

FACT SHEET

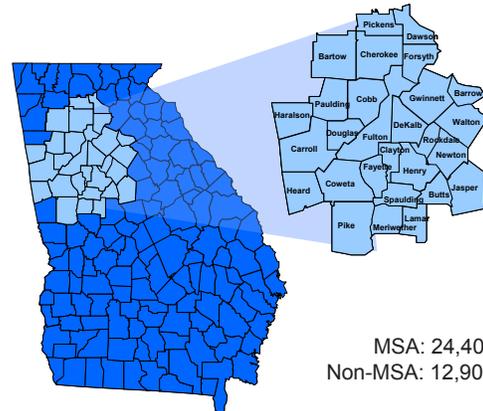
# HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE

HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus that damages a persons immune sysytem 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 persons immune sysytem is severely damaged that 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 requires that diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases are reported to the Division of Public Health within 7 days.

## Persons Living with HIV and AIDS in Georgia

- Georgia ranked ninth highest in the nation for its estimated rates of adult cases living with AIDS at the end of 2007
- In 2008, the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS in Georgia was 37,311. Forty-one percent of these persons had HIV (not AIDS) and 59% had AIDS
- In 2008, 65% of Georgians living with HIV/AIDS resided in the Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
- Other geographic regions outside the Atlanta MSA with high HIV (not AIDS) and/or AIDS prevalent cases include the South Central, East Central, and South Public Health Districts

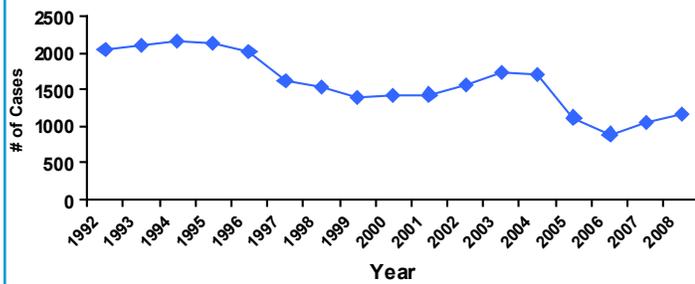
## Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Atlanta MSA\* vs. Non-Atlanta MSA, 2008



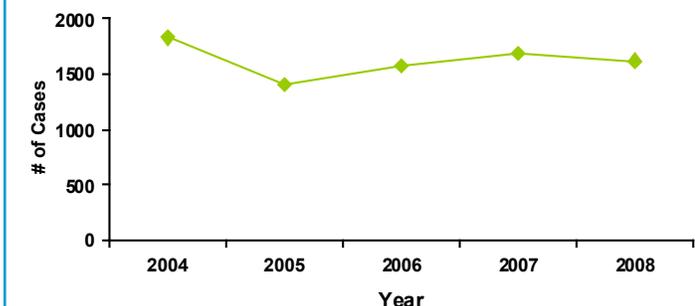
MSA: 24,407 cases  
Non-MSA: 12,904 cases

\*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

AIDS Cases by Diagnosis Year Georgia 1992-2008



HIV (not-AIDS) Cases by Diagnosis Year Georgia 2004-2008



## Numbers and Rates of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS by Public Health District, Georgia 2008

Public Health District	HIV		AIDS	
	#	Crude Rate**	#	Crude Rate
1-1 Northwest (Rome)	291	47.1	377	61.0
1-2 North Georgia (Dalton)	216	50.6	265	62.1
2 North (Gainesville)	191	31.4	259	42.6
3-1 Cobb-Douglas	913	110.5	1138	137.8
3-2 Fulton	3616	356.3	7039	693.5
3-3 Clayton County (Morrow)	781	285.3	871	318.2
3-4 East Metro (Lawrenceville)	732	75.4	893	91.9
3-5 DeKalb	2793	377.5	3673	496.4
4 LaGrange	495	63.2	661	84.4
5-1 South Central (Dublin)	310	213.8	239	164.9
5-2 North Central (Macon)	789	154.1	889	173.6
6 East Central (Augusta)	788	176.5	1079	241.7
7 West Central (Columbus)	562	157.8	671	188.4
8-1 South (Valdosta)	411	166.7	450	182.5
8-2 Southwest (Albany)	489	133.2	708	192.8
9-1 Coastal (Savannah/Brunswick)	800	148.3	1221	226.4
9-2 Southeast (Waycross)	363	104.0	519	148.6
10 Northeast (Athens)	258	55.9	374	81.1
GA residents with unknown county	494	---	693	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,292</b>	<b>157.9</b>	<b>22,019</b>	<b>227.3</b>

Rates are per 100,000 population & total populations obtained from 2008 Census estimates. \*\*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.

