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Ath 248 Urban Evangelism

The AIDS Epidemic in Atlanta

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According to the ***Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report s***ince the epidemic began in the early 1980s, 1,216,917 people have been diagnosed with AIDS in the US, with 1.1 million people in 2014 living with HIV. 1 in 7 of them are not aware of it, with an estimated 161,200 (13%) not having been diagnosed. In 2015, 39,513 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the United States, a decrease of 19% from 2005 to 2014. The decrease may be due to targeted HIV prevention efforts, but progress has been uneven, and diagnoses have increased among a few groups, Men who have sex with men accounted for approximately 8 out of 10 HIV diagnoses among males. Diagnoses dropped 18% overall among white homosexual and bisexual men, but rose 24% among Hispanic/Latino and 22% among African American homosexual and bisexual men (87% among those aged 13 to 24), respectively. HIV diagnoses declined 35% among all heterosexuals (heterosexual contact accounting for 24% of HIV diagnoses), and 63% among people who inject drugs. Diagnoses also declined 40% among all women, and 42% among African American women. Regionally, the population rates (per 100,000 people) of persons diagnosed with HIV infection in 2015 were highest in the South (16.8), followed by the Northeast (11.6), the West (9.8), and the Midwest (7.6).

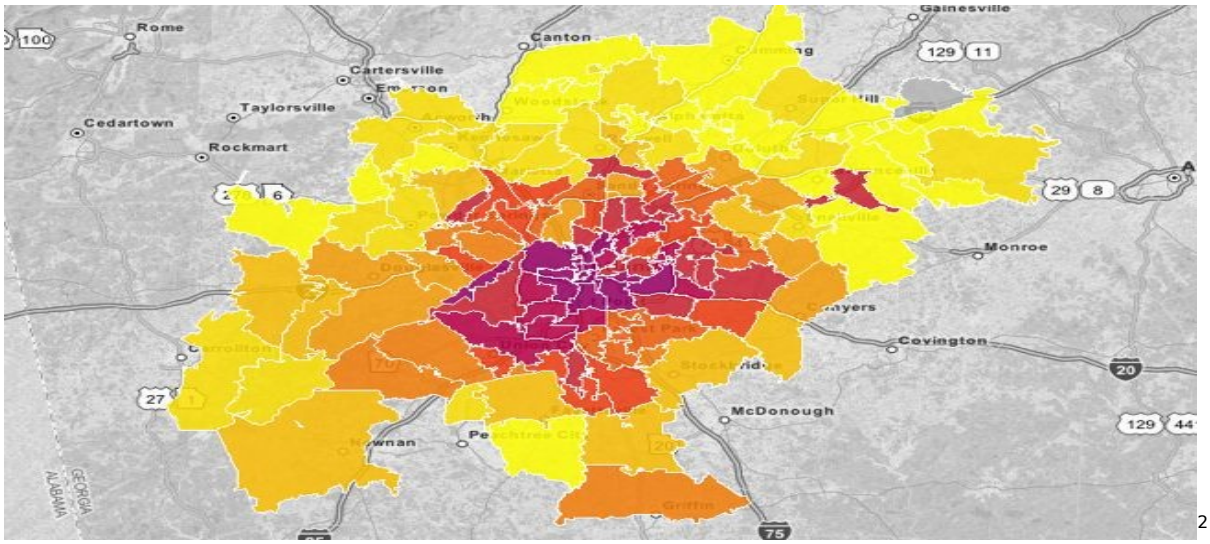
The most frequent mode of transmission of HIV continues to be through male homosexual sexual relations. In general, recent studies have shown that 1 in 5 gay and bisexual men were infected with HIV. As of 2014, in the United States, 83% of new HIV diagnoses among all males aged 13 and older and 67% of the total estimated new diagnoses were among homosexual and bisexual men. Those aged 13 to 24 also accounted for an estimated 92% of new HIV diagnoses among all men in their age group.[1]

1 http://en wikepedia.org/wiki/epidemiology of HIV/

The US Department of Health and Human Services is the global leader in world and local surveillance of t**he HIV Aids epidemic. In the United States, Atlanta,** ranks as epicenter of new HIV/AIDS in its home state who is 2017's No.5 in the nation for new HIV/AIDS diagnosis. Also central in Atlanta is the effort to combat the epidemic.

Ending the epidemic is the goal of UNAIDS headquartered in Geneva Switzerland, represented in the Ponce de Leon center in Atlanta. The Grady Health System, together with researchers from Emory, UNAIDS Ponce Center is ranked as the most comprehensive HIV outpatient clinics in the United States.

The HHS'S operating arm, the Center For Disease Control And Prevention Co labor with the Grady Health System and publish The ***Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.*** Producing the statistics shown above, the report is instructive and advisory to local as well as international policy makers. The report is comprised of data from diagnosis and prescriptions generated by state and local health departments and are used to track prevalence and transmission of infection. Giving summaries with ratios according to categories of geography, age, education, poverty, sex and ethnic identification; comprehensive graphs are publicized like the one shown below. Generated by "ADSvu," an online mapping tool that visualizes the epidemic impact, this map was generated in 2016, when 35,402 people in Atlanta were living infected with the HIV aids virus. Illustrating by zip code, the location of Atlanta's newly diagnosed population with HIV from 2012 -2016; the darker cluster in the center comprises what is called the 285 inner perimeters with downtown Atlanta as the epicenter.



[2]

Backed by a budget exceeding 5 billion dollars, the CDC since the first incident reported in 1981, has literally been a life saver by support of research and development towards eradicating the epidemic. Although a cure has not been found epidemiological triumphs have afforded infections declining nationally as well as globally. Here is what Rebecca Martin and Hank Tomlinson both Doctors and Directors at the CDC said in a 2018 letter to all colleagues and partners, anticipating World AIDS Day.

"We know what works because we've seen where it's working. Our challenge now is to bring that hard-won knowledge to bear in the places and among the populations still lagging behind so that on a World AIDS Day in the near future, we can speak of not just controlling but ending this epidemic."[3]

2 https://aidsvu.org/resources/#/

3 https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/resources/dcl/2018/dear-colleagues-world-aids-day-2018.html

Ending the epidemic by 2030 is the express goal of "*UNAIDS*" headquartered in Geneva Switzerland, represented as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in the Ponce de Leon center in Atlanta.

The Ponce de Leon Center welcomes holistic ministry in its people-centered approach as it interfaces with Atlanta's most vulnerable who live with their HIV Diagnosis and also live in poverty. Many for years have gone undiagnosed and are very sick and under stigmatizing pressures that exacerbate the problem of finding undiagnosed HIV-positive men. The CDC's analytical approach, combined with the Ponce de Leon center people centered approach have devised approaches for finding and linking undiagnosed HIV-positive men to treatment and reaching more HIV-negative men with prevention services. If a person doesn't know his or her status, he or she won't begin treatment and achieve viral suppression, and HIV transmission will continue. Resulting from the research in writing this paper, I am convinced that AIDS/HIV may indeed become a thing of the past if the *TRUVADA* for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and for those already infected (*ART)*, that yield viral suppression is adhered to. According to CDC doctrine, the products just described are the "Gos-pills that must be adhered to if a salvation from the HIVAIDS epidemic is ever to be realized.

[4]

4 https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep/index.html