

# HIV at a Glance, South Carolina

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of **HIV burden** and **Risk-Reduction**. The information can help local public health and community workers identify population most at risk and implement relevant strategies to address problems related to HIV/AIDS.

## Quick Stats

- During the calendar year 2016, SC ranked **11<sup>th</sup>** with an AIDS rate of 7.4 per 100,000.
- As of December 31, 2017, there are an estimated **19,749** SC residents living with HIV infection (including AIDS).
- 1,520** people were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2016-2017 which is slightly higher than **1,497** diagnosed in 2014-2015.
- For incidence, **64%** of the new cases diagnosed in 2016-2017 were under the age of 40.
- In 2017, **71%** of prevalence were over the age of 40.
- Men comprise of **71%** of PLWHA (Persons living with HIV/AIDS)

Source: An Epidemiological Profile of HIV & AIDS in SC, 2018 (DHEC)

## Risk Exposure

- In 2017, MSM (Men who have sex with men) was reported as the highest risk factor (54%) followed by heterosexual contact (31%), Injection Drug Use (9%), combined risks of MSM & IDU (4%) and other (2%).
- During 2016-2017, 76% of newly diagnosed cases were among (MSM), 18% were among heterosexual men and women, 4% were infected through IDU and 1% indicated combined risk of MSM and IDU.

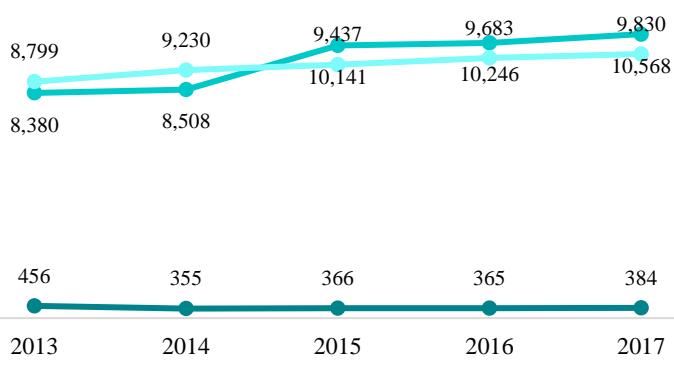
Source: An Epidemiological Profile of HIV & AIDS in SC, 2018 (DHEC)

## Vulnerable Population

- African-Americans comprise 27% of the state's population but they made up 68% of the population living with HIV/AIDS in 2017.
- Among newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS during 2016-2017, 65% were among African-Americans.
- Majority of MSM cases diagnosed during 2016-2017 were among African-American (67%).

Source: An Epidemiological Profile of HIV & AIDS in SC, 2018 (DHEC)

## AIDS Incidence, Prevalence and Deaths\*



Source: SC STD/HIV/AIDS Data, Surveillance Report (SC DHEC)

\* Represents Cumulative Deaths

## Risk Behaviors

- Most commonly, people get or transmit HIV through sexual behaviors and needle or syringe use.
  - Sexual: Having unprotected sex can put people at increased risk for HIV.
  - Needle or Syringes Use: People who inject drugs can get HIV by sharing needles or syringe and other equipment with HIV positive person.

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## Proven HIV Prevention Methods

- HIV testing and linkage to HIV specialty care
- Consistent and proper condom use
- Biomedical Prevention Methods:
  - HIV medications for people with HIV and their partners
  - Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications for people who aren't infected but are at high-risk
  - Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) medications when given promptly reduce the risk of infection of those who have been exposed to the virus
- STI screening and treatment
- Substance abuse treatment and access to sterile syringes for people who inject drugs intravenously.

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