



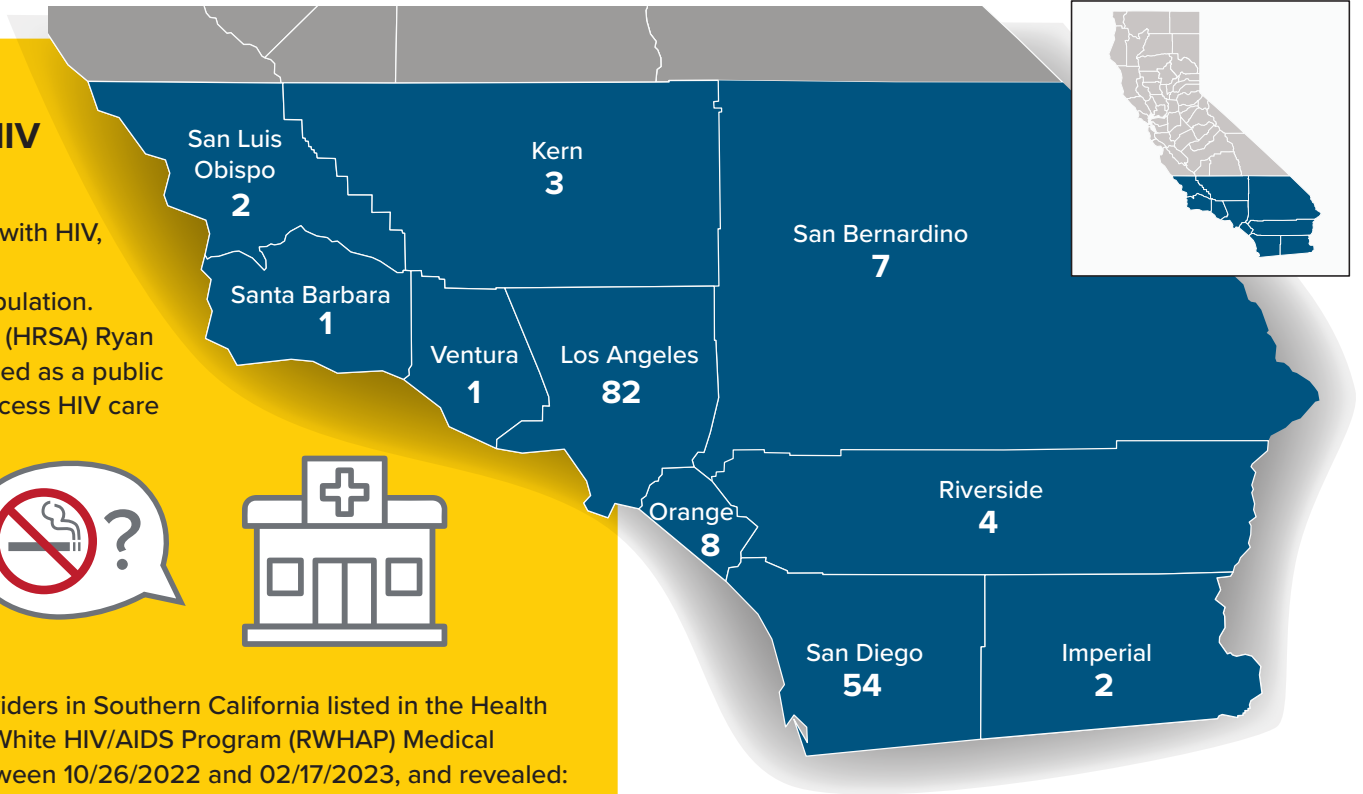
# People Living with HIV who Smoke Face Barriers to Accessing Smoking Cessation Services in Southern California HIV Safety Nets

**Smoking cessation should be considered as a high priority by HIV care and treatment providers.**

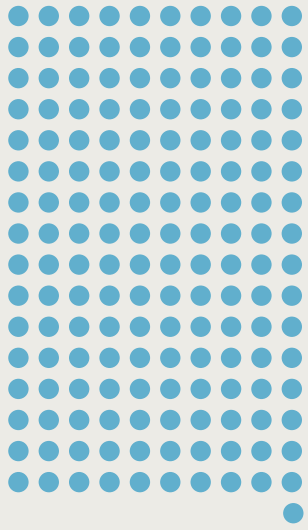
More than a million people in the U.S. are living with HIV, and an estimated 34–47% smoke cigarettes, at least two times higher than in the general population. Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) was developed as a public safety-net for people who could not afford to access HIV care and treatment.



