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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 26.8% of Alabama's population. However, African Americans accounted for 70% of all newly diagnosed HIV cases in 2016 and 64.3% of all persons living with HIV to date.

Since 1982, 20,367 cases of HIV infection among Alabama residents have been reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). African Americans account for 9,789 (71.5%) of all HIV cases (living and deceased) diagnosed in Alabama. As of June 30, 2017, 13,680 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 an additional 2,321 Alabama residents may be infected and unaware of their HIV positive status.

### Important Facts to Consider:

- African Americans (AAs) are 6.9 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 (31%).
- Young African American males (AAM) 15 to 29 years old have been identified as a high-risk group for HIV infection; they are 11.6 times more likely to become infected with HIV than the average Alabama resident (Rate 115.0 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 9.6 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-AAFs residing in Alabama (Rate 12.5 to 1.3 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 Montgomery (N=80, Rate 62.5), Mobile (N=59, Rate 40.3), Jefferson (N=54, Rate 19.2), Tuscaloosa (N=21, Rate 33.1), and Lee (N=19, Rate 51.5) 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 July 11, 2017. 2016 data remain incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2017. Case counts for 2016 are anticipated to increase as 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 2016

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	272	74.0	6001	68.3	138	80.7	3591	80.8	410	75.9	9952	72.8
Female	97	26.0	2788	31.7	33	19.3	940	19.2	130	24.1	3728	27.3
<b>Age (Years)</b>												
<13	0	0.0	24	0.3	0	0.0	17	0.4	0	0.0	41	0.3
13-19	21	5.7	51	0.6	6	3.5	24	0.5	27	5.0	75	0.6
20-24	82	22.2	486	5.5	24	14.0	133	2.7	106	19.6	619	4.5
25-29	85	23.0	1001	11.4	28	16.4	314	6.4	113	20.9	1315	9.6
30-39	71	19.4	1857	21.1	48	28.1	841	17.2	119	22.0	2698	19.7
40-49	52	14.1	2040	23.2	36	21.1	1274	26.0	88	16.3	3314	24.2
≥50	58	15.7	3330	38.0	29	17.0	2288	46.8	87	16.1	5618	41.1
<b>Mode of Exposure</b>												
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	167	43.9	3445	39.2	98	57.3	2598	53.1	265	49.1	6043	44.2
Heterosexual Contact	116	29.1	3179	36.2	33	19.3	948	19.4	149	27.6	4127	30.2
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	5	1.3	469	5.3	9	5.3	312	6.4	14	2.6	781	5.7
MSM/IDU	2	0.7	201	2.3	3	1.8	249	5.1	5	0.9	450	3.3
Perinatal Exposure	0	0.0	73	0.8	0	0.0	31	0.6	0	0.0	104	0.8
Other/Unknown	79	24.9	1422	16.2	28	16.4	753	15.4	107	19.8	2175	15.9
<b>Public Health Area (PHA)</b>												
PHA 1	4	1.6	74	0.9	6	3.1	192	4.1	10	1.9	266	1.9
PHA 2	11	2.0	546	6.0	16	6.9	740	15.4	27	5.0	1286	9.4
PHA 3	21	5.3	410	4.9	8	5.4	191	4.0	29	5.4	601	4.4
PHA 4	60	15.1	2551	29.3	36	18.5	1117	22.8	96	17.8	3668	26.8
PHA 5	9	1.3	231	2.6	8	3.9	482	9.8	17	3.2	713	5.2
PHA 6	27	8.5	427	4.8	4	3.1	303	6.0	31	5.7	730	5.3
PHA 7	11	3.0	356	4.0	2	1.5	55	1.2	13	2.4	411	3.0
PHA 8	111	30.2	1868	21.2	39	23.9	643	13.0	150	27.8	2511	18.4
PHA 9	15	4.6	347	3.9	10	5.4	312	6.4	25	4.6	659	4.8
PHA 10	32	8.5	580	6.6	17	10.8	301	6.1	49	9.1	881	6.14
PHA 11	68	20.0	1395	15.9	25	17.7	533	11.0	93	17.2	1928	14.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8789</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4891</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13680</b>	<b>100</b>

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

Note: Data accessed January 5, 2017. 2016 data remains incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2017. Case counts are anticipated to 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, 2016. 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.