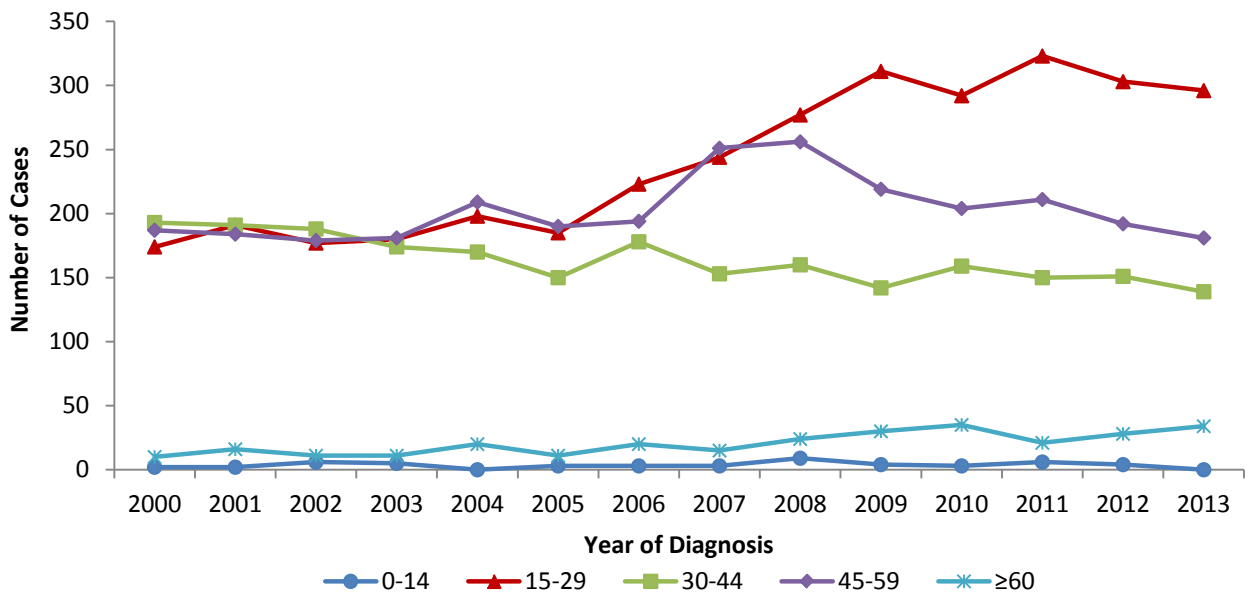


### **HIV Infections Among Adolescent and Young Adult African American Males**

Similar to other states, Alabama is experiencing a downward shift in the age distribution of newly diagnosed HIV infections as adolescents and young adults aged 15-29 years are now the most affected age group (Figure 1). This downward shift in Alabama’s newly diagnosed HIV population calls for increased treatment and prevention efforts targeting a younger population. Effective HIV treatment and 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 2000-2013**



Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control, HIV Surveillance Branch.

Adolescents and young adults (aged 15-29 years) are twice as likely to be infected with HIV as the average Alabama resident (Table 1). During 2013, the rate of HIV infection was 30.0 per 100,000 Alabama residents aged 15-29 years, compared to 13.4 per 100,000 residents of any age. Adolescents and young adults aged 15-29 years represented nearly one-half (46%) of all newly diagnosed cases during 2013, although this age group accounts for only 20% of Alabama’s population. In contrast, the majority (53%) of persons living with HIV infection in Alabama as of December 31, 2013 are age 45 or older, due to the availability of effective antiretroviral therapies. Without proper intervention, the alarming rate of new infections among adolescents and young adults can be expected to significantly increase the total number of persons living with HIV infection in Alabama, as HIV positive individuals are becoming infected at a younger age and living longer.

**Table 1. HIV Infection Rates by Age Group, Alabama 2013**

Age Group (Years)	Newly Diagnosed, 2013		Persons Living with HIV, 2013	
	Number (%)	Rate	Number (%)	Rate
0-14	-	-	41 (0.3)	4.5
15-29	296 (45.5)	30.0	1879 (13.4)	190.2
30-44	139 (21.4)	15.2	4627 (33.0)	504.8
45-59	181 (27.9)	18.1	6100 (43.5)	611.5
≥60	34 (5.2)	3.4	1372 (9.8)	135.7
Statewide Total	650 (100)	13.4	14,019 (100)	290.0

Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control, HIV Surveillance Branch.

Note: Newly diagnosed age groups represent age at diagnosis. Prevalent age groups represent current age. Rates per 100,000 Alabama residents in each age group reported in United States Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates. Rates only calculated if ≥ 5 cases.

Percentages may not sum 100% due to rounding.

African American males represent the majority (69%) of HIV infections newly diagnosed during 2013, among adolescents and young adults aged 15-29 years (Table 2). They have 10 times the risk of becoming infected with HIV as the average Alabama resident and their white counterparts aged 15-29 years, and nearly five times the risk as the average 15-29 year old (Tables 1 and 2). The infection rate among prevalent African American males aged 15-29 years and living with HIV infection as of December 31, 2013 was nearly 11 times that of their white counterparts and four times the rate of infection among all prevalent cases aged 15-29 years.

