



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 27% of Alabama's (AL) population. However, African Americans accounted for 72% all newly diagnosed HIV cases and 64% of all persons living with HIV during 2013.

Since 1982, 19,026 cases of HIV infection among AL residents have been reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Among those cases, 12,304 (65%) were African American. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 18.1% of HIV positive individuals are unaware of their infection, which could mean an additional 3,000 AL residents may be infected and unaware of their positive HIV status.

Important Facts to Consider:

- African Americans (AAs) are 7 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-African Americans (Rate 36.0 to 5.1 per 100,000 AA and non-AA AL residents, respectively).
- In African Americans, the majority (50.3%) 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 (29.0%).
- Young African American males (AAM) 15 – 29 years old have been identified as a high-risk group for HIV infection; they are 10 times more likely to become infected with HIV than the average AL resident. Although MSM is the most commonly reported risk factor among young AAMs, many of these individuals also report heterosexual sex.
- African American females (AAF) are 11 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-AAFs residing in Alabama (Rate 17.0 to 1.6 per 100,000 AAF and non-AAF AL residents, respectively).
- Among the 67 counties in Alabama, the top 5 counties with the highest number of newly diagnosed HIV cases are Jefferson (N=169), Mobile (N=94), Montgomery (N=69), Tuscaloosa (N=47) and Madison (N=38) 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. 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 October 29, 2014. 2013 data remains incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2014.

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Comparison of Newly Diagnosed and Prevalent HIV Infections among African Americans and Other Race/Ethnicities, Alabama 2013

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	338	74.3	6046	68.1	153	15.5	3929	28.5	491	77.2	9980	72.4
Female	117	25.7	2832	31.9	28	84.5	971	7.0	145	22.8	3806	27.6
Age (Years)												
<13	0	0.0	44	0.5	0	0.0	24	0.5	0	0.0	71	0.5
13-19	36	7.9	43	0.5	8	4.4	15	0.3	44	6.9	58	0.4
20-24	109	24.1	433	4.9	33	18.2	107	2.2	142	22.3	540	3.9
25-29	88	19.3	868	9.8	19	10.5	241	4.9	107	16.8	1109	8.0
30-39	86	18.9	1912	21.5	47	26.0	868	17.7	133	20.9	2782	20.1
40-49	64	14.1	2381	26.8	37	20.4	1607	32.8	101	15.9	3989	28.9
≥50	72	15.8	3197	36.0	37	20.4	2038	41.6	109	17.1	5237	38.0
Mode of Exposure												
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	229	50.3	3344	37.7	104	57.5	2622	53.5	333	52.4	5967	43.3
Heterosexual Contact	132	29.0	3190	35.9	31	17.1	941	19.2	163	25.6	4134	30.0
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	6	1.3	576	6.5	8	4.4	370	7.6	14	2.2	946	6.9
MSM/IDU	4	0.9	257	2.9	4	2.2	315	6.4	8	1.3	572	4.2
Perinatal Exposure	0	0.0	74	0.8	0	0.0	32	0.7	0	0.0	106	0.8
Other/Unknown	84	18.5	1437	16.2	34	18.8	620	12.7	118	18.6	2061	15.0
Public Health Area (PHA)												
PHA 1	2	0.4	60	0.7	1	0.6	206	4.2	3	0.5	266	1.9
PHA 2	33	7.3	664	7.5	22	12.2	757	15.5	55	8.7	1421	10.3
PHA 3	35	7.7	404	4.6	14	7.7	183	3.7	49	7.7	587	4.3
PHA 4	119	26.2	2666	30.0	50	27.6	1103	22.5	169	26.6	3771	27.4
PHA 5	8	1.8	200	2.3	20	11.1	460	9.4	28	4.4	661	4.8
PHA 6	22	4.8	401	4.5	15	8.3	281	5.7	37	5.8	682	5.0
PHA 7	30	6.6	360	4.1	3	1.7	67	1.4	33	5.2	427	3.1
PHA 8	87	19.1	1844	20.8	24	13.3	637	13.0	111	17.5	2482	18.0
PHA 9	15	3.3	330	3.7	9	5.0	327	6.7	24	3.8	658	4.8
PHA 10	24	5.3	591	6.7	9	5.4	300	6.1	33	5.2	892	6.47
PHA 11	80	17.6	1358	15.3	14	7.7	573	11.7	94	14.8	1933	14.0
Total	455	100	8878	100	181	100	4900	100	636	100	13786	100

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

Note: Data accessed October 29, 2014. 2013 data remains incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2014.

Females with undetermined mode of exposure reclassified as heterosexual contact. Percentages may not sum 100% due to rounding. Statewide totals include individuals with unknown county of residence. Prevalent cases include persons living with HIV in Alabama as of December 31, 2014. Newly diagnosed age represents age at diagnosis; prevalent age represents current age.