

HIV Surveillance Fact Sheet, Georgia, 2015

Persons Living with HIV infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia, through December 31, 2015

- Georgia was ranked fifth highest in the nation for total number of adults and adolescents living with HIV infection in 2015.
- As of December 31, 2015, the total number of persons living with HIV infection in Georgia was 54,754. Of these, 53% (28,998) had stage 3 disease, or AIDS (Table 1).
- The number of persons living with HIV in Georgia has steadily increased as a result of effective treatment (Figure 1).
- Among the 18 Public Health Districts in Georgia, Fulton and DeKalb had the highest numbers and rates of persons living with HIV infection (Table 1). Nearly two-thirds (64%) of persons living with HIV infection in 2015 resided in the Atlanta, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Note: HIV infection includes both HIV (not AIDS) and AIDS. HIV infection is classified as stage 1 (CD4 count >500 cells/ml), stage 2 (200-499 cells/ml), and stage 3 (<200 cells/ml)

Figure 1. Persons Living with HIV Infection, Georgia, 2007-2015

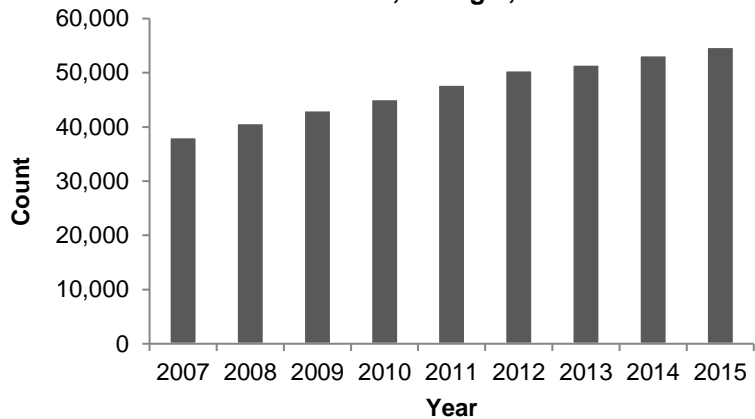


Table 1. Number and Rates of Persons Living with HIV Infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia, through December 31, 2015

Public Health District	HIV Infection		AIDS Infection	
	Count	Rate*	Count	Rate*
1-1 Northwest (Rome)	985	151	540	83
1-2 North Georgia (Dalton)	620	134	329	71
2 North (Gainesville)	707	105	387	57
3-1 Cobb-Douglas	3,643	413	1,873	212
3-2 Fulton	16,134	1597	8,637	855
3-3 Clayton (Jonesboro)	2,330	851	1,187	433
3-4 East Metro (Lawrenceville)	3,648	335	1,902	174
3-5 DeKalb	9,179	1249	4,894	666
4 LaGrange	1,849	222	995	119
5-1 South Central (Dublin)	604	401	322	214
5-2 North Central (Macon)	2,059	392	1,110	211
6 East Central (Augusta)	2,148	448	1,143	238
7 West Central (Columbus)	1,654	439	817	217
8-1 South (Valdosta)	1,070	420	572	225
8-2 Southwest (Albany)	1,668	475	917	261
9-1 Coastal (Savannah)	2,569	422	1,394	229
9-2 Southeast (Waycross)	1,186	325	607	166
10 Northeast (Athens)	893	184	499	103
Unknown Health District	1,808	--	873	--
Total	54,754	536	28,998	284

*Rate per 100,000



Figure 2. New Diagnoses of HIV Infection, Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia, 2007-2015

