

HIV/AIDS in Mississippi

Mississippi:

- In 2011, Mississippi ranked seventh in the nation in HIV case rates, with a rate of 20.7 per 100,000 persons.¹
- More than 10,000 people were living with HIV in Mississippi in 2011.²
- Although African Americans make up only 38 percent of Mississippi's population, they accounted for 75 percent of all new cases in 2012.³
- The rate of HIV infections among African Americans was seven times higher than whites in 2012.⁴
- African Americans account for nearly 80 percent of HIV/AIDS related deaths in Mississippi per year.⁵
- In 2012, 72.4 percent of those living with HIV in Mississippi were African-American.⁶
- Sunflower County, where our Indianola office is located, has the second highest rate of HIV disease prevalence in the state, second only to Hinds County.⁷
- Thirty-eight percent of those with HIV in Mississippi live in the Metropolitan Jackson area.⁸
- In 2011, Jackson had the third highest rate of HIV diagnoses and the eighth highest AIDS diagnosis among metropolitan statistical areas in America.⁹

¹ MS State Dep't of Health, STD/HIV Office, *HIV Disease 2012 Fact Sheet Mississippi*, available at http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/5070.pdf (last visited March 19, 2014).

² MS State Dep't of Health, STD/HIV Office, *2012-2015 JURISDICTIONAL PLAN*, available at [http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/14,5116,150,pdf/2012 HIV Jurisdictional Plan.pdf](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/14,5116,150,pdf/2012%20HIV%20Jurisdictional%20Plan.pdf) (last visited March 19, 2014).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ MS STATE DEP'T OF HEALTH, *Mississippians Living with HIV Disease in 2012 By Age Group, Sex, Race, Exposure Category, and Public Health District*, available at http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/4769.pdf (last visited March 19, 2014).

⁷ MS STATE DEP'T OF HEALTH, *Reported Cases and Rates of Individuals living with HIV Disease by District and County: Mississippi, 2007 – 2011*, available at http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/3700.pdf (last visited March 25, 2014).

⁸ MS State Dep't of Health, STD/HIV Office, *HIV Disease 2012 Fact Sheet Mississippi*, available at http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/5070.pdf (last visited March 19, 2014).

⁹ MS State Dep't of Health, STD/HIV Office, *2012-2015 JURISDICTIONAL PLAN*, available at [http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/14,5116,150,pdf/2012 HIV Jurisdictional Plan.pdf](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/14,5116,150,pdf/2012%20HIV%20Jurisdictional%20Plan.pdf) (last visited March 25, 2014).

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- A report by Human Rights Watch in 2011 found that in Mississippi, 50-70 percent of people living with HIV and aware of their status are not receiving even a minimal level of medical care.¹⁰
- The Mississippi State Public Health Department District III (titled the “Delta/Hills” district)¹¹ has the second-highest HIV disease rate of all of the Public Health Districts in Mississippi, with 972 people living with HIV/AIDS as of 2011.¹²
- **HIV Death Rate MS:** 4.2 out of 100,000 compared to the U.S. 2.6 out of 100,000¹³

Deep South:

- In 2011, HIV prevalence data indicate that 43% of people living with HIV in the US reside in the Southern region.¹⁴
- The South accounted for nearly half (46%) of new AIDS diagnoses in the United States.¹⁵
- In 2011, nearly half (49%) of new HIV diagnoses reported were located in the Southern US, while the Southern region accounted for only 37% of the US population.¹⁶
- In 2011, 40% of new HIV diagnoses were in the Deep South states (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX), a region that only makes up 28% of the US population.¹⁷

¹⁰ MEGAN MCLEMORE, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH: RIGHTS AT RISK - STATE RESPONSE TO HIV IN MISSISSIPPI, 2011 available at <http://www.hrw.org/node/96874/section/1> (last visited March 25, 2014).

¹¹ See MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS, available at http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/3468.pdf. (last visited March 25, 2014).

¹² See MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, REPORTED CASES AND RATES OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH HIV DISEASE BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI 2007-2011, available at http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/3700.pdf. (last visited March 25, 2014).

¹³ KAISER FAMILY HEALTH FOUNDATION, available at <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/profileind.jsp?rgn=26&cat=11&ind=527> (last visited March 19, 2014).

¹⁴ Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative, *HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the South Reaches Crisis Proportions in Last Decade 2–3* (2011), available at <http://globalhealth.duke.edu/news/2011/ResearchReportFinal3-12.pdf>. (last visited March 25, 2014).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative, *Disproportionate Impact of HIV in the South has been Consistent from 2008 – 2011*, available at <http://southernaidsstrategy.org/2014/03/11/disproportionate-impact-of-hiv-in-the-south-has-been-consistent-from-2008-2011/> (last visited March 19, 2014).

¹⁷ *Id.*

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- Further, the South was the only region in which the number of black/African American MSM living with a diagnosis of HIV infection was greater than the number of white MSM living with HIV.¹⁸
- In the South, the estimated rate of diagnoses of HIV infection in the two youngest age groups of men (13–19 and 20–29) increased significantly.¹⁹
- The percentage of individuals surviving for 36 months after a diagnosis of HIV infection for the period 2002–2006 was worse in the South than in any other region.²⁰

United States:

- 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection and 1 in 5 are unaware of their infection.²¹
- In 2011, an estimated 49,273 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the United States. In that same year, an estimated 32,052 people were diagnosed with AIDS.²²
- The first time in its history, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended consultation with an attorney as part of a general medical treatment.

¹⁸ Joseph Prejean et al., *HIV Diagnoses and Prevalence in the Southern Region of the United States, 2007–2010* available at, <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/HIV-Prevalence-Rates-MSM-Southern-United-States-Sept-2010.pdf> (last visited March 25, 2014).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, *HIV in the United States: At a Glance* (March 2012) available at http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/PDF/HIV_at_a_glance.pdf. (last visited March 25, 2014).

²² *Id.*

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program for patients who are newly diagnosed with HIV.²³ Never in its history has the CDC recommended legal services for any particular disease or illness.

Definitions:

- **HIV Incidence:** The number of new HIV infections in a specific population during a specific period of time.²⁴
- **HIV Prevalence:** The number of people living with HIV infection in a given year.²⁵

²³ See American Bar Association, *HIV Legal Checkup 1* (2005), available at [http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/schools/law_sites/library/pdf/content/tremblay_schulman/2005-10.ABA.Legal percent20Checkup.Answering percent20the percent20Call.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/schools/law_sites/library/pdf/content/tremblay_schulman/2005-10.ABA.Legal%20Checkup.Answering%20the%20Call.pdf). (last visited March 25, 2014). See also ABA Press Release, July 19, 2006 available at <http://www.abanow.org/2006/07/aba-young-lawyers-division-continues-to-answer-the-call-with-free-hiv-legal-checkup-cle-program/> (last visited March 25, 2014).

²⁴ CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, HIV/AIDS Statistics and Surveillance, Basic Statistics, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/basic.htm#def> (last visited March 25, 2014).

²⁵ *Id.*