



**HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
in the Southern Region of the United States:
Epidemiological Overview**

Prepared by

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A Call to Action

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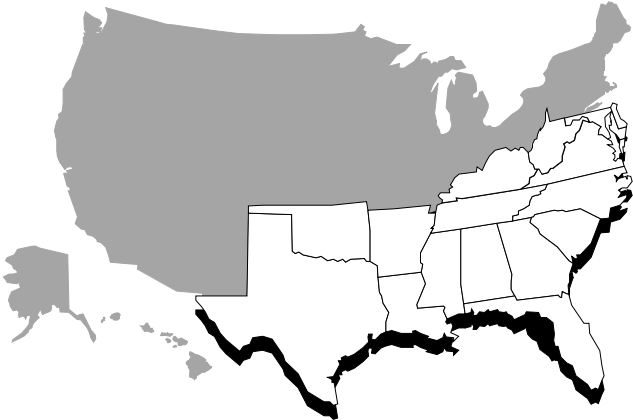
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HIV/AIDS AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs) IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have had a disparate impact across the country, with some regions being harder hit than others. The southern region of the U.S., which includes 16 states and the District of Columbia, has been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS and STD epidemics.



AIDS cases were first reported in some Southern states in the earliest years of the epidemic, and the South has the greatest number of people estimated to be living with AIDS in the nation (when compared to the Northeast, West, and Midwest).^{1,2,3} In addition, the South consistently has had higher reported rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and primary and secondary syphilis compared to other regions of the country.⁴

Multiple factors may contribute to this disparate impact in the South, including the availability of and access to health services, poverty, and stigma. In addition, the presence of other STDs increases the likelihood of HIV transmission.

THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE U.S.		
Alabama	Kentucky	South Carolina
Arkansas	Louisiana	Tennessee
Delaware	Maryland	Texas
District of Columbia	Mississippi	Virginia
Florida	North Carolina	West Virginia
Georgia	Oklahoma	

Tables I—VIII on the following pages provide select epidemiologic data on HIV/AIDS and STDs by region, state and metropolitan area/city. Key highlights include:

HIV/AIDS Data Highlights^{1,2,3}

- As of the end of 2001, the South had the greatest number of people estimated to be living with AIDS (AIDS prevalence) in the U.S. While in part due to the fact that the South has the largest population size of all regions in the U.S.,⁵ AIDS has had a disproportionate impact in the South. While the South represents a little more than one-third of the U.S. population (36%), it accounts for 40% of people estimated to be living with AIDS and 46% of the estimated number of new AIDS cases.
- The impact in the South may be increasing. The South represents a growing share of people estimated to be living with AIDS in the nation, rising from 35% in 1993 to 40% in 2001. By comparison, AIDS prevalence as a proportion of overall prevalence in the Northeast, West, and Midwest regions of the country either decreased over this same period or remained constant.
- In addition, the South comprises an increasing share of the estimated number of new AIDS cases (AIDS incidence) diagnosed each year, rising from 40% in 1996 to 46% in 2001. Estimated AIDS incidence in the Northwest, West, and Midwest regions, as a proportion of overall incidence, either decreased over this same period or remained constant.
- While the estimated number of new AIDS cases in the U.S. remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2001 (increasing by 1%), estimated AIDS incidence in the South increased by 9%. Incidence decreased in the Northeast (-8%) and West (-4%) and increased slightly in the Midwest (2%) between 2000 and 2001.
- The South has the second highest AIDS case rate per 100,000 in the nation (18.2 in 2001). The Northeast has the highest AIDS case rate (23.5). Seven of the states with the 10 highest AIDS case rates in the nation are located in the South.

- The majority of people estimated to be living with AIDS in the South (53% at the end of 1999) are African American, but African Americans represent only 19% of the overall population in the South. Latinos represent 10% of people estimated to be living with AIDS in the South and 12% of the South's overall population.⁵
- About one-fifth (22% at the end of 1999) of people estimated to be living with AIDS in the South are women.
- In 2000, 4 of the states with the 10 highest AIDS case rates among African Americans were in the South, as were 5 of the states with the 10 highest AIDS case rates among Latinos. Data from 2001 indicate that 7 of the states with the 10 highest AIDS case rates among women were in the South.
- Among the 25 metropolitan areas (with a population of 500,000 or more) with AIDS case rates in 2001 above the national average for areas of this size, 18 were in the South. In addition, 6 of the metropolitan areas with the 10 highest AIDS case rates were in the South.

