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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% of Alabama's population. However, African Americans accounted for 71% of all newly diagnosed HIV cases in 2014 and 65% of all persons living with HIV as of December 31, 2015.

Since 1982, 19,677 cases of HIV infection among Alabama residents have been reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). African Americans account for 12,411 (63%) of all HIV cases (living and deceased) diagnosed in Alabama. As of December 31, 2015, 12,761 Alabama residents are living with diagnosed HIV infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 16.0% (or 1 in 6) HIV positive Alabama residents are unaware of their infection, suggesting an additional 2,321 Alabama residents may be infected and unaware of their HIV positive status.

Important Facts to Consider:

- African Americans (AAs) are 6.7 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-African Americans (Rate 37.6 to 5.6 per 100,000 AA versus non-AA Alabama residents, respectively).
- In African Americans, the majority (56%) 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 (23%).
- Young African American males (AAM) 15 to 29 years old have been identified as a high-risk group for HIV infection; they are 11.5 times more likely to become infected with HIV than the average Alabama resident (Rate 161.3 to 14.0 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 7.3 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-AAFs residing in Alabama (Rate 13.8 to 1.9 per 100,000 AAF versus non-AAF AL residents, respectively).
- Among the 67 counties in Alabama, the majority of newly diagnosed HIV cases among African Americans reside in Jefferson (N=128, Rate 45.5), Madison (N=24, Rate 28.4), Mobile (N=76, Rate 52.2), Montgomery (N=84, Rate 66.1), and Tuscaloosa (N=21, Rate 33.8) 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). 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 Jan 20, 2016. 2014 data is finalized. 2015 data remain incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2016. Case counts for 2015 are anticipated to increase as new cases are reported to ADPH.

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Comparison of Newly Diagnosed and Prevalent HIV Infections among African Americans and Other Race/Ethnicities, Alabama 2014

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.	%
Gender												
Male	387	80.5	5318	67.4	165	82.5	3441	80.5	552	81.1	8759	72.0
Female	94	19.5	2567	32.6	35	17.5	832	19.5	129	18.9	3399	28.0
Age (Years)												
<13	1	0.2	25	0.3	0	0.0	12	0.3	1	0.2	37	0.3
13-19	34	7.1	70	0.9	6	3.0	19	0.4	40	5.9	89	0.7
20-24	132	27.4	486	6.2	40	20.0	134	3.1	172	25.3	620	5.1
25-29	112	23.3	845	10.7	37	18.5	243	5.7	149	21.9	1088	9.0
30-39	90	18.7	1675	21.2	40	20.0	710	16.6	130	19.1	2385	19.6
40-49	56	11.6	2030	25.8	41	20.5	1303	30.5	97	14.2	3333	27.4
≥50	56	11.6	2754	34.9	36	18.0	1852	43.3	92	13.5	4606	37.9
Mode of Exposure												
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	270	56.1	3015	38.2	99	49.5	2299	53.8	369	54.2	5314	43.7
Heterosexual Contact	111	23.1	2914	37.0	37	18.5	839	19.6	148	21.7	3753	30.9
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	3	0.6	461	5.9	7	3.5	287	6.7	10	1.5	748	6.2
MSM/IDU	2	0.4	191	2.4	5	2.5	230	5.4	7	1.0	421	3.5
Perinatal Exposure	1	0.2	68	0.9	0	0.0	29	0.7	1	0.2	97	0.8
Other/Unknown	94	19.5	1236	15.7	52	26.0	589	13.8	146	21.4	1825	15.0
Public Health Area (PHA)												
PHA 1	7	1.5	65	0.8	6	3.0	172	4.0	13	1.9	237	2.0
PHA 2	28	5.8	467	5.9	33	16.5	613	14.4	61	9.0	1080	8.9
PHA 3	33	6.9	364	4.6	11	5.5	156	3.7	44	6.5	520	4.3
PHA 4	128	26.6	2377	30.2	36	18.0	1030	23.1	164	24.1	3407	28.0
PHA 5	11	2.3	203	2.6	22	11.0	411	9.6	33	4.9	614	5.2
PHA 6	20	4.2	362	4.6	12	6.0	262	6.1	32	4.7	624	5.1
PHA 7	15	3.1	317	4.0	4	2.0	53	1.2	19	2.8	370	3.0
PHA 8	122	25.4	1642	20.8	21	10.5	541	12.7	143	21.0	2183	18.0
PHA 9	16	3.3	298	3.8	14	7.0	273	6.4	30	4.4	571	4.7
PHA 10	25	5.2	511	6.5	14	7.0	251	5.9	39	5.7	762	6.3
PHA 11	76	15.8	1275	16.2	27	13.5	487	11.4	103	15.1	1762	14.5
Total	481	100	7881	100	200	100	4273	100	681	100	12158	100

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

Data accessed Jan 20, 2016. Females with undetermined mode of exposure reclassified as heterosexual contact. Prevalent cases include persons living with HIV in Alabama as of December 31, 2015. 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.