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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 27% of Alabama's (AL) population. However, African Americans accounted for 72% of all newly diagnosed HIV cases and 64% of all persons living with HIV during 2014.

Since 1982, 19,197 cases of HIV infection among AL residents have been reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Among those cases, 12,338 (64%) were African American. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 14.0% of HIV positive individuals are unaware of their infection, which could mean an additional 2,372 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 31.1 to 4.4 per 100,000 AA and non-AA AL 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 – 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 8 times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-AAFs residing in Alabama (Rate 11.2 to 1.4 per 100,000 AAF and non-AAF AL residents, respectively).
- Among the 67 counties in Alabama, the majority of newly diagnosed HIV cases reside in Jefferson (N=102), Mobile (N=93), Montgomery (N=91), Madison (N=32), Tuscaloosa (N=21), and Dale (N=21) 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 29, 2015. 2014 data remains incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2014. Case counts are anticipated to increase slightly 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.	%
<b>Gender</b>												
Male	323	80.8	6377	68.7	132	84.1	4251	80.4	455	81.7	10628	72.9
Female	77	19.3	2910	31.3	25	15.9	1035	19.6	102	18.3	3945	27.1
<b>Age (Years)</b>												
<13	1	0.3	25	0.3	0	0.0	11	0.2	1	0.2	36	0.3
13-19	28	7.0	66	0.7	4	2.6	20	0.4	32	5.8	86	0.6
20-24	112	28.0	502	5.4	36	22.9	134	2.5	148	26.6	636	4.4
25-29	97	24.3	954	10.3	30	19.1	267	5.1	127	22.8	1221	8.4
30-39	72	18.0	1957	21.1	32	20.4	885	16.7	104	18.7	2842	19.5
40-49	47	11.8	2425	26.1	29	18.5	1657	31.4	76	13.6	4082	28.0
≥50	43	10.8	3358	36.2	26	16.6	2312	43.7	69	12.4	5670	38.9
<b>Mode of Exposure</b>												
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	224	56.0	3568	38.4	85	54.1	2821	53.4	309	55.5	6389	43.8
Heterosexual Contact	91	22.8	3322	35.8	25	15.9	1020	19.3	116	20.8	4342	29.8
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	3	0.8	591	6.4	6	3.8	392	7.4	9	1.6	983	6.6
MSM/IDU	2	0.5	248	2.7	5	3.2	322	6.1	7	1.3	570	3.9
Perinatal Exposure	1	0.3	73	0.8	0	0.0	34	0.6	1	0.2	107	0.7
Other/Unknown	79	19.8	1485	16.0	36	22.9	697	13.2	115	20.7	2182	15.0
<b>Public Health Area (PHA)</b>												
PHA 1	6	1.5	71	0.8	5	3.2	222	4.2	11	2.0	293	2.0
PHA 2	23	5.8	675	7.3	24	15.3	796	15.1	47	8.4	1471	10.1
PHA 3	28	7.0	437	4.7	6	3.8	204	3.9	34	6.1	641	4.4
PHA 4	81	20.3	2703	29.1	21	13.9	1206	22.8	102	18.3	3909	26.8
PHA 5	9	2.3	231	2.5	17	10.8	485	9.2	26	4.7	716	4.9
PHA 6	19	4.8	411	4.4	10	6.4	295	5.6	29	5.2	706	4.8
PHA 7	13	3.3	377	4.1	4	2.6	73	1.4	17	3.1	450	3.1
PHA 8	114	28.5	1928	20.8	20	12.7	674	12.8	134	24.1	2602	17.9
PHA 9	14	3.5	364	3.9	12	7.6	338	6.4	26	4.7	702	4.8
PHA 10	24	6.0	611	6.6	14	8.9	334	6.3	38	6.8	945	6.5
PHA 11	69	17.3	1469	15.8	24	15.3	632	12.0	93	16.7	2101	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9287</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5286</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14573</b>	<b>100</b>

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

Note: Data accessed January 29, 2014. 2014 data remains incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2014. Case counts are anticipated to increase slightly as new cases are reported to ADPH. Females with undetermined mode of exposure reclassified as heterosexual contact. Percentages may not sum 100% due to rounding. Statewide totals include individuals with an 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.

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