STD Data Highlights⁴

- In 2000, the South had the highest case rates for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and primary and secondary syphilis in the nation. Rates of gonorrhea and primary and secondary syphilis have been higher in the South, compared to other regions, throughout the last two decades. Chlamydia rates have been higher in the South since 1997.
- Seven of the 10 states with the highest chlamydia case rates in 2000 were in the South.
- All of the 10 states with the highest gonorrhea case rates in 2000 were in the South.
- Nine of the 10 states with the highest primary and secondary syphilis case rates in 2000 were in the South.
- Four of the 10 cities (with population over 200,000) with the highest chlamydia case rates in 2000 were in the South, as were 4 of the 10 cities with the highest gonorrhea case rates. Six of the 10 cities with the highest primary and secondary syphilis case rates in 2000 were in the South.

ENDNOTES

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, 1982 Edition.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Surveillance Supplemental Report*, Vol. 7, No.1, 2001.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2000*, 2001.

⁵ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Time Series of State Population Estimates*, 2002.

Table I
Estimated Number of New AIDS Cases (AIDS Incidence) by Region, 2000–2001

	Estimated AIDS Incidence (2000)	Estimated AIDS Incidence (2001)	Percent Change
REGION	No.	No.	Percent
United States	39,491	39,910	1%
South	16,844	18,364	9%
Northeast	12,256	11,336	-8%
West	6,451	6,199	-4%
Midwest	3,940	4,011	2%

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002.

Table II
Estimated AIDS Prevalence, Incidence, & Population by Region, 2001

	Population (2001)	Estimated Proportion Living with AIDS/Prevalence (2001)	Estimated Number New AIDS Cases/Incidence (2001)
REGION	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States	100%	100%	100%
South	36%	40%	46%
Northeast	19%	30%	28%
West	23%	19%	16%
Midwest	23%	10%	10%

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Time Series of State Population Estimates, 2002.

Table III
Region as Proportion of Estimated AIDS Prevalence, 1993–2001

REGION	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
United States	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
South	35%	36%	38%	39%	40%
Northeast	31%	31%	31%	30%	30%
West	23%	22%	21%	20%	20%
Midwest	11%	11%	10%	10%	10%

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002.

Table IV
Region as Proportion of Estimated AIDS Incidence, 1996–2001

REGION	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
United States	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
South	40%	42%	44%	43%	43%	46%
Northeast	31%	30%	28%	30%	31%	28%
West	18%	18%	18%	17%	16%	16%
Midwest	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002.