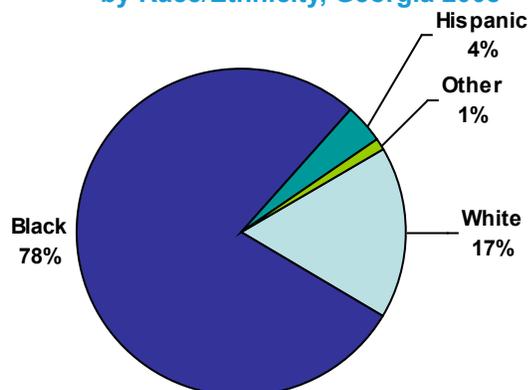
\*Note: Persons living with HIV/AIDS are based on a current residence in Georgia regardless of state of diagnosis.

# HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE

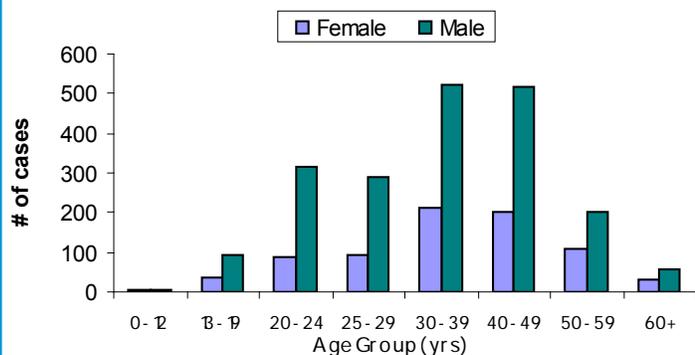
## Newly Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases in Georgia 2008

- In 2008, there were 2,774 newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases in Georgia. Fifty-eight percent were HIV (not AIDS) cases and 42% were AIDS
- Seventy-eight percent of HIV (not-AIDS) cases diagnosed in 2008 were among African Americans, who make up only 30% of Georgia's population
- In 2008, persons between the ages of 30 and 49 made up the highest number of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases
- Of all HIV (not AIDS) cases diagnosed in 2008, 25% were among men who have sex with men (MSM). Of male HIV (not AIDS) cases diagnosed in 2008, 34% were among men who have sex with men (MSM)
- In 2008, there were a substantial number of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases with no reported risk or no identified risk

**Newly Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Race/Ethnicity, Georgia 2008**



**Newly Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Age Group & Sex, Georgia 2008**

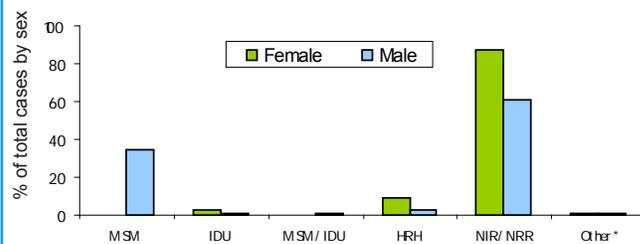


\*Note: Newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases are based on a residence of diagnosis in Georgia.

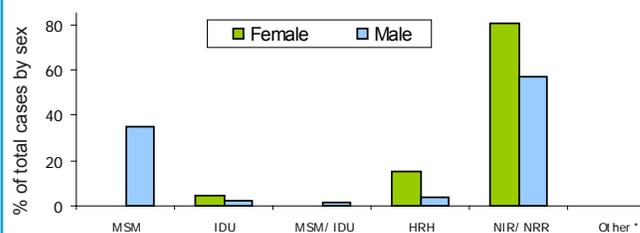
### DATA SOURCE:

Georgia's HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS), 2009. Numbers are based on cases diagnosed and/or living with HIV/AIDS as of December 31, 2008 and entered as of August, 1 2009. Numbers have not been adjusted for reporting delays.

**Newly Diagnosed HIV (not AIDS) Cases by Transmission Category & Sex, Georgia 2008**



**Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Transmission Category & Sex, Georgia 2008**



### KEY

MSM: Men who have sex with men HRH: High-risk heterosexual  
IDU: Injection drug use NIR/NRR: No identified/reported risk factor  
Other includes hemophilia, blood transfusion, transplant, & perinatal

## Surveillance and Reporting

- Georgia's HIV Epidemiology Unit 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 positive HIV-related laboratory tests
- Of HIV cases diagnosed in 2008, 87% of females and 61% of males were reported to the state without a CDC-defined HIV risk factor
- Complete and timely reporting of HIV/AIDS cases by health care providers is critical for monitoring the epidemic in Georgia. It is also essential for ensuring that Georgia receives federal funding for public sector HIV care and treatment services since funding is directly linked to reporting

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Georgia Division of Public Health  
HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Unit at 1-800-827-9769  
Email: HIVEPI@dhr.state.ga.us  
<http://health.state.ga.us/epi/hiv/aids>