



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

HIV in the Southern United States

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas)

Percentage of U.S. population that lives in southern region states: 37

Percentage of U.S. HIV diagnoses in the southern states: 49

Where the southern region ranks among all U.S. regions
in number of people with HIV: 1

Rank of men who have sex with men among those most affected: 1

Percentage of those HIV-positive who are female: 23

Percentage of those HIV-positive who are black: 57

Rank among all U.S. regions in black females aged 13–24 who are HIV-positive: 1

Rank of southern region among all U.S. regions in heterosexual transmissions: 1

Percentage of females diagnosed with AIDS in southern states
who die within 5 years of diagnosis: 29

Percentage of males diagnosed with AIDS in southern states
who die within 5 years of diagnosis: 26

Rank of southern regions among all U.S. regions in death rate attributed to
poverty, lower education levels, lower insurance coverage rates,
higher HIV stigma, and higher incidence of racism: 1

Sources:
All figures come from 1 unless otherwise noted.

¹ Reif, S., Pence, B.W., Hall, I., Hu, X., Whetten, K., Wilson, E. (2014) HIV Diagnoses, Prevalence, and Outcomes in Nine Southern States. *Journal of Community Health*, 39(6), Retrieved from southernaids.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/hiv-diagnoses-prevalence-and-outcomes-in-nine-southern-states-final.pdf. Accessed September 2015.

² HIV Among Youth, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/index.html>. Accessed October 2015.

The Human Side of HIV/AIDS

What comes to mind when you think of the southern region of the United States? Is it great country music? Jazz and the blues? TexMex cuisine? Down home cooking? Quiet living and an overwhelming spirit of generosity? What may not come to mind is this is the region most hit by new HIV infections.

The southern region is home to 37% of the U.S. population. It is also home to 49% of all U.S. HIV infections.

Our family, colleagues, friends, and neighbors are living with the virus. Even with its innovative and generous spirit, this region continues to struggle with health disparities that hinder our efforts to end HIV/AIDS: poverty, homelessness, discrimination, and limited access to healthcare.

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH) wants Houston to be a place where ... new HIV infections are rare, and when they do occur every person—regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic circumstance — has unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, and is free from stigma and discrimination.

What does it take for Houstonians to lead in reducing the spread of this costly and complex virus? To ensure those who are HIV-positive are treated with respect and have limited barriers to support? It takes the determination and focus of AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. to change the impact of HIV/AIDS in the South.

Guided by the National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Updated to 2020 AFH aligns its programs and services to reduce HIV-related health disparities, like poverty, economic and housing instability, improve access to care and health outcomes, and reduce new HIV infections.

“

Great victories require great allies.



The Human Stories of HIV/AIDS

A mother has lost her job. She and her children have lost their place to live. She is managing their lives the best she can. She is looking for a place to live, securing income, getting food, working with her children's schools, getting their medications, helping with homework, looking for a job, moving personal items, trying to keep clean clothes available, moving in and out of shelters and a friend's living room. When she remembers and has them handy, she takes her HIV medications. She is worried people will ask her why she takes medication and she worries that the side effects will make her ill. When she gets overwhelmed, she stops taking them. The virus starts to surge in her body and the debilitating symptoms take over her ability to function.

Everything stops...until she is well again.

AFH provides individuals with HIV/AIDS a place to call home in six distinct housing programs. Each household receives the basics needed to set up housekeeping, including the little things that make a house a home, such as cleaning supplies, linens, and dental care basics. It is more than shelter; housing security ensures that individuals are continuously engaged in medical care so that their efforts to build a good life do not stop. **The residents in our program are 100% linked into care. Another 28% are employed, and 89% of 2014 residents transitioned to a home of their own during the year.**

People judge people. Sometimes people shame, vilify, discriminate and ostracize others. Having a virus is not a reason for judgment. It is a reason for having healthcare.

On the outskirts of Houston, a business professional has returned to the emergency room at a local hospital, sick due to the HIV virus. He is seeking care there because he does not want his friends or family members to know that he has HIV. When he is taking his medication regularly, it is denial and misplaced shame that trick him into thinking he really isn't that sick, so he stops taking it. The virus starts to surge in his body and the debilitating symptoms take over his ability to function.

Everything stops... until he is well again.

“

You are the ally who is making a difference in the life of a child born HIV-positive.