**Table 2. HIV Infection Rates Among Adolescents and Young Adults (15-29 Years) by Race, Alabama 2013**

Race and Birth Sex	Newly Diagnosed, 2013		Persons Living with HIV, 2013	
	Number (%)	Rate	Number (%)	Rate
African American, Not Hispanic				
Males	203 (68.6)	138.3	1181 (62.9)	804.6
Females	30 (10.1)	19.3	283 (15.1)	181.6
White, Not Hispanic				
Males	43 (14.5)	14.2	230 (12.2)	75.9
Females	7 (2.4)	2.4	59 (3.1)	19.9
Total				
Males	258 (87.2)	52.0	1507 (80.2)	303.9
Females	38 (12.8)	7.7	372 (19.8)	75.6

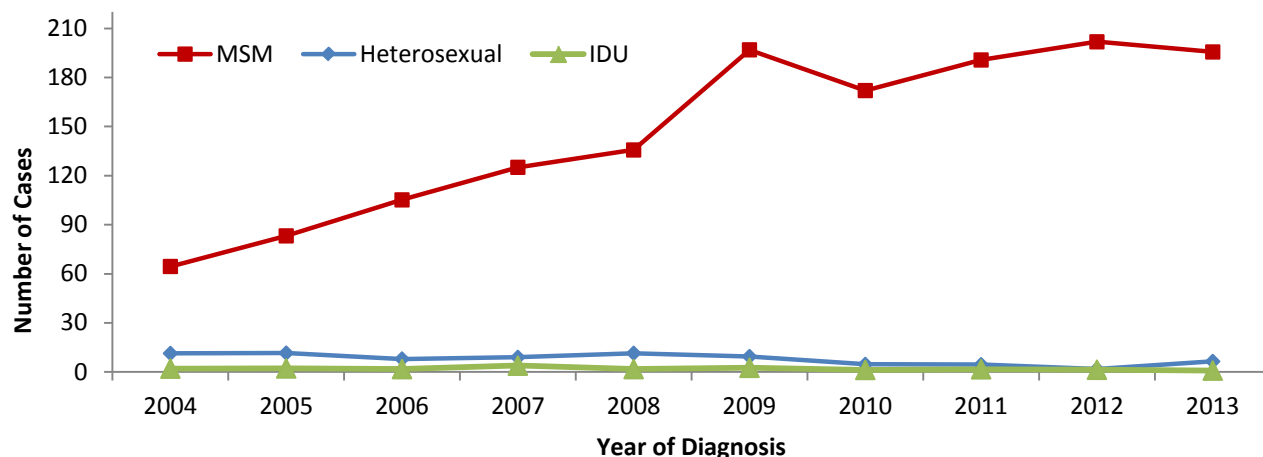
Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control, HIV Surveillance Branch.

Note: Newly diagnosed cases age 15-29 years at diagnosis. Prevalent cases currently age 15-29 years. Rates per 100,000 Alabama male and female residents aged 15-29 years, in each racial category, reported in the United States Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates. Rates only calculated if ≥ 5 cases. Percentages may not sum 100% due to rounding.

Sex with another male is the predominant risk factor reported among newly diagnosed HIV cases in adolescent and young adult African American males (Figure 8). Recent trends show an alarming increase in the number of HIV infections among young African American males reporting sex with another male. However, it is important to note that many young African American MSM also report heterosexual sex with women. Therefore, increased HIV infection rates in young women can be expected to follow unless risk reduction efforts and consistent HIV treatment regimens are initiated in these individuals. As with other age groups, many young African American MSMs do not identify as being gay or bisexual. Therefore, effective HIV

prevention efforts must target adolescent and young adult African American men, regardless of sexual orientation.

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



Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control., HIV Surveillance Branch.

Note: Multiple imputation methodology was used to estimate unknown risk among cases  $\geq 13$  years. MSM - Men who have Sex with Men, IDU - Intravenous Drug Use. MSM includes any MSM (i.e., MSM alone and in combination with IDU).

As a largely rural state, some Alabama counties have less than 100 African American males age 15-29 years. To protect the privacy of HIV-positive individuals within this group, statistics are limited to Public Health Areas (Table 3 and Figure 4). It should be noted that HIV-positive African American males 15-29 years old are represented throughout the state, with many individuals frequently traveling between jurisdictions. Statewide HIV treatment and prevention efforts should be launched to avoid future HIV infections.

