

## Severity of Need: California Health Care Financing and Policy Research Initiative

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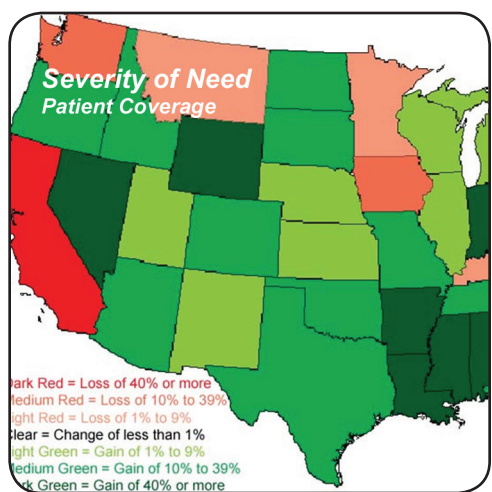
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### Project Description

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act (a reauthorization of the original Ryan White CARE Act) changed the formulas used to distribute funding to states and cities in the US. The case counts used to allocate the awards shifted from using only AIDS cases to using both HIV (non-AIDS) and AIDS cases. In addition, federal agencies have been charged with developing a Severity of Need Index, which eventually may be used in formula award allocations to weight HIV/AIDS case data by factors thought to impact the variable

cost of treatment around the nation. In this project, we have responsibility for developing models that simulate the distribution of formula awards in order to understand how changes to the Ryan White Program formulas impact funding nationwide—and, in particular, California and its cities.



### Significance

The Ryan White Program is a principal source of financial support for HIV/AIDS treatment and care in the US. Changes to the formulas can have significant effects on the distribution of services nationwide. Developing models to predict how changes affect states' and cities' funding levels is critical in determining the degree to which legislative proposals are responsive to national HIV/AIDS policy objectives and to the changing epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in the US.

### Interesting Findings

Recently, we have been examining potential outcomes that would occur under various legislative proposals to extend the current law.

- We have found that significant losses in funding could result
  - If cities and states were required to use the HIV cases counts currently reported through HIV names reporting systems
  - If hold harmless provisions, which restrict the amount by which funding can fall each year, were eliminated.

**Project Web Site:** [www.ari.ucsf.edu/programs/policy\\_reauthorization.aspx](http://www.ari.ucsf.edu/programs/policy_reauthorization.aspx)

**Project End Date:** June 2009