



## BRIEF FACTS ON AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND HIV IN ALABAMA

African Americans continue to be disproportionately affected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) epidemic when compared to other racial and ethnic groups. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, African Americans comprise 26.8% of Alabama's population. However, African Americans accounted for 71% of all newly diagnosed HIV cases in 2018 and 64% of all persons living with HIV to date.

Since 1982, approximately 22,000 cases of HIV infection among Alabama residents have been reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). African Americans account for 9,292 (63.8%) of all HIV cases (living and deceased) diagnosed in Alabama. As of December 31, 2018, 7,646 African American Alabama residents are living with diagnosed HIV infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 16.0% (or 1 in 6) of HIV positive Alabama residents are unaware of their infection, suggesting additional Alabama residents may be infected and *unaware* of their HIV positive status.

### Important Facts to Consider:

- African Americans (AAs) are 6.9 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-African Americans (Rate 26.8 to 3.9 per 100,000 AA versus non-AA Alabama residents, respectively).
- In African Americans, the majority (51%) of newly diagnosed HIV infections occur among men who have sex with men (MSM). The second most frequently reported mode of exposure is heterosexual contact (25%).
- Young African American males (AAM) 15 to 29 years old have been identified as a high-risk group for HIV infection; they are 11.0 times more likely to become infected with HIV than the average Alabama resident (Rate 110.0 to 9.9 per 100,000 AAM 15-29 years versus any Alabama resident, respectively). Although sex with another male (MSM) is the most commonly reported risk factor among young AAMs, many of these individuals do not identify as gay or bisexual and also report heterosexual sex with women.
- African American females (AAF) are approximately 9 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-AAFs residing in Alabama.
- Among the 67 counties in Alabama, the majority of newly diagnosed HIV cases among African Americans reside in Montgomery (N=67, Rate 31.4), Madison (N=29, Rate 8.03), Jefferson (N=35, Rate 5.31), and Mobile (N=48, Rate 11.60) Counties.

Without proper intervention, the rate of new infections among African Americans will continue to increase. Identification of young African American males (15-29 years) as a high risk target group should guide HIV intervention efforts ([http://adph.org/aids/assets/HIV\\_TrendsYoungAdults\\_R\\_2.pdf](http://adph.org/aids/assets/HIV_TrendsYoungAdults_R_2.pdf)). Effective HIV treatment and prevention programs must focus on these individuals to prevent future HIV infections. Statewide HIV treatment and prevention efforts should be launched to prevent future HIV infections.

Note: Data accessed using year end 2018 frozen data sets. 2018 data remain incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2019.



### Comparison of Newly Diagnosed and Prevalent HIV Infections among African Americans and Other Race/Ethnicities, Alabama 2018

Characteristic	African American				Any Other Race/Ethnicity				Total HIV Infections			
	Newly Diagnosed		Prevalent		Newly Diagnosed		Prevalent		Newly Diagnosed		Prevalent	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Gender</b>												
Male	191	79.6	5221	68.3	79	79.8	3083	80.5	270	79.6	8304	72.4
Female	49	20.4	2425	31.7	20	20.2	748	19.5	69	20.4	3173	27.6
<b>Age (Years)</b>												
<13	1	0.42	16	0.2	2	0.0	10	0.26	3	0.88	26	0.23
13-19	20	8.33	43	0.6	8	3.5	10	0.26	28	8.26	53	0.46
20-24	62	25.8	343	4.5	14	14.0	103	2.69	76	22.4	446	3.89
25-29	55	22.9	890	11.6	16	16.4	273	7.13	71	20.9	1163	10.1
30-39	51	21.3	1753	22.9	25	28.1	678	17.7	76	22.4	2431	21.2
40-49	21	8.75	1646	21.5	19	21.1	876	22.9	40	11.8	2522	22.0
≥50	30	12.5	2955	38.7	15	15.2	1881	49.1	45	13.3	4836	42.1
<b>Mode of Exposure</b>												
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	121	43.9	3111	40.7	50	50.5	2122	55.4	171	50.4	5233	45.6
Heterosexual Contact	67	29.1	2807	36.7	18	18.2	744	19.4	85	25.1	3551	30.9
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	3	1.25	348	4.5	6	6.06	239	6.24	9	2.65	587	5.11
MSM/IDU	1	0.42	152	2.0	4	4.04	178	4.65	5	1.47	330	2.88
Perinatal Exposure	0	0.0	52	0.7	1	1.01	18	0.47	2	0.59	70	0.61
Other/Unknown	47	19.6	2955	38.7	20	20.2	530	13.8	67	19.8	1706	14.9
<b>Public Health Districts (PHD)</b>												
West Central	5	2.08	515	6.74	1	1.01	228	5.95	6	1.77	743	6.47
Northeast	11	4.58	356	4.66	12	12.1	490	12.8	23	6.78	846	7.37
Southwest	16	6.67	428	5.60	8	8.08	239	6.24	24	7.08	667	5.81
Southeast	22	9.17	480	6.28	9	9.09	222	5.79	31	9.14	702	6.12
Jefferson	22	9.17	2162	28.3	13	13.1	997	26.0	35	10.3	3159	27.5
Northern	30	12.5	558	7.30	22	22.2	667	17.4	52	15.3	1225	10.7
Mobile	38	15.4	1224	16.0	10	10.1	418	10.9	48	14.2	1642	14.3
East Central	91	37.9	1923	25.2	22	22.2	570	14.8	113	33.3	2493	21.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7646</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3831</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11477</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STI/HIV Prevention and Control.

Note: Data accessed February 5, 2019. 2018 data remains incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2019. Case counts may increase slightly as cases are reported to ADPH. Females with undetermined mode of exposure reclassified as heterosexual contact. Prevalent cases include persons living with HIV in Alabama as of December 31, 2018. Newly diagnosed age represents age at diagnosis; prevalent age represents current age. Current residence was recently updated and reflects cases that migrated to other states/jurisdictions, accounting for the recent decrease in prevalent cases. Statewide total includes individuals with Unknown County of residence. Percentages may not sum 100% due to rounding.