

HIV Surveillance Fact Sheet

Persons Living with HIV infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia, through December 31, 2013

- Georgia was ranked fifth highest in the nation for total number of adults and adolescents living with HIV infection in 2013¹
- As of December 31, 2013, the total number of persons living with HIV infection in Georgia was 51,510 (Table 1). Of these, 53% (27,340) 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) Almost two-thirds (64%) of persons living with HIV infection in 2013 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, 2013

Public Health Districts	HIV Infection		Stage 3 (AIDS)	
	No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*
1-1 Northwest (Rome)	822	128	465	72
1-2 North Georgia (Dalton)	529	118	277	62
2 North (Gainesville)	540	83	289	45
3-1 Cobb-Douglas	3,152	369	1,624	190
3-2 Fulton	14,852	1,509	8,046	817
3-3 Clayton (Jonesboro)	1,746	661	928	351
3-4 East Metro (Lawrenceville)	3,064	292	1,606	153
3-5 DeKalb	7,615	1,068	4,124	578
4 LaGrange	1,556	191	879	108
5-1 South Central (Dublin)	617	405	327	214
5-2 North Central (Macon)	1,774	337	951	181
6 East Central (Augusta)	2,032	430	1,126	238
7 West Central (Columbus)	1,548	406	760	199
8-1 South (Valdosta)	975	383	507	199
8-2 Southwest (Albany)	1,558	440	844	238
9-1 Coastal (Savannah)	2,460	414	1,374	231
9-2 Southeast (Waycross)	1,101	302	574	157
10 Northeast (Athens)	705	150	393	84
Unknown	4,806	--	2,210	--
Total	51,510	516	27,340	274

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 2007-2013

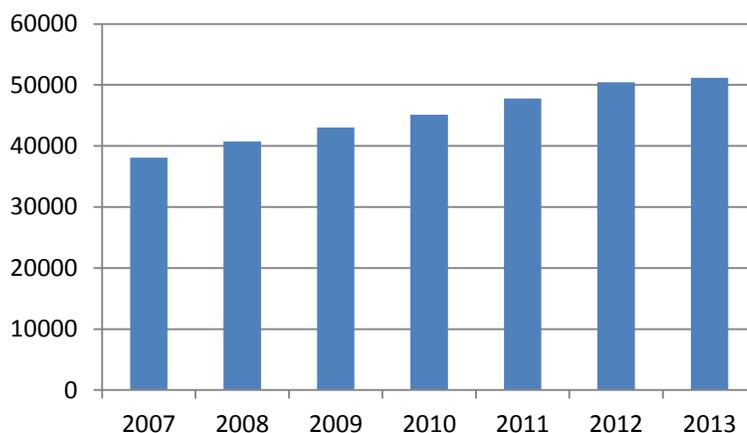


Figure 2: New Diagnoses of HIV Infection, Stage 3 (AIDS) and Deaths, Georgia 2007-2013

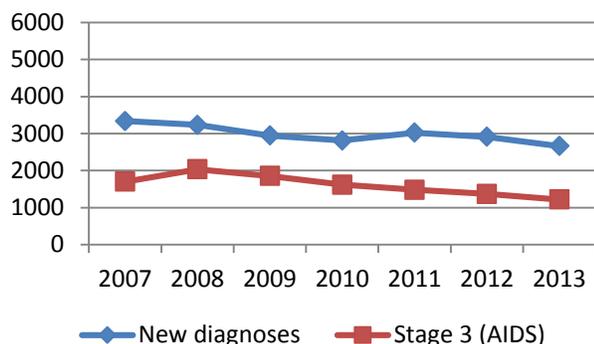
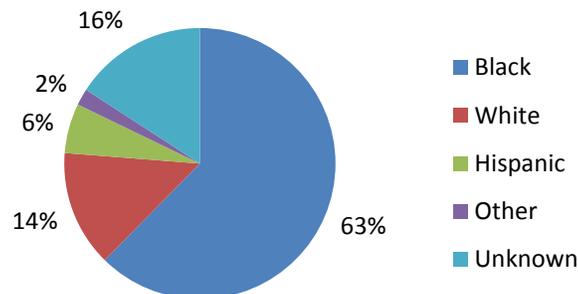


