

## **The new data sheet shows a decline in HIV incidence in Alabama, according to the AUM Center for Demographic Research**

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The state’s new HIV/AIDS rate dropped slightly, according to the 2013 Alabama HIV/AIDS and STDs Data Sheet released on Dec. 1, the World AIDS Day. Prepared by Auburn Montgomery’s Center for Demographic Research, the report shows that the state’s rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea infections are up, while the syphilis rate is down.

According to the data sheet, 12.27 people per 100,000 were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 2012, a figure that is slightly lower than the 13.75 per 100,000 registered in 2011. A similar decline was observed for syphilis, whose rate went down from 15.55 per 100,000 people in 2011 to 14.85 in 2012. In contrast, chlamydia and gonorrhea rates climbed during the same period from 611.21 to 641.60 and 188.27 to 194.69 per 100,000, respectively.

“Such jumps in chlamydia and gonorrhea rates need to be addressed,” said Yanyi Djamba, director of the Center for Demographic Research. “If not well treated, these infections may result in serious reproductive and other health problems in both men and women.”

Despite this decline in HIV/AIDS incidence at the state level, there are substantial variations at the state level. Twenty five counties registered an increase in new HIV/AIDS rate. Among these, Pickens had the highest jump, from 10.24 to 30.73 per 100,000 people between 2011 and 2012. Ten counties saw no change in HIV/AIDS incidence, whereas 32, including Montgomery County, observed a decline.

Alabama’s teen pregnancy rate dropped again from 32.5 to 29.6 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 10-19 in the last two years. However, 44 counties have teen pregnancy rates above the state level. This year again, the highest value was observed in Bullock County, even though its rate dropped from 64.4 to 48.1 per 1,000 in the last two years. Similarly, Shelby County continues to be the county with the lowest rate of teen pregnancy, with the rate dropping again from 15.8 in 2011 to 13.7 per 1,000 in 2012.

For more than 30 years, the Center for Demographic Research has provided high quality, independent research on a variety of population topics. The center provides demographic information and guidance on interpretation of complex demographic issues to Alabama’s citizens, businesses, nonprofit organizations and public agencies.

The center is a unit of Auburn Montgomery Outreach, which offers a variety of consulting, training and research services to help organizations and individuals work more efficiently and effectively. Focusing on solutions that help companies, public agencies, and individuals expand their professional knowledge, Outreach extends its resources through Auburn Montgomery and other experts to enhance the outcomes for its clients and, ultimately, the quality of life for the citizens of Alabama. The six dynamic Outreach units coordinate and allocate resources through consulting contracts, training and development opportunities, and community service initiatives.

For a copy of the *2013 Alabama HIV/AIDS & STDs Data Sheet*, contact the Center for Demographic Research at 334-244-3463, TDD 334-244-3800, [cdr@aum.edu](mailto:cdr@aum.edu) or [www.demographics.aum.edu](http://www.demographics.aum.edu).

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