



HIV Care, Treatment and Retention Indicators

Indicator 29: Percentage change on client acuity scale for intake to reporting time	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acuity scales are used to measure the level of client service needs and the frequency at which support should be provided along the cascade of care and prevention. There are typically four levels of acuity management: intensive for high need clients, moderate, basic and self-management/no needs/minimal management. These acuity levels are determined based on the number of points scored in the initial acuity scale assessment.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employing the acuity scale support efficient and targeted use of resources (Boston Public Health Commission, 2014). Using the acuity scale should help to tailor services to client needs and adjust service provision as these needs change over time (Boston Public Health Commission, 2014).
Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients would be asked a series of questions to determine acuity level. Domains of questions tend to include the following: adherence to medical care and treatment, health status, health literacy, sexual/reproductive health promotion, mental health, alcohol and drug use, housing, legal, living situation/support systems, income/personal finance management, transportation, nutrition. Clients with more intensive needs receive higher scores.
Data source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey with clients of CBOs
Possible disaggregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients' gender, age, ethnicity, exposure group, etc.
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources and logistics with conducting survey with clients at multiple time points

References

1. Boston Public Health Commission & Massachusetts Department of Public Health (2014). HIV/AIDS Medical Case Management Acuity System: Acuity Toolkit. Retrieved from: <http://www.bphc.org/whatwedo/infectious-diseases/Ryan-White-HIV-AIDS-Services/Documents/Acuity%20Toolkit.pdf>

Click [here](#) to download a comprehensive list of indicators in the Indicators Technical Report.

