

HIV Surveillance Fact Sheet, 2014

Persons Living with HIV infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia, through December 31, 2014

- Georgia was ranked fifth highest in the nation for total number of adults and adolescents living with HIV infection in 2013.¹
- As of December 31, 2014, the total number of persons living with HIV infection in Georgia was 53,230 (Table 1). Of these, 53% (28,134) had stage 3 disease, or AIDS (Table 1) .
- The number of persons living with HIV has steadily increased as a result of effective treatment (Figure 1).
- Among the 18 Public Health Districts of Georgia, Fulton and DeKalb had the highest numbers and rates of persons living with HIV infection (Table 1). Two-thirds (66%) of persons living with HIV infection in 2014 resided in the Atlanta, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Table 1: Number and rates of persons living with HIV infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia, through December 31, 2014

Public Health Districts	HIV Infection		Stage 3 (AIDS)	
	No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*
1-1 Northwest (Rome)	1,002	155	565	87
1-2 North Georgia (Dalton)	610	134	329	72
2 North (Gainesville)	739	112	397	60
3-1 Cobb-Douglas	3,527	406	1,820	209
3-2 Fulton	15,958	1,602	8,521	855
3-3 Clayton (Jonesboro)	2,205	824	1,156	432
3-4 East Metro (Lawrenceville)	3,582	335	1,864	174
3-5 DeKalb	9,039	1,252	4,873	675
4 LaGrange	1,807	219	974	118
5-1 South Central (Dublin)	763	502	391	257
5-2 North Central (Macon)	2,138	407	1,136	216
6 East Central (Augusta)	2,138	450	1,164	245
7 West Central (Columbus)	1,724	456	872	231
8-1 South (Valdosta)	1,041	409	551	216
8-2 Southwest (Albany)	1,722	488	962	273
9-1 Coastal (Savannah)	2,588	429	1,434	238
9-2 Southeast (Waycross)	1,230	337	648	178
10 Northeast (Athens)	859	181	477	100
Unknown	546	--	--	--
Total	53,230	527	28,134	279

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

*Rate per 100,000

Figure 1: Persons Living with HIV Infection, Georgia 2007-2014

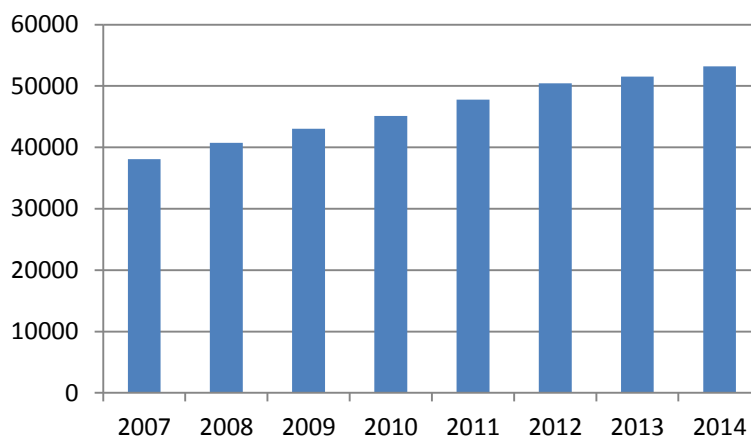


Figure 2: New Diagnoses of HIV Infection, Stage 3 (AIDS) and Deaths, Georgia 2007-2014

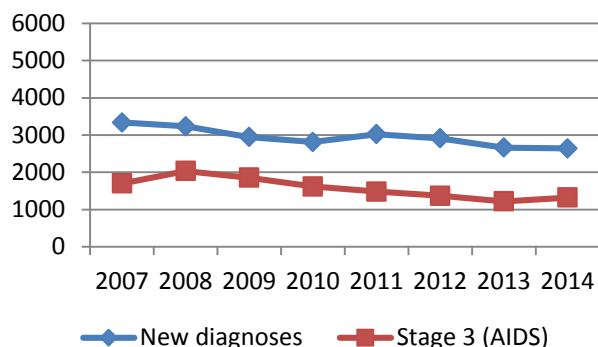
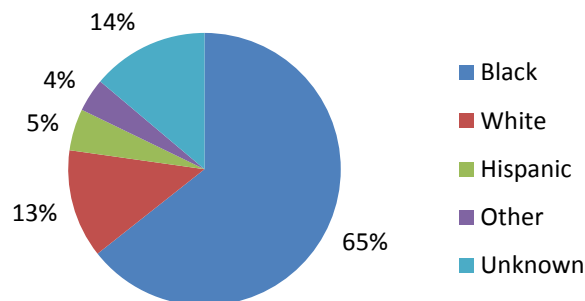


Figure 3: New Diagnoses of HIV Infection by Race/Ethnicity, Georgia 2014



New Diagnosis of HIV infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia 2014

- Georgia was fifth highest in the nation for the total number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in 2014¹
- There were 2,640 new HIV diagnoses in 2014 in Georgia; New HIV diagnoses have been slowly declining year to year (Figure 3).
- There were 1320 diagnoses of Stage 3 (AIDS) in Georgia in 2014; these are persons diagnosed with AIDS at initial diagnosis and persons who were previously diagnosed with HIV who were diagnosed with AIDS in 2014.
- In 2014, in Georgia, 23% 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 683* deaths among persons with HIV in Georgia in 2014.

