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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 as of December 31, 2016.

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 13,088 (64%) of all HIV cases (living and deceased) diagnosed in Alabama. As of December 31, 2016, 13,487 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 5, 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	226	74.0	5916	68.2	103	79.2	3886	80.8	329	75.6	9802	72.7
Female	79	26.0	2763	31.8	27	20.8	922	19.2	106	24.4	3685	27.3
<b>Age (Years)</b>												
<13	0	0.0	21	0.2	0	0.0	15	0.3	0	0.0	36	0.3
13-19	18	5.9	43	0.5	4	3.1	19	0.4	22	5.1	62	0.5
20-24	66	21.6	477	5.5	19	14.6	126	2.6	85	19.5	603	4.5
25-29	69	22.6	985	11.4	21	16.2	305	6.3	90	20.7	1290	9.6
30-39	61	20.0	1836	21.2	37	28.5	830	17.3	98	22.5	2666	19.8
40-49	43	14.1	2019	23.3	28	21.5	1259	26.2	71	16.3	3278	24.3
≥50	48	15.7	3298	38.0	21	16.2	2254	46.9	69	15.9	5552	41.2
<b>Mode of Exposure</b>												
Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)	134	43.9	3365	38.8	66	50.8	2530	52.6	200	46.0	5895	43.7
Heterosexual Contact	89	29.1	3145	36.2	25	19.2	932	19.4	114	26.2	4077	30.2
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	4	1.3	463	5.3	8	6.2	305	6.3	12	2.8	768	5.7
MSM/IDU	2	0.7	195	2.3	3	2.3	241	5.0	5	1.2	436	3.2
Perinatal Exposure	0	0.0	71	0.8	0	0.0	29	0.6	0	0.0	100	0.7
Other/Unknown	76	24.9	1440	16.6	28	21.5	771	16.0	104	23.9	2211	16.4
<b>Public Health Area (PHA)</b>												
PHA 1	5	1.6	75	0.9	4	3.1	196	4.1	9	2.1	271	3.0
PHA 2	6	2.0	524	6.0	9	6.9	728	15.4	15	3.5	1252	9.3
PHA 3	16	5.3	422	4.9	7	5.4	191	4.0	23	5.3	613	4.6
PHA 4	46	15.1	2543	29.3	24	18.5	1096	22.8	70	16.1	3639	27.0
PHA 5	4	1.3	222	2.6	5	3.9	472	9.8	9	2.7	694	5.2
PHA 6	26	8.5	417	4.8	4	3.1	290	6.0	30	6.9	707	5.2
PHA 7	9	3.0	347	4.0	2	1.5	56	1.2	11	2.5	403	3.0
PHA 8	92	30.2	1837	21.2	31	23.9	626	13.0	123	28.3	2463	18.3
PHA 9	14	4.6	335	3.9	7	5.4	306	6.4	21	4.8	641	4.8
PHA 10	26	8.5	572	6.6	14	10.8	294	6.1	40	9.2	866	6.4
PHA 11	61	20.0	1381	15.9	23	17.7	531	11.0	84	19.3	1912	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8679</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4808</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13487</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.