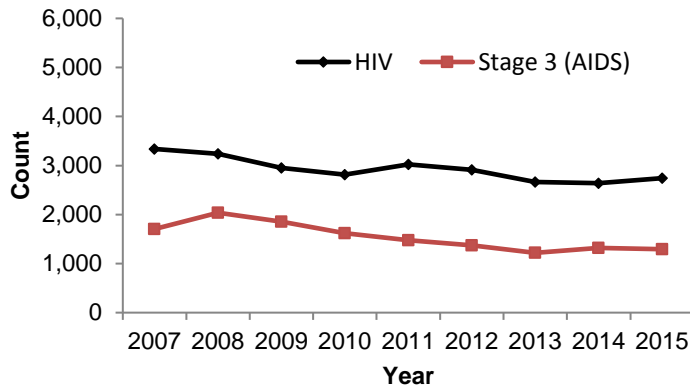
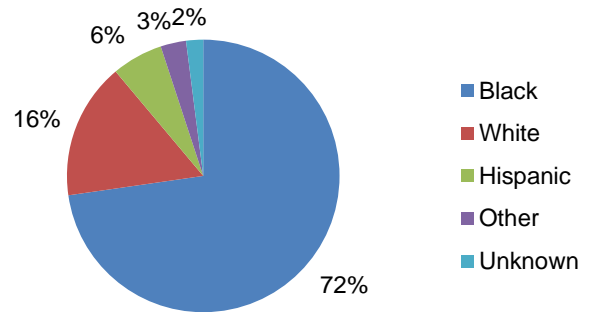


Figure 3. New Diagnoses of HIV Infection by Race/Ethnicity, Georgia, 2015



New Diagnoses of HIV infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia 2015

- Georgia was fifth-highest in the nation for the total number of new diagnoses of HIV infection during 2015.
- There were 2,741 new HIV diagnoses during 2015 in Georgia; new HIV diagnoses have been slowly declining since 2008 (Figure 2).
- There were 1296 diagnoses of Stage 3 (AIDS) in Georgia during 2015, these are persons diagnosed with AIDS at initial diagnosis and persons who were previously diagnosed with HIV who were then diagnosed with AIDS in 2015.
- In 2015, in Georgia, 22% of persons diagnosed with HIV were diagnosed with AIDS within 3 months, in other words, they tested late. Late testing results in missed opportunities for prevention and treatment of HIV infection and emphasizes the need for earlier testing, linkage, and retention in care for persons living with HIV infection.
- Since the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy in the mid-nineties, deaths due to AIDS have declined substantially. There were 699* deaths among persons with HIV in Georgia during 2015.

*preliminary data

New Diagnoses of HIV Infection and Stage 3 (AIDS) among Adults 13 Years of Age and Older, Georgia, 2015

Sex, Age, Race/Ethnicity

- Eighty-one percent (2,208) of those diagnosed with HIV infection in Georgia during 2015 were male and 19% (525) were female. Six transgender persons were diagnosed with HIV in 2015.
- Seventy-two percent (1,980) of new diagnoses of HIV infection in Georgia were among Blacks. (Figure 3).
- The highest number of new HIV diagnoses in Georgia during 2015 occurred among males 20-29 years of age (Figure 4).
- Among males, 83% of new HIV diagnoses were attributed to male to male (MSM) sexual contact (Figure 5).
- Among females, 90% of new HIV diagnoses were attributed heterosexual contact (Figure 5).

Rates of HIV Diagnosis by Race/ Ethnicity among Adults 13 Years of Age and Older, per 100,000 population, Georgia, 2015

Blacks:	77.5
Hispanics:	26.7
Whites:	9.3

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Figure 4. New HIV Diagnoses by Age Group, Georgia, 2015