Figure 3: New Diagnoses of HIV Infection by Race/Ethnicity, Georgia 2013



New Diagnosis of HIV infection and Stage 3 (AIDS), Georgia 2013

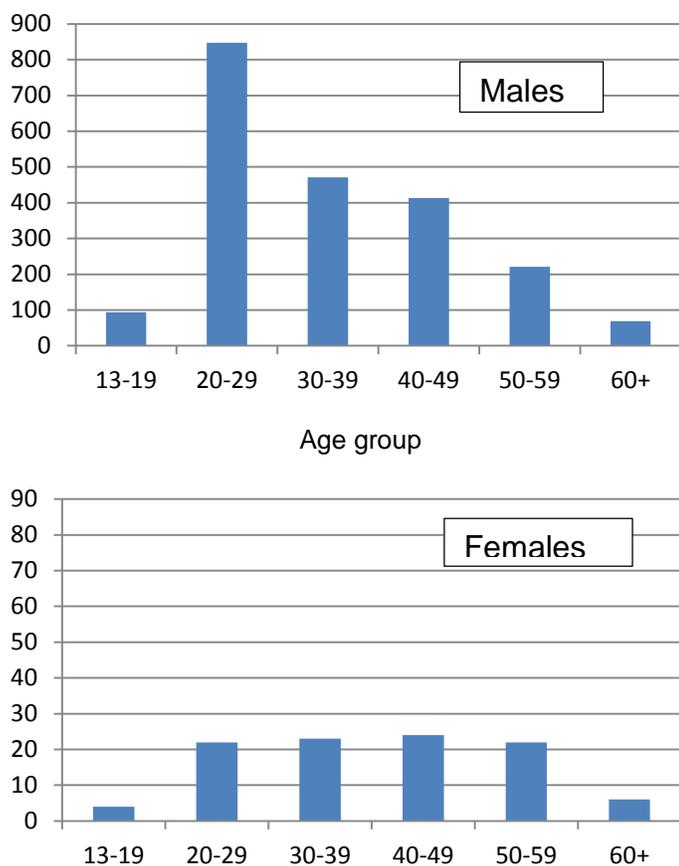
- Georgia was fifth highest in the nation for the total number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in 2013².
- There were 2,664 new HIV diagnoses in 2013 in Georgia; new HIV diagnoses have been slowly declining year to year (Figure 3).
- There were 1219 diagnoses of Stage 3 (AIDS) in Georgia in 2013; these are persons diagnosed with AIDS at initial diagnosis and persons who were previously diagnosed with HIV who were diagnosed with AIDS in 2013.
- In 2013, in Georgia, 21% of persons diagnosed with HIV were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS, 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 691 deaths among persons with HIV in Georgia in 2013.

Rates of HIV Diagnosis by Race/ Ethnicity per 100,000 population, Georgia 2013:

Blacks:	72.4
Hispanics:	25.3
Whites:	8.4

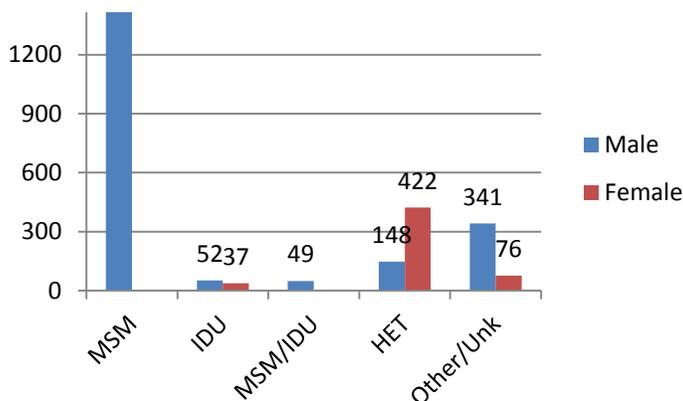
- Eighty percent (2,119) of those diagnosed with HIV infection in Georgia during 2013 were male and 20% (539) were female. Thirteen transgender persons were diagnosed with HIV in 2013.
- Sixty-seven percent (1674) of new diagnoses of HIV infection in Georgia were among Blacks. Sixteen percent of the new HIV infections lacked information on race/ethnicity (Figure 3).
- The highest number of new HIV diagnoses in Georgia during 2013 occurred among males 20-29 years of age (Figure 4).
- Seventy-two percent of males 13 years and older diagnosed with HIV were men who have sex with men (Figure 7).
- Seventy-eight percent of females 13 years and older diagnosed with HIV were heterosexual contacts.

Figure 4: New HIV Diagnoses by Age Group, Georgia, 2013 *



*In 2013, there were 5 diagnoses among children <13 years (perinatal transmission)

Figure 5: New Diagnoses of HIV Infection, by Sex and Transmission Category among Adolescents and Adults (13 years and older), Georgia, 2013



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 2013 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 June 30, 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 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.

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Surveillance Report, 2014; vol. 26. http://www.cdc.gov/hiv_topics/surveillance/reports/. Published February 2015. Accessed [October 2015]
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Surveillance Report, 2013; vol. 25. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-vol-25.pdf>. Published February 2015. Accessed [October 2015]

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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