The first strategy to addressing HIV/AIDS is for everyone to get tested. Once tested, if positive, getting linked into care and staying in care dramatically reduces the ability for the virus to spread. Once tested, if negative, getting medically accurate education and strategies for protection against the virus stops new infections. AFH provides free walk-in testing and conducts on-site testing at events year round. During the testing we provide counseling, linkage to care, case management and access to support services. AFH is there when it is going well and when it gets hard. Our job is to offer access, information, and support. Education includes accurate information about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) through our WhyPrEP.org, an online resource. All services are provided without judgment. **Ten percent of those tested by AFH at a recent event were positive. The national average for such events is just 1%. All who tested positive were given the information needed to get medical care.**



The Human Services of HIV/AIDS

Houston is lucky to be home to great healthcare services. AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH) collaborates with many healthcare providers in the community. Without the medical services we will not end HIV/AIDS in our community. Our focus is to make sure all types of “human” services are available to individuals and families that are infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. Our role is to make sure that services are available in a stigma-free environment to ensure those most vulnerable get the help they need.

AFH operates as a “one-stop shop” for getting individuals connected. Whether accessing the **Stone Soup** food pantry, attending a support group or education class, the AFH team ensures all basic safety net needs are met. Everyone who is provided services is assessed and enrolled in appropriate assistance and healthcare programs, including Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

In less than a year, our work with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice ensured that **69,976 individuals were educated on HIV/AIDS**. Of those who were HIV positive, **46% who were referred to AFH by TDCJ were linked into care upon release**. This work ensures that they stay healthy, as well as their families and friends and ultimately the community. Preliminary results of monitoring found that, of those recently released who scheduled appointments with AFH, **98% percent kept their first appointment**.

Taking medications as a child is not fun. **Camp Hope** is a week-long summer camp for HIV-positive boys and girls that helps them to become medically adherent, to learn that they are not alone and TO HAVE FUN. Camp Hope kids are the next generation of HIV positive adults.

They are integral to ending HIV/AIDS, and Camp Hope and the amazing counselors and medical staff prepare them to be healthy adults. **Among 50 campers aged 13–16 who participated in a group session about important HIV and HIV-related issues, 96% reported understanding what HIV/AIDS medicine actually does, and 94% understood the importance of being medically adherent.**



PRISON PEER EDUCATION

100 Texas Prisons

460 newly trained Peer educators/

1,041 cumulative in the system

69,976 offenders taught by Peer Educators

\$250,000 to annually educate the incarcerated



How would it feel to be able to say that Houston leads the country in meeting the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy through innovative and philanthropic actions?

The End of HIV/AIDS

When we end HIV/AIDS it is our humanity that will be remembered. It will be all of the individuals who supported CAMP HOPE, who provided for Stone Soup, who cared for the vulnerable, and who stood by those who were scared. It will be all of the people who helped AFH serve the Human Side of HIV. Thank you for your compassionate support for our mission and those we serve.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS Donor levels were calculated using donations contributed between January 1, 2015 and October 2, 2015.

\$50,000+

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Chevron USA, Inc.
Elton John AIDS Foundation
Episcopal Health Foundation
Gilead Sciences, Inc.
Houston Endowment, Inc.
Marathon Oil Corporation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Robert and Nora Ackerley
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
The George Foundation
Texas Children's Hospital

\$10,000-\$24,999

Bank of America
Charitable Foundation
BBVA Compass
Bunnies on the Bayou
Her Destination Unknown
Junior League of Houston, Inc.
Kittsie and Charlie Thomas Family
Foundation
The M.A.C AIDS Fund

\$5,000-\$9,999

AIDS Healthcare Foundation
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Baton Rouge Area Foundation
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The Medallion Foundation, Inc.
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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
& Wine Bar
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Shade In The Heights
Maggie Shaughnessy
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Stephen Walker
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Zelko Bistro
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\$500-\$999

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Karen Swenson
Todd Terrell
William Thompson
Tila's Restaurant & Bar
Bryan Vezey
Kim Waycaster
Keith Wright
Bob Yam
Chris Zarate
Charles Zukor



Together, we are
turning the tide
on HIV/AIDS.



TESTING
997 tested



FOOD PANTRY
1,600 clients
40,000 lbs. of food



YOUTH
1 camp
101 participants



HOUSING
6 housing facilities

AIDS Foundation Houston Programs and Demographics

HOUSING

A Friendly Haven

Housing and supportive services for families who are affected by HIV and experiencing housing and financial instability

Burress Street Apartments

Community residence for HIV+ women who experience economic and housing instability

Chupik House

Community residence for chronically ill HIV+ men who experience economic and housing instability

First Responders

Permanent housing program for chronically homeless individuals who have disabilities and are HIV+

Help House

Housing and supportive services to individuals who are HIV+ and experiencing housing and financial instability

T.E.X.T.M.S.G.