Table V
HIV/AIDS in the United States
Select Data by Region and State/Territory

State/Territory	AIDS Case Rate ² Per 100,000 (2001)		Number of Persons Living with AIDS/ Prevalence ³ (2001)		Number of New AIDS Cases/ Incidence ² (2001)		African Americans as Percent Prevalence ³ (end '99)	Latinos as Percent Prevalence ³ (end '99)	Women as Percent Prevalence ³ (end '99)	Case Rate African Americans ² (2000)	Case Rate Latinos ² (2000)	Case Rate Women ² (2001)
	Rate ⁵	Rank ¹	No.	Rank ¹	No.	Rank ¹	Percent	Percent	Percent	Rate Per 100,000 Adults/Adolescents		
United States⁴	14.7	—	333,881	—	41,755	—	42%	17%	20%	74.2	30.4	9.1
South	18.2	2	134,341	1	18,569	1	53%	10%	22%	—	—	—
Northeast	23.5	1	100,835	2	12,637	2	44%	26%	27%	—	—	—
West	10.3	3	64,977	3	6,634	3	17%	22%	10%	—	—	—
Midwest	6.1	4	33,728	4	3,915	4	42%	8%	16%	—	—	—
SOUTH	18.2	2	134,341	1	18,569	1	53%	10%	22%	—	—	—
Alabama	9.8	23	3,427	23	438	23	62%	1%	20%	37.8	18.1	5.6
Arkansas	7.4	30	1,781	30	199	32	36%	1%	18%	26.2	13.2	3.9
Delaware	31.1	5	1,367	34	248	30	68%	5%	28%	137.9	64.6	24.1
District of Columbia	152.1	1	7,205	11	870	12	80%	4%	23%	260.1	102.6	92.0
Florida	31.3	4	38,742	3	5,138	2	47%	16%	26%	164.3	37.7	21.0
Georgia	20.8	6	11,269	8	1,745	8	67%	2%	20%	55.1	20.7	12.9
Kentucky	8.2	26	1,873	29	333	26	32%	3%	16%	34.1	34.2	3.0
Louisiana	19.3	8	5,851	14	861	13	58%	3%	19%	46.7	11.7	13.1
Maryland	34.6	3	11,288	7	1,860	5	79%	2%	29%	108.0	18.4	26.5
Mississippi	14.6	12	2,341	26	418	24	67%	1%	25%	40.1	44.2	9.5
North Carolina	11.5	18	5,402	15	942	11	68%	3%	23%	37.9	27.0	7.3
Oklahoma	7.0	31	1,685	32	243	31	19%	5%	12%	41.0	9.4	2.5
South Carolina	17.9	9	5,172	16	729	15	71%	1%	25%	68.5	39.6	13.1
Tennessee	10.5	20	5,021	17	602	16	49%	2%	17%	71.1	30.3	6.3
Texas	13.6	13	24,936	4	2,892	4	33%	21%	15%	53.6	15.3	7.4
Virginia	13.2	14	6,443	12	951	10	57%	4%	19%	51.8	19.8	7.9
West Virginia	5.5	36	538	41	100	39	20%	1%	14%	26.0	—	2.8
NORTHEAST	23.5	1	100,835	2	12,637	2	44%	26%	27%	—	—	—
Connecticut	17.1	10	6,123	13	584	17	38%	28%	29%	91.5	98.7	14.2
Maine	3.7	40	486	44	48	43	4%	4%	14%	—	—	2.0
Massachusetts	12.0	16	7,368	10	765	14	26%	24%	26%	129.4	103.8	8.1
New Hampshire	3.2	45	507	43	40	44	7%	11%	18%	—	—	2.5
New Jersey	20.7	7	15,702	5	1,756	7	55%	19%	32%	136.9	42.5	16.2
New York	39.3	2	56,792	1	7,476	1	44%	31%	27%	143.1	92.7	30.3
Pennsylvania	15.0	11	12,680	6	1,840	6	53%	14%	23%	112.9	77.6	9.3
Rhode Island	9.7	24	961	39	103	38	25%	22%	26%	103.2	35.1	6.1
Vermont	4.1	39	216	47	25	46	11%	3%	13%	—	—	2.3
WEST	10.3	3	64,977	3	6,634	3	17%	22%	10%	—	—	—
Alaska	2.8	47	239	45	18	48	9%	11%	14%	—	—	1.3
Arizona	10.2	21	3,612	22	540	20	9%	20%	11%	46.3	11.3	3.1
California	12.5	15	45,428	2	4,315	3	19%	25%	10%	60.4	19.4	4.1
Colorado	6.5	32	3,121	24	288	27	13%	16%	9%	40.2	15.9	2.1
Hawaii	10.1	22	1,070	36	124	36	6%	7%	9%	—	7.1	3.0
Idaho	1.4	49	233	46	19	47	3%	11%	14%	—	—	0.7
Montana	1.7	48	172	48	15	49	4%	2%	11%	—	—	0.8
Nevada	12.0	17	2,249	27	252	29	21%	15%	14%	70.7	21.8	5.0
New Mexico	7.8	28	1,040	37	143	35	5%	35%	8%	38.2	11.9	1.5
Oregon	7.5	29	2,218	28	259	28	6%	8%	9%	53.6	14.1	1.6
Utah	5.5	35	1,089	35	124	37	7%	12%	9%	172.5	20.2	1.4
Washington	8.9	25	4,426	21	532	21	12%	9%	10%	47.1	23.2	2.4
Wyoming	1.0	50	80	50	5	50	5%	9%	13%	—	—	0.5
MIDWEST	6.1	4	33,728	4	3,915	4	42%	8%	16%	—	—	—
Illinois	10.6	19	10,717	9	1,323	9	51%	13%	19%	74.5	26.6	5.3
Indiana	6.2	33	2,944	25	378	25	27%	4%	12%	34.7	20.4	3.1
Iowa	3.1	46	623	40	90	41	15%	5%	11%	42.8	22.9	0.8
Kansas	3.6	41	1,038	38	98	40	20%	8%	13%	29.4	15.3	1.2
Michigan	5.5	34	4,884	19	548	19	55%	4%	18%	43.5	10.7	3.2
Minnesota	3.2	44	1,737	31	157	34	24%	7%	14%	64.9	33.2	1.9
Missouri	7.9	27	4,548	20	445	22	37%	3%	12%	49.3	25.3	2.9
Nebraska	4.3	38	522	42	74	42	19%	11%	15%	38.9	29.5	1.5
North Dakota	0.5	51	46	51	3	51	9%	5%	14%	—	—	0.0
Ohio	5.1	37	4,905	18	581	18	39%	5%	15%	26.5	21.6	2.3
South Dakota	3.3	43	95	49	25	45	6%	3%	17%	—	—	1.6
Wisconsin	3.6	42	1,669	33	193	33	35%	10%	14%	42.7	20.3	1.9
TERRITORIES/OTHER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guam	7.6	—	32	—	12	—	0%	0%	17%	—	—	1.6
Pacific Islands	0.3	—	3	—	1	—	0%	0%	50%	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	32.3	—	9,548	—	1,242	—	0%	100%	26%	—	45.4	21.1
Virgin Islands	28.6	—	248	—	35	—	52%	36%	32%	—	—	27.1