Rates of HIV Diagnosis by Race/ Ethnicity per 100,000 population*, Georgia 2014:

Blacks:	72.8
Hispanics:	22.3
Whites:	7.8

*per 100,000 persons 13 and older

- Eighty percent (2,102) of those diagnosed with HIV infection in Georgia during 2014 were male and 20% (521) were female. Nine transgender persons were diagnosed with HIV in 2014
- Sixty-five percent (1719) of new diagnoses of HIV infection in Georgia were among Blacks. Fourteen percent of the new HIV infections lacked information on race/ethnicity (Figure 3).
- The highest number of new HIV diagnoses in Georgia during 2014 occurred among males 20-29 years of age (Figure 4).
- Seventy-five percent of males 13 years and older diagnosed with HIV were men who have sex with men (Figure 7)
- Eighty-one percent of females 13 years and older diagnosed with HIV were heterosexual contacts.

*preliminary data

HIV Surveillance Fact Sheet, 2014

Figure 4: New HIV Diagnoses by Age Group, Georgia, 2014 *

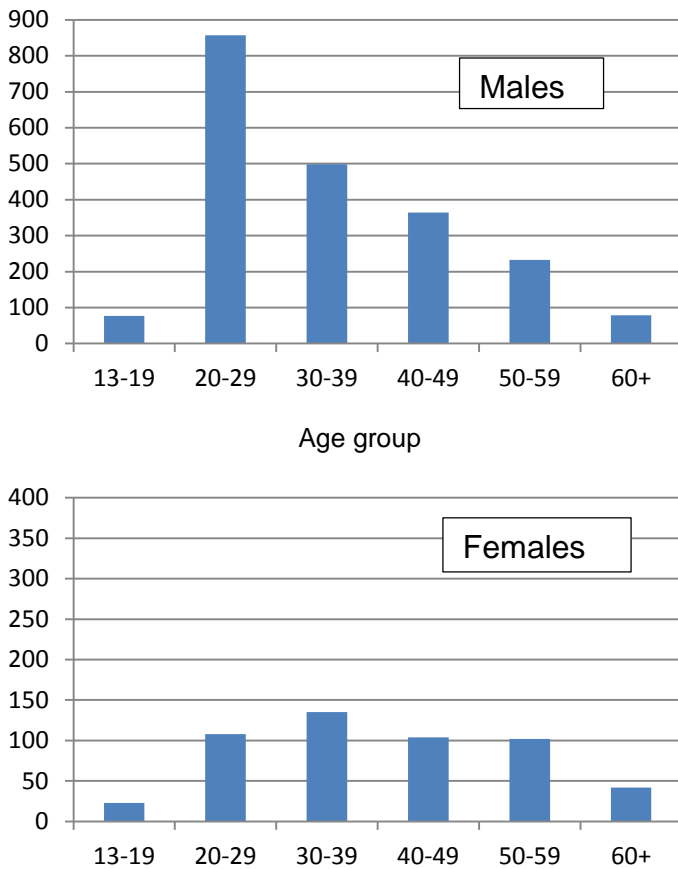
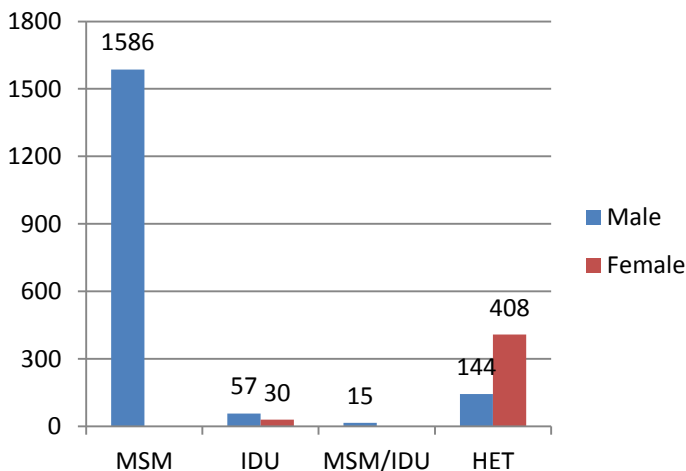


Figure 5: New Diagnoses of HIV Infection, by Sex and Transmission Category among Adolescents and Adults (13 years and older), Georgia, 2014



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 2014 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, 2015.

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 were also included.

Multiple imputation (MI), 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

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Surveillance Report, 2014; vol. 26. http://www.cdc.gov/hiv_topics/surveillance/reports/. Published February 2015. Accessed March 2016

HIV/AIDS Surveillance

Georgia DPH began collecting name based data on AIDS cases in the early 1980's. Name based reporting of HIV (not AIDS) to DPH was mandated by Georgia law beginning on December 31, 2004. 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. Race, sex and especially transmission category information are missing for a large number of HIV case report forms submitted in Georgia. In 2013, 71% of new cases with HIV infection among adults and adolescents had no information on their transmission category. 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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