



Engaging clients who are living with HIV and experiencing homelessness in a rural setting

NC-REACH (Rurally Engaging and Assisting Clients who are HIV-positive and Homeless) **CommWell Health, Inc., Dunn, North Carolina**

GEOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE

- Designated Medically Underserved Professional Shortage Area in a rural area¹
- Large, rural service area, approximately 6,574 sq. mi. (larger than Connecticut)

THE CHALLENGE

- North Carolina is among the top 15 states with the highest rate of HIV diagnoses per 100,000 people per year.¹
- Nearly 22% of state's population lives in rural counties, which accounts for 80% of the state.²

FOCUS POPULATION

People 18 years or older who are experiencing homelessness, living with HIV, and diagnosed with mental health and/or substance use disorders.

THE MODEL

- Intensive care coordination between medical care, behavioral health services, and housing assistance.
- Use of a network navigator and continuum of care coordinator for care coordination.
- Network navigators provide transportation to services.

PARTNERS and LINKAGES

Quarterly meetings with regional service providers, including housing partners, private landlords, people from faith-based communities, local detox centers, and representatives from Veterans Affairs, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and United Way.

IMPACTS

80 clients served, of which **53** graduated to standard of care services

Increased understanding of “hidden homelessness” in region and how to address the issue through community outreach, housing coalitions, behavioral health integration, and new community partnerships.

Learn more: <http://cahpp.org/project/medheart>

¹<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/geographicdistribution.html>

²Rural Health Information Hub. (2016). North Carolina. Retrieved from <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/states/north-carolina> Accessed 11/3/2016.

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