

Section 3: Comorbidity

The Reauthorized CARE Act of 2000 provides additional guidance on how HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau is to consider the severe-need factor in distributing Title I supplemental grant funds among Title I EMAs. The Manager's Statement, which accompanies the CARE Act Amendments of 2000, defines areas most in need of Title I funding as having "the greatest or expanding public health challenges in confronting the epidemic."

In setting service priorities and allocating CARE Act funding, Title I planning groups are required to consider epidemiologic data on comorbid conditions. They must especially consider how these conditions may increase the cost and complexity of delivering HIV/AIDS primary medical care and support services to PLWH in the EMA.

A useful epidemiologic profile provides information on HIV/AIDS prevalence among populations identified by a comorbid condition, such as STDs, hepatitis B or C, TB, substance use, or severe mental illness. It will also be important to provide information on increases or decreases in comorbid conditions among PLWH in the HIV/AIDS care system. When possible, match the cost of comorbidities with the HIV/AIDS population data to document the additional treatment costs.