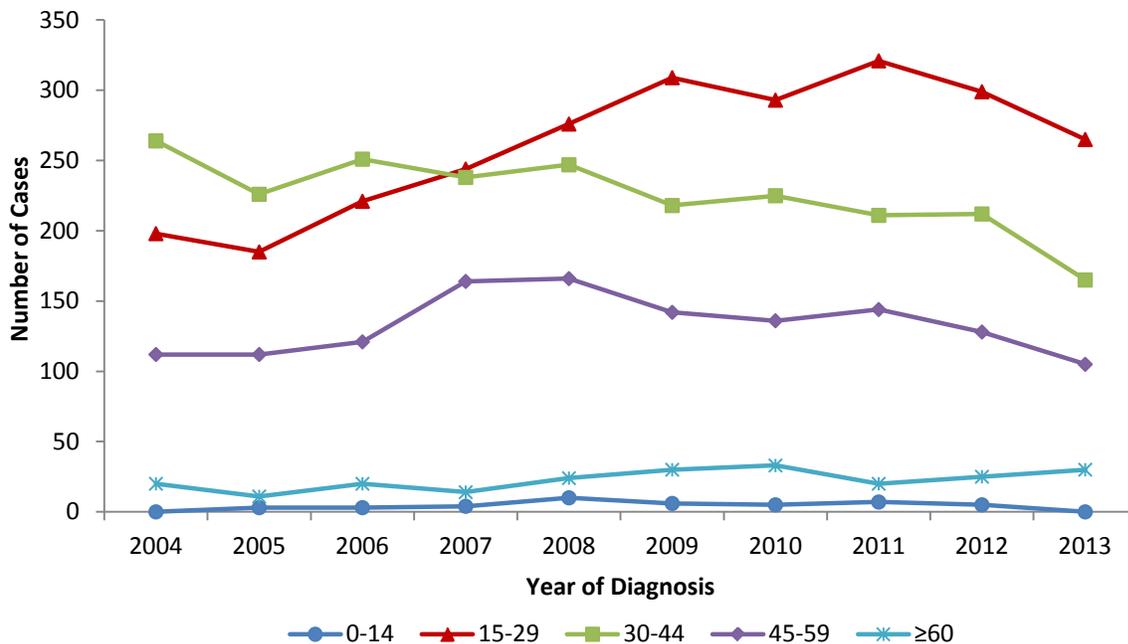


HIV Infections Among Young African American Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)

Similar to other states, Alabama is experiencing a downward shift in the age distribution of newly diagnosed HIV infections as adolescents and young adults (15-29 years) are now the most affected age group (Figure 1). Prior to 2007, the majority of newly diagnosed HIV infections were reported among 30-45 year olds. This downward shift in Alabama’s newly diagnosed HIV population calls for increased prevention efforts targeting a younger population. Effective HIV prevention efforts require identification of at risk target groups within Alabama’s adolescent and young adult population.

Figure 1. Trends in Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Age Group, Alabama 2004-2013



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

Note: 2013 data remain incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2014.

Adolescents and young adults (15-29 years) are twice as likely to be infected with HIV as the average Alabama resident (Table 1). During 2012, the rate of HIV infection was 30.3 per 100,000 Alabama residents aged 15-29 years compared to 13.9 per 100,000 residents of any age. African American males represented the majority of infections in adolescents and young adults, with 10 times the risk of becoming infected with HIV as the average Alabama resident in 2012. African American males 15-29 years old were 11 times more likely to become infected with HIV than white males the same age. The risk was even more pronounced among African American females, who were nearly 15 times as likely to become infected with HIV as white females 15-29 years old during 2012. The rate of African American males currently aged 15-29 years and living with HIV through December 31, 2013 was 2.5 times the rate of all persons living with HIV infection diagnosed in Alabama.

