



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Free community screening set for May 8 in Montgomery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Syphilis and HIV screening will be offered to the public at no charge on Wednesday, May 8. This event will be held at the Gas Depot, 30 W. Fairview Ave. from 1 to 4 p.m.

Alabama Department of Public Health statistics indicate that primary, secondary and early syphilis cases continue to increase in the City of Montgomery. From Jan. 1 to April 29, 2002, 106 early cases of syphilis were identified, with the ages of those infected ranging from 15 to two individuals in the 55-64 age group. African Americans comprise 97 percent of the early syphilis cases--60 percent are males and 39 percent females.

Montgomery County also has the highest HIV/AIDS infection rate in the state, with a rate of 649.2 per 100,000 population. A total of 1,451 cases of AIDS and HIV had been reported as of April 28 in the county. The state rate of HIV/AIDS is considerably less than Montgomery's, 281.6 per 100,000 people.

The Montgomery Specialty Clinic is hosting the screening and WVAS radio (90.7 FM) of Alabama State University will be present to promote this community event. For additional information, please contact the Montgomery County Specialty Clinic, 3060 Mobile Highway, Montgomery, (334) 293-6418.

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