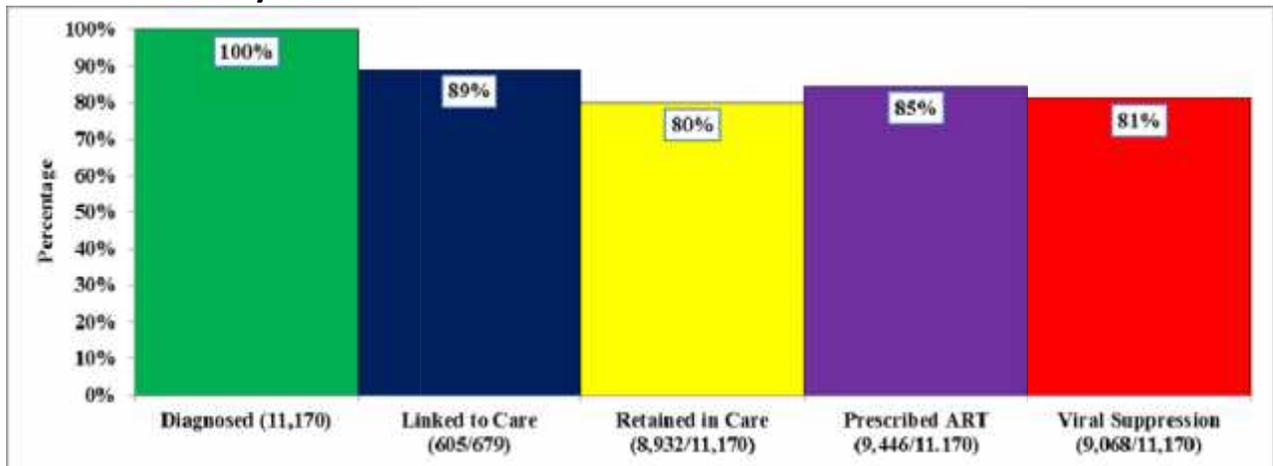
*The ultimate goal of HIV treatment is to achieve viral suppression, meaning the amount of HIV in the body is very low or undetectable. This is important for people with HIV to stay healthy, live longer and reduce their chances of passing HIV to others.*

The following graph illustrates the Atlanta EMA HIV Care Continuum for all persons living with HIV in the Atlanta EMA using 2014 data (the most currently available dataset). The number and percent of PLWH in the EMA prescribed antiretroviral therapy are unavailable.



The federal government has noted that individuals receiving HIV care through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) achieve higher viral suppression, in comparison to the national average of 30%. As indicated in the graph above, viral suppression among all residents of the Atlanta EMA was 41%. The following graph shows the HIV Care Continuum for clients served by the Ryan White Part A Program and shows viral suppression at 81.2% -- **more than 2.5 times the national average.**

## Atlanta Ryan White Part A Calendar Year 2014 HIV Care Continuum



### ➤ Resources

- <https://careacttarget.org/library/strengthening-and-improving-hiv-care-continuum-within-ryan-white-hiv-aids-program-rwhap-part>
- Engagement in Care: From Cascade to Continuum to Control, May 20, 2015, Michael Mugavero, MD, MHSc, National Center for Innovation in HIV Care  
<https://careacttarget.org/library/engagement-care-cascade-continuum-control>
- InfoGraphic: Understanding the Treatment Cascade, November 2012, Philadelphia Office of HIV Planning <https://careacttarget.org/library/infographic-understanding-treatment-cascade>
- <https://prezi.com/5oiumquuk5ui/care-cascade-for-smart-people/>
- Strengthening and Improving the HIV Care Continuum within Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part A Jurisdictions, December 4, 2015, HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau <https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/p8b6bnkdzq6/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>