NOTES:
1. U.S. territories, dependencies, possessions, associated nations not included in regional or state rankings.
2. Represents or based on reported AIDS cases.
3. Prevalence data represent estimates only.
4. United States totals do not include U.S. territories, dependencies, possessions, associated nations, except for case rates for African American, Latino, and female adults/adolescents.
5. Regional AIDS case rates per 100,000 derived from aggregated U.S. Census population data and CDC reported AIDS incidence data.
Population estimates (data not shown) for U.S. territories, dependencies, possessions, associated nations derived from reported AIDS incidence and case rate data.
6. "—" indicates data not available or cell size too small to include.
SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Supplemental Report, Vol. 7, No. 1; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance by Race/Ethnicity L238 Slide Series; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Time Series of State Population Estimates, 2002.

Table VI
AIDS Case Rates Per 100,000 in
Metropolitan Areas
With 500,000 or More Population:
Areas with Case Rates Above Metro Area
Average, 2001

Metropolitan Area	Region	Case Rate	Rank
Metro Total	—	19.0	—
New York, NY	NE	65.9	1
Miami, FL	S	53.8	2
Baltimore, MD	S	50.0	3
Jersey City, NJ	NE	42.1	4
Fort Lauderdale, FL	S	41.3	5
West Palm Beach, FL	S	39.4	6
Baton Rouge, LA	S	36.4	7
Newark, NJ	NE	34.8	8
San Francisco, CA	W	34.6	9
Wilmington, DE	S	33.1	10
Washington, DC ²	S	32.8	11
Columbia, SC	S	32.7	12
Orlando, FL	S	31.2	13
Atlanta, GA	S	30.3	14
Jacksonville, FL	S	27.5	15
Philadelphia, PA	NE	26.5	16
Tampa-St Pete, FL	S	24.8	17
New Orleans, LA	S	23.4	18
Sarasota, FL	S	22.8	19
Memphis, TN	S	22.6	20
Norfolk, VA	S	21.1	21
Daytona Beach, FL	S	21.0	22
Dallas, TX	S	20.5	23
New Haven, CT	NE	20.3	24
Harrisburg, PA	NE	19.5	25

NOTES:

1. U.S. territories, dependencies, possessions, associated nations not included in rankings.

2. Washington DC represents the Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes parts of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Data for the District of Columbia only can be found in Table V.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2002.

Table VII
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in the United States
Select Data1 by Region and State/Territory, 2000