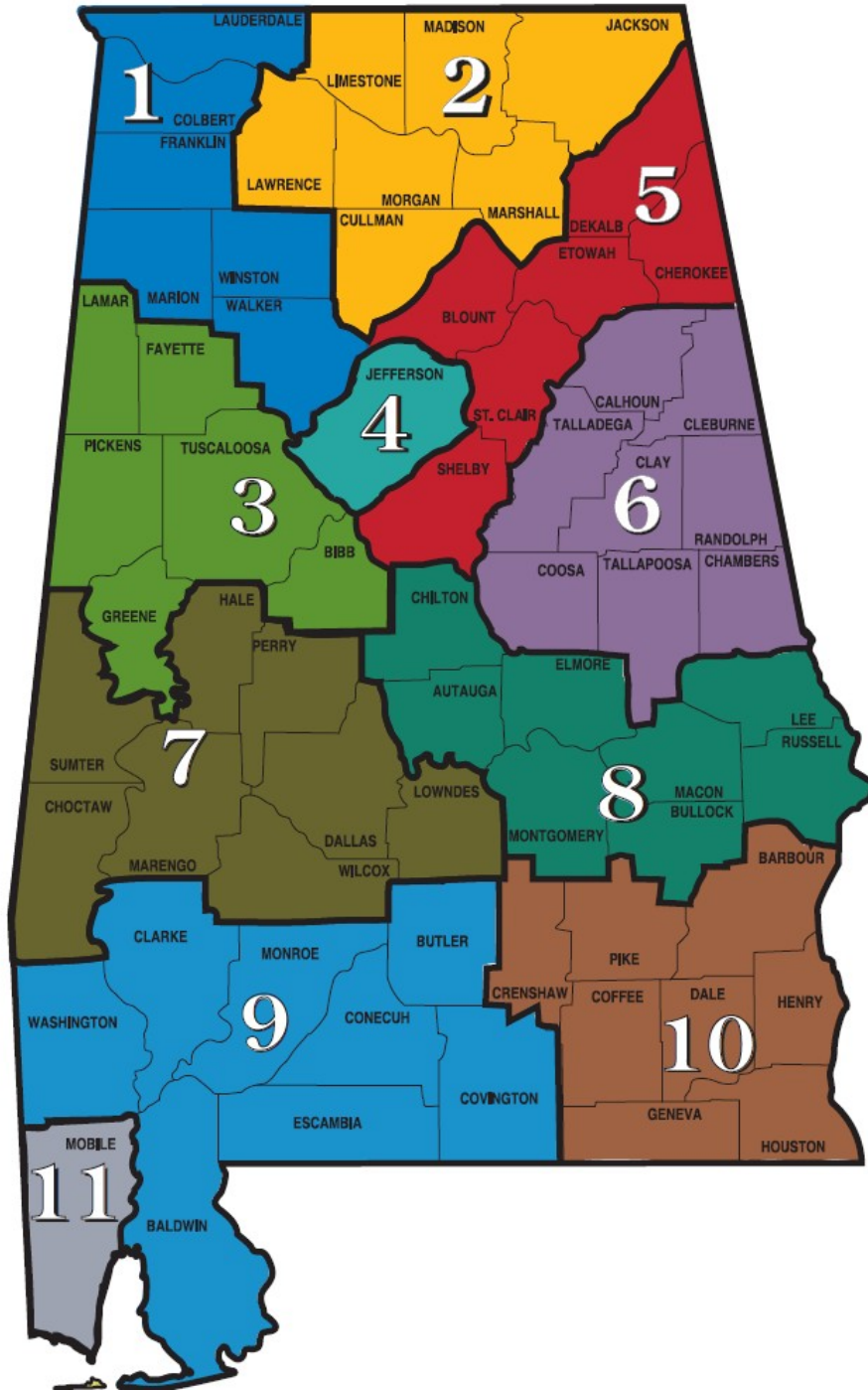
**Table 3. HIV Infection Rates Among African American Adolescent and Young Adult Males (15-29 Years) by Public Health Area, Alabama 2013**

Public Health Area (PHA)	Newly Diagnosed, 2013		Persons Living with HIV, 2013	
	Number (%)	Rate	Number (%)	Rate
PHA 1	-	-	4 (0.3)	-
PHA 2	17 (8.4)	114.1	116 (9.8)	778.8
PHA 3	21 (10.3)	188.4	82 (6.9)	735.8
PHA 4	59 (29.1)	199.6	326 (27.6)	1102.7
PHA 5	2 (1.0)	-	23 (2.0)	404.0
PHA 6	10 (4.9)	106.9	52 (4.4)	556.1
PHA 7	12 (5.9)	131.7	38 (3.2)	417.0
PHA 8	40 (19.7)	131.8	286 (24.2)	942.6
PHA 9	4 (2.0)	-	33 (2.8)	399.7
PHA 10	8 (3.9)	83.7	64 (5.4)	669.7
PHA 11	30 (14.8)	187.0	157 (13.3)	978.6
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>203 (68.6)</b>	<b>138.3</b>	<b>1181 (62.9)</b>	<b>804.6</b>

Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control, HIV Surveillance Branch.

Note: Newly diagnosed cases age 15-29 years at diagnosis. Prevalent cases currently aged 15-29 years. Rates per 100,000 African American male Alabama residents aged 15-29 years in each public health area, reported in the United States Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates. Rates only calculated if  $\geq 5$  cases. Percentages may not sum 100% due to rounding.

Figure 4. Alabama Public Health Area Map



Source: Alabama Department of Public Health.