Using a "secret shopper" methodology, 161 providers in Southern California listed in the Health Resources and Services Administration's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Medical Provider Locator were contacted via phone between 10/26/2022 and 02/17/2023, and revealed:

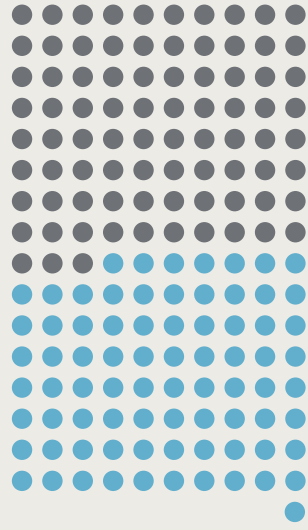


## TOTAL CALLS



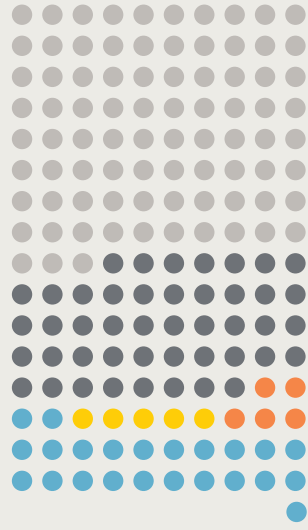
161 (100%) was the total number of Ryan White Funded clinics and CBOs contacted

## SURVEY RESPONSE



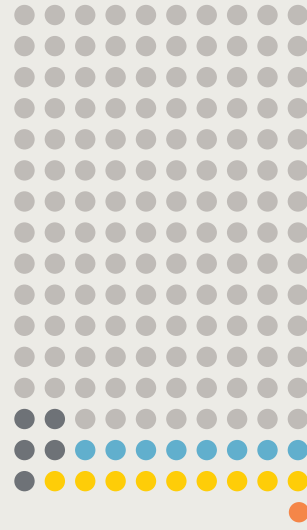
The response rate was moderate with **78 (48.4%)** of the 161 calls made answered.

## SMOKING CESSATION SERVICES OFFERED



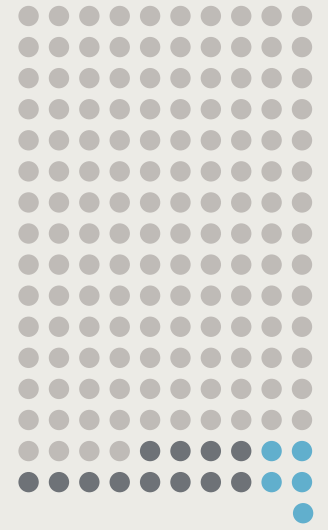
Of the 78 providers successfully contacted:  
● **45 (57.6%)** said they did not offer smoking cessation services or referrals  
● **5 (6.4%)** said they provide referrals for smoking cessation services  
● **5** did not know, and  
● **23 (29.5%)** offered smoking cessation services directly

## TYPE OF SMOKING CESSATION SERVICES OFFERED



Of the 23 providers offering smoking cessation services directly,  
● **5** offered only counseling  
● **8 (34.7%)** provided smoking cessation medications only,  
● **9 (39.1%)** provided both smoking cessation medications (e.g., varenicline) and behavioral counseling sessions, and  
● **1** provided a telehealth smoking cessation program

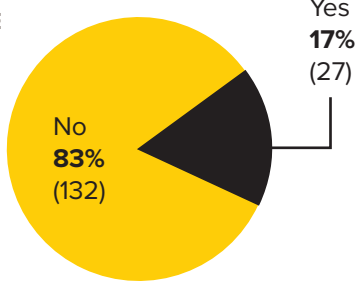
## ACCESS TO SMOKING CESSATION MEDICATIONS\*



Of the 17 providing smoking cessation medications,  
● **12** said the potential client would receive a prescription and  
● **5** said they would receive direct medication

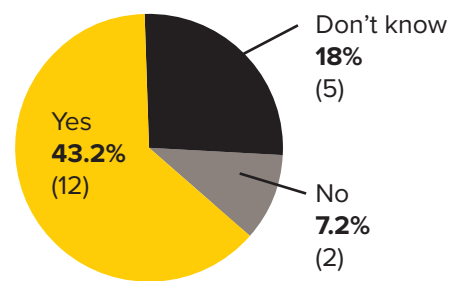
\*Nicotine Replacement, Varenicline, Bupropion

## DOES THE WEBSITE LIST ANY INFORMATION ABOUT SMOKING CESSATION?



Of the 161 RWHAP-funded HIV/AIDS care and treatment centers contacted, 159 had active websites. Most (83.0%) websites did not list any information about smoking cessation.

## ARE SMOKING CESSATION COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?



## WHO DELIVERS SMOKING CESSATION SERVICES?

- Substance use counselors
- Clinicians
- Mental health therapists

## CALL EXPERIENCE

### STRENGTHS ✓

- Contact information clear and accurate
- Generally friendly staff
- Short wait times
- Easy to find online

### WEAKNESSES ✗

- Overall, knowledge of cessation services offered was low
- Call system can be difficult to navigate
- Cessation information was hard to locate on many websites
- Many calls connected to those in charge of cessation/substance use programming all went to voicemail