Table 1. HIV Infection Rates Among Adolescents and Young Adults (15-29 Years) by Race, Alabama 2012-2013

Characteristics	Newly Diagnosed, 2012		Newly Diagnosed, 2013†		Persons Living with HIV, 2013‡	
	Number (%)	Rate	Number (%)	Rate	Number (%)	Rate
African Americans	241 (80.6)	79.0	212 (80.0)	69.5	1318 (79.4)	432.2
Males	204 (68.2)	138.4	183 (69.1)	124.1	1064 (64.1)	721.6
Females	37 (12.4)	23.5	29 (10.9)	18.4	254 (15.3)	161.3
Whites	46 (15.4)	7.2	45 (17.0)	7.0	250 (15.1)	38.9
Males	41 (13.7)	12.5	38 (14.3)	11.6	202 (12.2)	61.6
Females	5 (1.7)	1.6	7 (2.6)	2.2	48 (2.9)	15.2
All Races	299 (100)	30.3	265 (100)	26.9	1660 (100)	168.2
Statewide Total*	669 (100)	13.9	565 (100)	11.7	12391 (100)	257.0

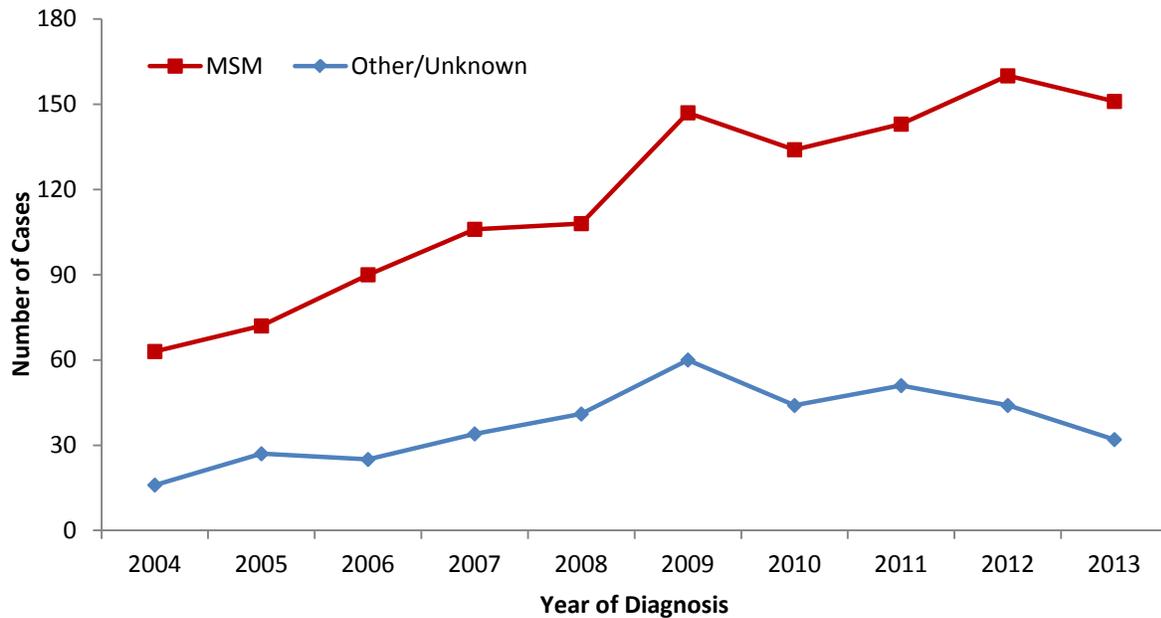
Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control.

Note: Rates per 100,000 Alabama residents age 15-29 years by race reported in United States Census Bureau, 2012 Population Estimates.

†2013 data remain incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2014. ‡Persons living with HIV currently 15-29 years old and living through December 31, 2013. *Statewide total includes all race and age groups; rates per 100,000 total Alabama residents.

Among adolescent and young adult African American males, sex with another male is the predominant risk factor reported among newly diagnosed HIV infections (Figure 2). Recent trends show an alarming increase in the number of HIV infections among African American males aged 15-29 years reporting sex with another male during the previous 10 years. Identification of African American men who have sex with men (MSM) aged 15-29 years as an at risk target group should guide prevention efforts. Effective HIV treatment and prevention programs must focus on these individuals to prevent future infections.

Figure 2. Trends in Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases Among Adolescent and Young Adult African American Males (15-29 Years) by Mode of Exposure, Alabama 2004-2013



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

Note: 2013 data remain incomplete due to delayed reporting; data will be finalized December 31, 2014.