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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 December 31, 2017, 14,048 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 January 8, 2018. 2017 data remain incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2018. Case counts for 2017 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 2017

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	258	76.8	6183	68.7	144	80.7	4077	80.8	402	79.0	10260	72.8
Female	78	23.1	2820	31.3	29	19.3	966	19.2	107	21.0	3786	27.3
<b>Age (Years)</b>												
<13	1	0.3	21	0.2	0	0.0	14	0.3	1	0.2	35	0.3
13-19	17	5.1	51	0.6	4	2.3	21	0.4	21	4.1	73	0.5
20-24	83	24.7	467	5.2	31	17.9	150	3.0	114	22.4	617	4.4
25-29	82	24.4	1025	11.4	28	16.2	341	6.8	110	21.6	1366	9.7
30-39	72	21.4	1973	21.2	53	30.6	878	17.4	125	24.6	2851	20.3
40-49	41	12.2	2016	22.4	20	11.6	1215	24.1	61	12.0	3232	23.0
≥50	40	11.9	3450	38.3	37	21.4	2424	48.1	77	15.1	5874	41.8
<b>Mode of Exposure</b>												
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	178	52.9	3633	40.4	83	48.0	2696	53.5	261	51.3	6329	45.1
Heterosexual Contact	96	28.6	3227	35.8	28	16.2	982	19.5	124	24.4	4209	30.0
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	1	0.3	443	4.9	11	6.4	318	6.3	12	2.4	761	5.4
MSM/IDU	1	0.3	193	2.1	8	4.6	256	5.1	9	1.8	449	3.2
Perinatal Exposure	1	0.3	74	0.8	0	0.0	32	0.6	1	0.2	106	0.8
Other/Unknown	59	17.6	1433	15.9	43	24.9	759	15.1	102	20.0	2192	15.6
<b>Public Health Area (PHA)</b>												
PHA 1	4	1.2	80	0.9	7	4.1	196	4.0	11	1.9	276	2.0
PHA 2	33	9.8	592	6.0	31	17.9	750	14.9	64	5.0	1342	9.5
PHA 3	24	7.1	441	4.9	10	5.8	205	4.1	34	5.4	647	4.6
PHA 4	47	14.0	2617	29.3	16	9.3	1150	22.8	63	17.8	3767	26.8
PHA 5	9	2.7	248	2.6	16	9.3	513	10.2	25	3.2	761	5.4
PHA 6	21	6.3	463	4.8	11	6.4	314	6.2	32	5.7	777	5.5
PHA 7	10	3.0	347	4.0	2	1.2	54	1.1	12	2.4	401	2.9
PHA 8	89	26.5	1897	21.2	34	19.7	668	13.3	123	27.8	2566	18.3
PHA 9	13	3.9	335	3.9	11	6.4	324	6.4	24	4.6	659	4.7
PHA 10	26	7.7	601	6.6	16	9.3	310	6.2	42	9.1	911	6.5
PHA 11	60	17.9	1378	15.9	19	11.0	537	10.7	79	17.2	1915	13.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9003</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5043</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14048</b>	<b>100</b>

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

Note: Data accessed January 5, 2017. 2017 data remains incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2018. 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, 2017. 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.