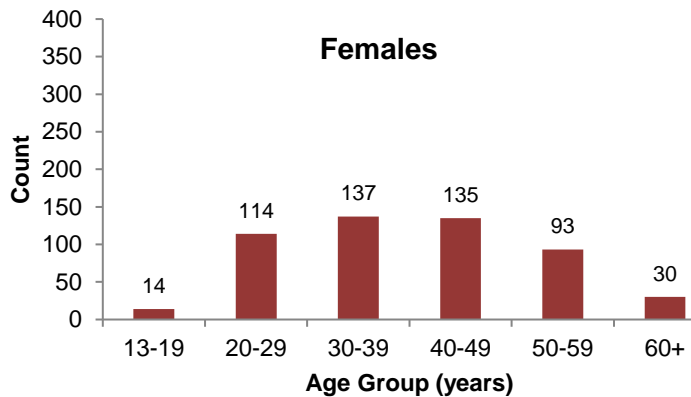
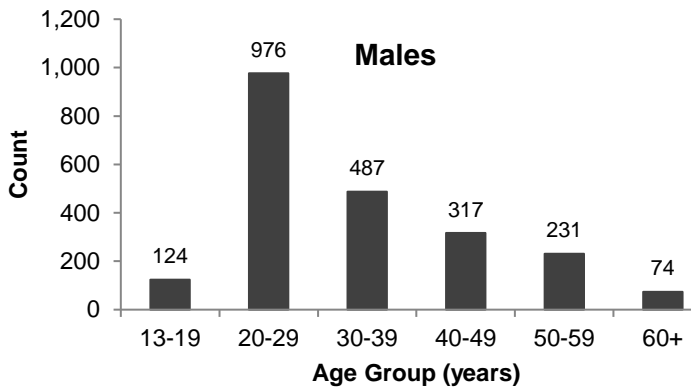
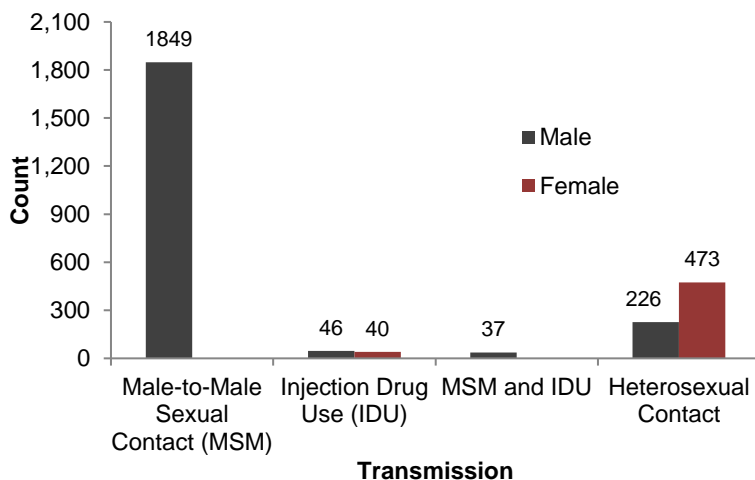


Figure 5. New Diagnoses of HIV Infection, by Sex and Transmission Category among Adolescents and Adults (13 years and older), Georgia, 2015



Technical Notes

The number of persons living with HIV infection is based on current residence in the state of Georgia regardless of state of diagnosis. The number of cases with new diagnosis of HIV infection is based on residence at diagnosis in the state of Georgia.

Rates measure the overall frequency which has not been adjusted for factors (e.g. age, sex, race/ethnicity) that might have influenced the rate.

Population denominators used to compute the rates for Public Health Districts and state of Georgia were based on the 2015 population estimates from Georgia DPH, Office of Health Indicators and Planning.

Data reflect cases entered into the enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting Surveillance (eHARS) database as of December 31, 2016.

Data are not adjusted for reporting delays and include incarcerated cases that may artificially inflate the number of cases in a given location.

Cases with missing information in fields such as date of birth, race/ethnicity and gender are included in analysis.

Multiple imputation, a statistical approach, was used to replace each missing transmission category with a set of plausible values that represent uncertainty about the true but missing value.

Reference

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Surveillance Report, 2015; vol. 27. <http://www.cdc.gov/hivtopics/surveillance/reports/>. Published November 2016. Accessed February 2017.

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HIV/AIDS Surveillance

Georgia DPH began collecting name based data on AIDS cases in the early 1980s. Name based reporting of HIV (not AIDS) to DPH was mandated by Georgia law beginning on December 31, 2003. Complete and timely reporting of HIV infections by clinical providers and laboratories is critical for monitoring the epidemic and ensuring adequate funding for prevention and care services in Georgia. Incomplete reporting leads to under-estimation of the impact of HIV in Georgia and limits funding for services among HIV populations.

HIV Reporting

All health care providers diagnosing and/or providing care to a patient with HIV are obligated by Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §31-12-1) to report HIV infection using the HIV/AIDS Case Report Form. Case report forms should be completed within seven (7) days of diagnosing a patient with HIV and/or AIDS or within seven (7) days of assuming care of an HIV positive patient who is new to the provider, regardless of whether the patient has previously received care elsewhere.

Adult and Pediatric case report forms are available at <http://dph.georgia.gov/reporting-forms-data-requests>

For more questions on HIV case reporting in Georgia please contact the HIV Surveillance Coordinator at 1-800-827-9769

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