HIV DIAGNOSES AND TRENDS IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES, 2010-2015

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Background

- Previous studies have documented disproportionate rates of HIV diagnosis in the southern United States compared to other regions, with about half of all US HIV infections diagnosed in the region each year
- These disparities may be related to demographic and cultural factors, including increased HIV-related stigma, discrimination, and poverty
- National HIV prevention goals will be difficult to achieve without addressing disparities and increased rates in the region
- To inform prevention efforts, we provide updated information about current rates and trends in HIV diagnoses in the South

Methods

- We used National HIV Surveillance System data reported to CDC through June 2017 for persons aged ≥13 years
- We analyzed HIV diagnosis rates and counts by US Census Region, and by race/ethnicity and population size of area of residence at diagnosis, for 2015 diagnoses
- For the Southern United States, we analyzed HIV diagnosis rates, counts, and trends during 2010-2015, by race/ethnicity and population size of area of person's residence at time of HIV diagnosis
- We calculated estimated annual percent change (EAPC) in diagnoses, and we provide 95% confidence intervals for EAPCs
- Rates use U.S. Census data from 2016 for denominators and are per 100,000 population

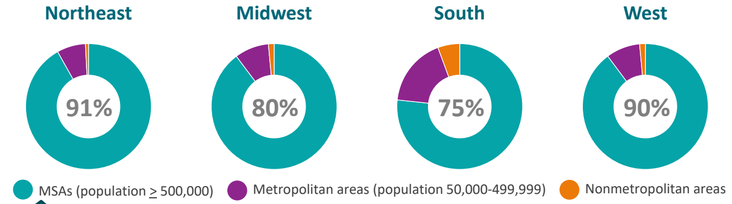
Results

HIV Diagnosis Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Region, 2015

	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
American Indian/Alaska Native	5.7	6.2	10.0	12.3
Asian	4.8	6.5	7.3	6.7
Black/African American	48.5	42.6	58.6	46.4
Hispanic/Latino	33.3	16.4	25.5	17.3
White	4.5	4.2	7.4	7.7
Multiple races	44.1	19.5	33.4	12.6
Overall	**13.6**	**9.2**	**20.2**	**12.2**

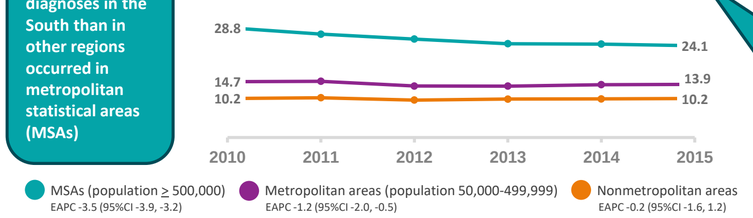
HIV diagnosis rates in the South were higher than other regions overall and for Asians and blacks/ African Americans

HIV Diagnoses by Population Size of Area of Residence and Region, 2015



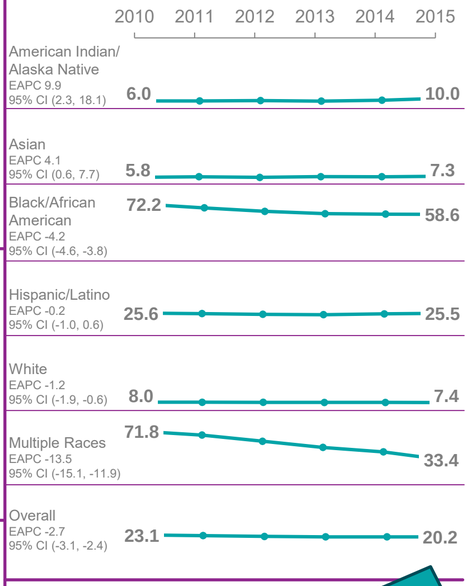
A smaller proportion of diagnoses in the South than in other regions occurred in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)

HIV Diagnosis Rates by Population Size of Area of Residence, Southern United States, 2010-2015



Diagnoses in the South declined in MSAs and metropolitan areas, and were stable in nonmetropolitan areas

HIV Diagnosis Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Southern United States, 2010-2015



During 2010-2015, HIV diagnoses in the South declined among blacks/African Americans, whites, and persons of multiple races, and increased among American Indians/Alaska Natives and Asians.

Limitations

- This analysis only includes persons with diagnosed HIV infection
- Variations between states in the Southern region have been documented, but are not captured in this analysis

Discussion

- The Southern United States continues to be disproportionately affected by HIV
- Although decreasing diagnoses in the region are encouraging, continued disparities are cause for concern
- Although more than 75% of HIV diagnoses in the South occur in MSAs, nonmetropolitan areas in the region have not experienced declines evident in MSAs and metropolitan areas
- Compared to other regions of the country, HIV cases in the South occur more commonly in nonmetropolitan areas where services are often limited and at-risk populations may be difficult to reach
- Increased, ongoing efforts to reach at-risk populations and to address contextual factors unique to the region will be critical to reducing ongoing disparities and ultimately, to achieving national HIV prevention goals

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