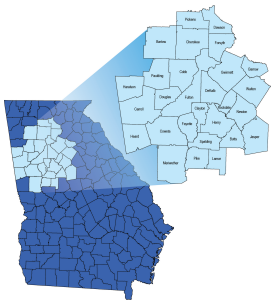
HIV/AIDS Surveillance

HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus) damages a person's immune system by destroying specific blood cells, which help fight against diseases. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or AIDS is the late stage of HIV infection where the person's immune system is severely damaged, and leaves the individual susceptible to infections and tumors. HIV is spread by contact with infected bodily fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk. Georgia law (O.C.G.A § 31-22-9.2) requires that all diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases be reported to the Department of Public Health within seven days of diagnosis.

Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Georgia[1]

- Georgia is ranked sixth highest in the nation for its cumulative reported number of AIDS cases through December 2009[2]
- In 2010, the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS in Georgia was 40,328. Forty-four percent of these persons had HIV (not AIDS), 56% had AIDS
- In 2010, 66% of Georgians living with HIV/AIDS resided in the Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (Figure 1)
- During 2010, the Fulton and DeKalb Health Districts had the highest HIV (not AIDS) prevalence rates and the Augusta and Coastal Health Districts had high AIDS prevalence rates (Table 1)

Figure 1: Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, Georgia, 2010



MSA: 27,560 cases

Non-MSA: 14,426 cases

Atlanta MSA Counties: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, Walton

Table 1: Numbers and Rates of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS By Public Health District, Georgia, 2010

Public Health Districts	HIV (Not AIDS)		AIDS	
	Number	Crude Rate[3]	Number	Crude Rate[3]
1.1 Northwest *(Rome)*	317	49.6	382	59.7
1-2 North Georgia *(Dalton)*	254	58.0	303	69.2
2-0 North *(Gainesville)*	235	38.0	289	46.8
3-1 Cobb-Douglas	1087	132.5	1312	160.0
3-2 Fulton	4387	476.5	7353	798.7
3-3 Clayton County *(Morrow)*	949	365.8	1003	386.6
3-4 East Metro *(Lawrenceville)*	939	94.8	1082	109.2
3-5 DeKalb	3530	510.2	4104	593.2
4-0 LaGrange	659	82.3	738	92.2
5-1 South Central *(Dublin)*	360	233.1	268	173.5
5-2 North Central *(Macon)*	953	183.0	872	167.4
6-0 East Central *(Augusta)*	918	198.9	1124	243.6
7-0 West Central *(Columbus)*	693	186.8	695	187.4
8-1 South *(Valdosta)*	481	190.6	469	185.7
8-2 Southwest *(Albany)*	678	190.2	764	214.3
9-1 Coastal *(Savannah/ Brunswick)*	970	170.2	1271	223.0
9-2 Southeast *(Waycross)*	418	115.3	546	150.6
10-0 Northeast *(Athens)*	301	65.4	417	90.6
Cases with unknown district	406		459	
Total	18,535	191.3	23,451	242.1

Figure 2: Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases, Georgia, 1994-2010

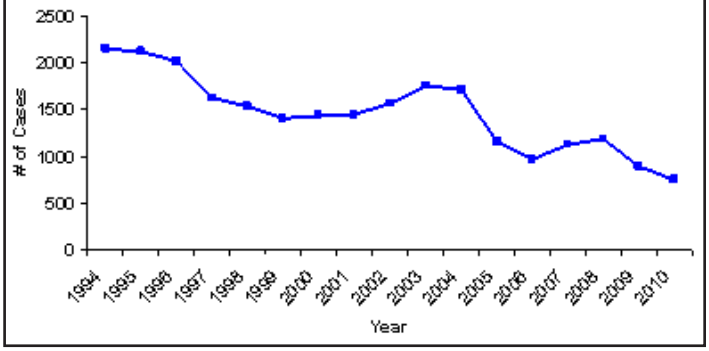
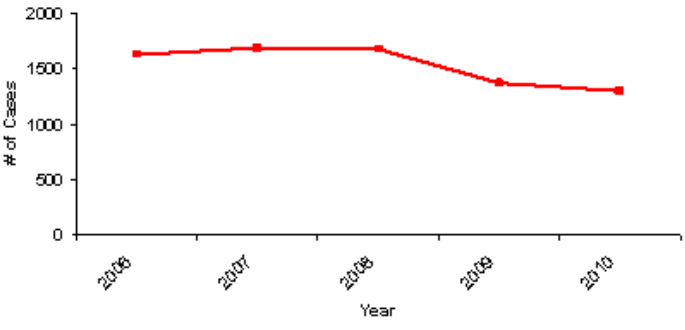


Figure 3: Newly Diagnosed HIV (Not AIDS) Cases, Georgia, 2006-2010



1. *Persons living with HIV/AIDS are based on current residence in Georgia regardless of state of diagnosis.*
2. *CDC, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2009 (Table 20), http://cdc.gov/hiv/surveillance/resources/ reports/2009report/*
3. *Crude rates measure the overall frequency which has not been adjusted for significant factors (i.e., sex, age, etc) which might have influenced the rate. Rates are per 100,000 population & population data is obtained from 2010 US Census, Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Health Indicators for Planning.*

HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE FACT SHEET

Newly Diagnosed HIV/AIDS in Georgia

- In 1994, there were 2154 newly diagnosed AIDS cases in Georgia, decreasing to 958 cases in 2006. There were 743 newly diagnosed AIDS cases in 2010 (Figure 3).
- During 2006, the number of newly diagnosed HIV (not AIDS) cases in Georgia was 1622. Since then, the numbers have decreased on average of 4.1% per year to 1294 cases in 2010 (Figure 3)
- In 2010, the total number of newly diagnosed HIV (not AIDS) and AIDS cases in Georgia was 2037, 63.5%(1294) were HIV (not AIDS) and 36.5%(743) were AIDS (Figures 2, 3)
- 77% of HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in 2010 were among African Americans, who make up only 31% of Georgia's population (Figure 4)
- In 2010, the highest number of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases were among persons between the ages of 30 and 49 years (Figure 5)
- In 2010, 38.8% of HIV (not AIDS) and 44.1% of AIDS cases were diagnosed among men who have sex with men (MSM) (Figures 6,7)
- In 2010, 85.8 % of newly diagnosed HIV(Not AIDS) and 9.2% of AIDS cases among females reported no identified risk(NIR) factor and/or had no risk reported (NRR) (Figures 6,7)

Figure 4: Newly Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Race, Georgia 2010

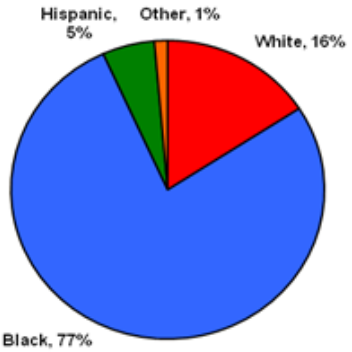


Figure 5: Newly Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Age-Group & Sex, Georgia 2010

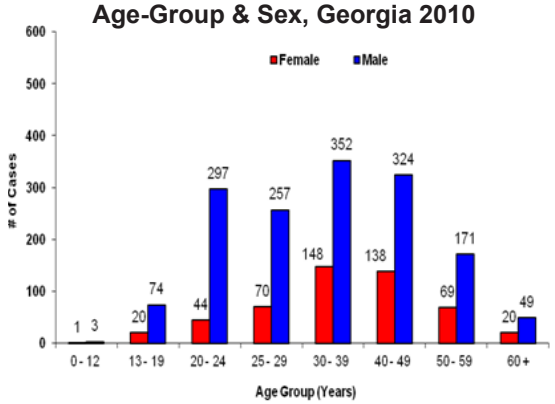


Figure 6: Newly Diagnosed HIV (Not AIDS) Cases by Transmission Category, Georgia 2010

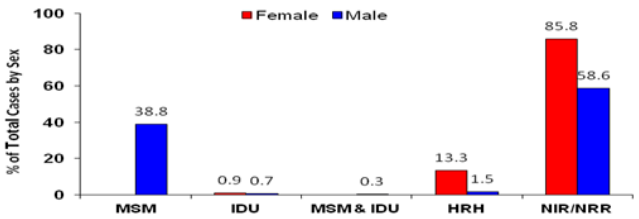
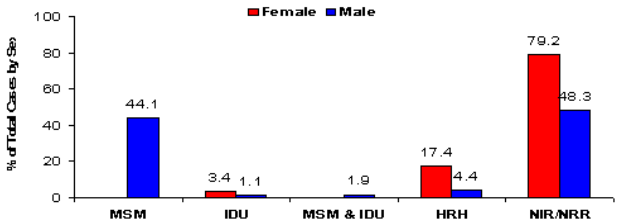


Figure 7: Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Transmission Category, Georgia 2010



KEY

MSM: *Men who have sex with men,* ***HRH:*** *High-risk heterosexual,* ***IDU:*** *Injection drug use,* ***NIR/NRR:*** *No identified/reported risk factor*

Note: *There were no new perinatal cases among females and only two HIV/AIDS cases among males. Because of the small number of perinatal cases, it was not shown in this graph. There were also no new cases of HIV/AIDS diagnosed among blood recipients for either males or females.*

Surveillance and Reporting

- Georgia's HIV Epidemiology Section is responsible for collecting HIV/AIDS surveillance data and for monitoring the epidemic in Georgia
- Georgia began collecting AIDS case reports in the early 1980s. HIV (not AIDS) reporting was mandated in Georgia on December 31, 2003
- By law, health care providers are required to submit a confidential HIV/AIDS case report for patients for whom they are diagnosing and/or providing HIV/ AIDS care, and laboratories are required to report all positive HIV-related laboratory tests
- Complete and timely reporting of HIV/AIDS cases by health care providers and laboratories is critical for monitoring the epidemic in Georgia. It is also essential for ensuring that Georgia receives federal funding for public sector HIV prevention, care and treatment services since funding allocation is directly linked to the number of cases.

DATA SOURCE

Numbers are based on cases diagnosed and/or living with HIV/AIDS as of December 31, 2010 and entered as of June 30, 2011. Numbers have not been adjusted for reporting delays. Numbers are taken from Georgia's enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (EHARS), 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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