Permanent housing and supportive services for HIV+ homeless youth ages 18–24

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Camp Hope

All-abilities summer camp for HIV+ children 7–16

PREVENTION SERVICES

HIV/STD Testing

Testing for HIV, Syphilis, and other STDs

WhyPrEP.org

Educational website for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, a medically-based HIV prevention regimen

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Stone Soup Food Pantry

Food assistance and referral system for HIV+ individuals who experience economic instability

Linkage to Medical Care

Guidance in signing up for assistance programs including Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Counseling

H.O.P.E. Support Group for those newly diagnosed HIV+, as well as mental health and substance abuse counseling

Educational Opportunities

Computer training for adults and after-school programs for youth in AFH housing communities

Transportation

Public transportation vouchers for those living in AFH housing

PRISON INITIATIVES

Wall Talk

Education program focused on providing peer-based HIV/communicable diseases prevention in Texas prisons.

Somebody Cares

Pre-and-post prison release counseling program for HIV+ individuals to increase medical engagement and adherence upon release

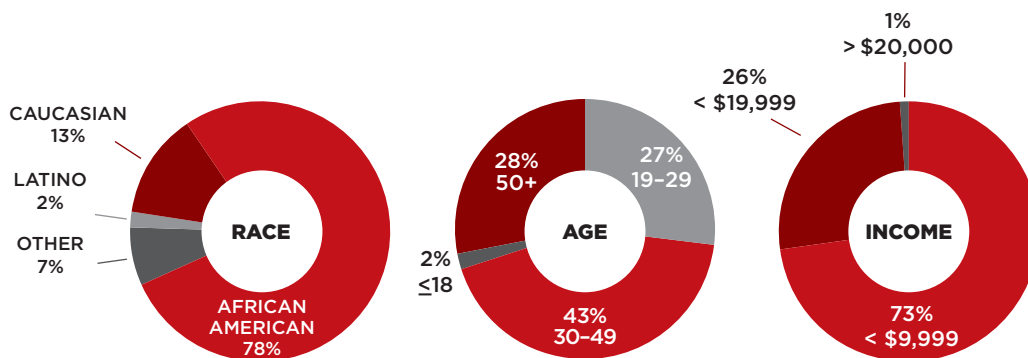
AFH Client Demographics

Race – 78% African American; 13% Caucasian; 2% Latino/Hispanic

Age – 27% 19-29; 43% 30-39; 2% 18 or younger; 28% 50+

Income – 73% under \$9,999; 26% under \$19,999; 1% over \$20,000

Gender – 45% Female; 55% Male



Donate with Confidence

AFH is an accredited Better Business Bureau charity and meets all 20 standards for charity accountability.

Visit AIDShelp.org to review our federal income tax return (form 990) and recent audits.



69% of all AIDS Foundation Houston revenue goes to programs

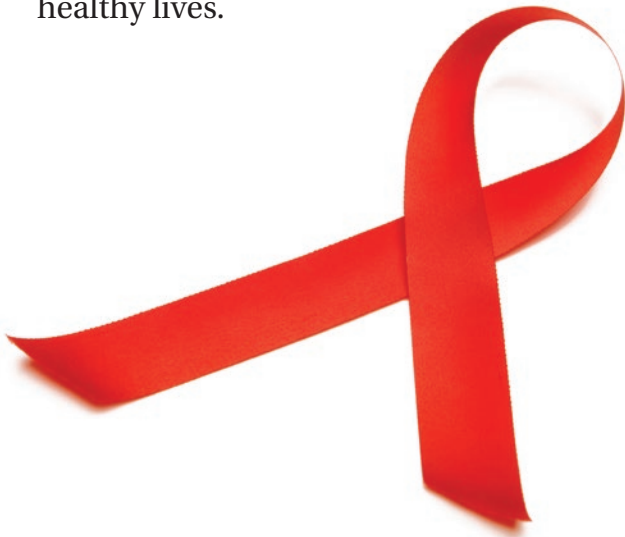
To see a complete report:
www.bbbhouston.org

Vision Statement

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. envisions a supportive community free of new HIV infections where individuals affected by HIV/AIDS lead healthy and productive lives without stigma and discrimination.

Mission Statement

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. leads the innovative efforts in the prevention of new HIV infections and empowers individuals, families, and communities affected by HIV/AIDS to create and sustain healthy lives.



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