State/Territory	Chlamydia Case Rate Per 100,000 (2000)	Chlamydia Case Rate Rank ²	Gonorrhea Case Rate Per 100,000 (2000)	Gonorrhea Case Rate Rank ²	Primary & Secondary Syphilis Case Rate Per 100,000 (2000)	Primary & Secondary Syphilis Case Rate Rank ²
United States	257.5	—	131.6	—	2.2	—
South	296.6	1	191.8	1	3.8	1
Northeast	179.7	4	92.3	3	0.7	4
West	264.7	2	59.4	4	1.0	3
Midwest	254.5	3	142.0	2	2.0	2
SOUTH	296.6	1	191.8	1	3.8	1
Alabama	350.7	7	276.0	4	2.8	15
Arkansas	243.8	26	142.7	18	4.1	10
Delaware	379.0	5	230.2	7	1.2	20
District of Columbia	617.5	1	521.4	1	7.1	2
Florida	221.0	34	150.8	16	2.7	16
Georgia	377.0	6	260.2	5	5.2	7
Kentucky	203.6	38	88.4	28	2.1	17
Louisiana	408.2	4	302.9	3	4.8	9
Maryland	281.0	15	190.2	10	5.8	6
Mississippi	458.6	2	332.9	2	4.9	8
North Carolina	287.4	14	233.0	6	6.3	3
Oklahoma	277.9	16	125.9	20	3.5	12
South Carolina	256.1	23	215.7	9	5.9	5
Tennessee	274.8	18	216.6	8	9.7	1
Texas	343.3	8	164.2	14	2.0	18
Virginia	223.4	32	148.0	17	1.8	19
West Virginia	118.7	47	35.7	42	0.2	39
NORTHEAST	179.7	4	92.3	3	0.7	4
Connecticut	231.7	28	88.7	27	0.5	31
Maine	117.6	48	7.2	50	0.1	46
Massachusetts	177.6	39	49.3	37	1.1	21
New Hampshire	94.1	50	9.2	48	0.2	41
New Jersey	132.8	46	88.8	26	0.9	24
New York	173.1	40	110.5	22	0.7	27
Pennsylvania	220.7	35	113.4	21	0.6	28
Rhode Island	265.6	21	66.7	32	0.4	34
Vermont	88.6	51	10.9	46	0.0	51
WEST	264.7	2	59.4	4	1.0	3
Alaska	414.7	3	58.3	36	0.0	47
Arizona	263.5	22	86.4	29	4.0	11
California	287.8	13	65.2	35	1.0	23
Colorado	295.8	12	76.7	31	0.3	36
Hawaii	299.2	10	40.7	40	0.2	40
Idaho	152.4	44	7.8	49	0.1	45
Montana	166.4	43	6.8	51	0.0	48
Nevada	222.1	33	85.8	30	0.3	37
New Mexico	299.1	11	66.2	34	0.9	26
Oregon	214.3	36	31.3	43	0.4	32
Utah	102.8	49	10.8	47	0.1	44
Washington	227.0	31	42.0	39	1.1	22
Wyoming	168.3	42	11.1	45	0.2	42
MIDWEST	254.5	3	142.0	2	2.0	2
Illinois	272.0	19	170.4	13	3.4	13
Indiana	236.6	27	109.8	23	5.9	4
Iowa	208.6	37	48.5	38	0.4	33
Kansas	228.2	29	105.3	24	0.2	38
Michigan	266.0	20	184.3	11	3.3	14
Minnesota	169.7	41	66.2	33	0.3	35
Missouri	245.9	25	162.4	15	0.5	30
Nebraska	227.5	30	92.1	25	0.1	43
North Dakota	143.5	45	11.5	44	0.0	49
Ohio	277.1	17	171.5	12	0.6	29
South Dakota	250.2	24	37.8	41	0.0	50
Wisconsin	311.7	9	133.6	19	0.9	25
TERRITORIES/ OTHER	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guam	321.1	—	37.9	—	0.6	—
Pacific Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	69.3	—	13.5	—	4.5	—
Virgin Islands	116.1	—	21.3	—	2.7	—

NOTES:

1. Data represent reported cases.
2. U.S. territories, dependencies, possessions, associated nations not included in regional or state rankings.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2000, 2001.

Table VIII
STD Case Rates Per 100,000 in Cities with 200,000 or More Population:
Cities in Top 10 Rank by Case Rate, 2000

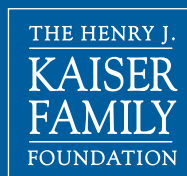
City	Chlamydia Case Rate Per 100,000 (2000)	Region	City	Gonorrhea Case Rate Per 100,000 (2000)	Region	City	Primary & Secondary Syphilis Case Rate Per 100,000 (2000)	Region
U.S. City Total	407.2	—		234.9	—		4.6	—
Richmond, VA	1175.5	S	Richmond, VA	923.6	S	Nashville, TN	37.7	S
Milwaukee, WI	995.1	MW	Rochester, NY	894.8	NE	Indianapolis, IN	37.1	MW
Philadelphia, PA	958.2	NE	Baltimore, MD	885.6	S	Baltimore, MD	34.5	S
Baltimore, MD	858.7	S	St. Louis, MO	862.1	MW	Memphis, TN	28.2	S
New Orleans, LA	828.1	S	Detroit, MI	766.7	MW	Detroit, MI	21.9	MW
St Louis, MO	811.8	MW	Norfolk, VA	659.7	S	Oklahoma City, OK	20.0	S
Detroit, MI	797.0	MW	New Orleans, LA	654.1	S	Norfolk, VA	16.4	S
Atlanta, GA	746.2	S	Kansas City, MO	595.2	MW	Atlanta, GA	15.6	S
Minneapolis, MN	724.3	MW	Philadelphia, PA	578.3	NE	Newark, NJ	9.9	NE
Kansas City, MO	692.7	MW	Milwaukee, WI	567.8	MW	Chicago, IL	9.8	MW

NOTES:

1. Data represent reported cases.

2. U.S. territories, dependencies, possessions, associated nations not included in regional or state rankings.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2000, 2001.



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