

Women Living with HIV in the Deep South

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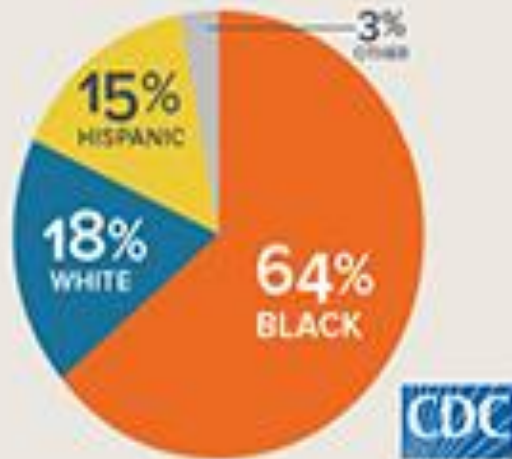


Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)

- Initiative Funded by Ford and Elton John AIDS Foundation;
- Uses **Research-based advocacy** to push for increased attention and resources targeting the Southern epidemic;
- Target **9 Deep South states** that share common characteristics:
 - ▣ Overall poorer health
 - ▣ High poverty rates
 - ▣ Cultural climate that contributes to spread of HIV
- **AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, SC, NC TN, TX.**
- **Steering Committee** of PLWH and advocacy allies from 9 states.
- **Research Team** from the Duke Center for Health Policy & Inequalities Research

HIV in Women & Girls in the US

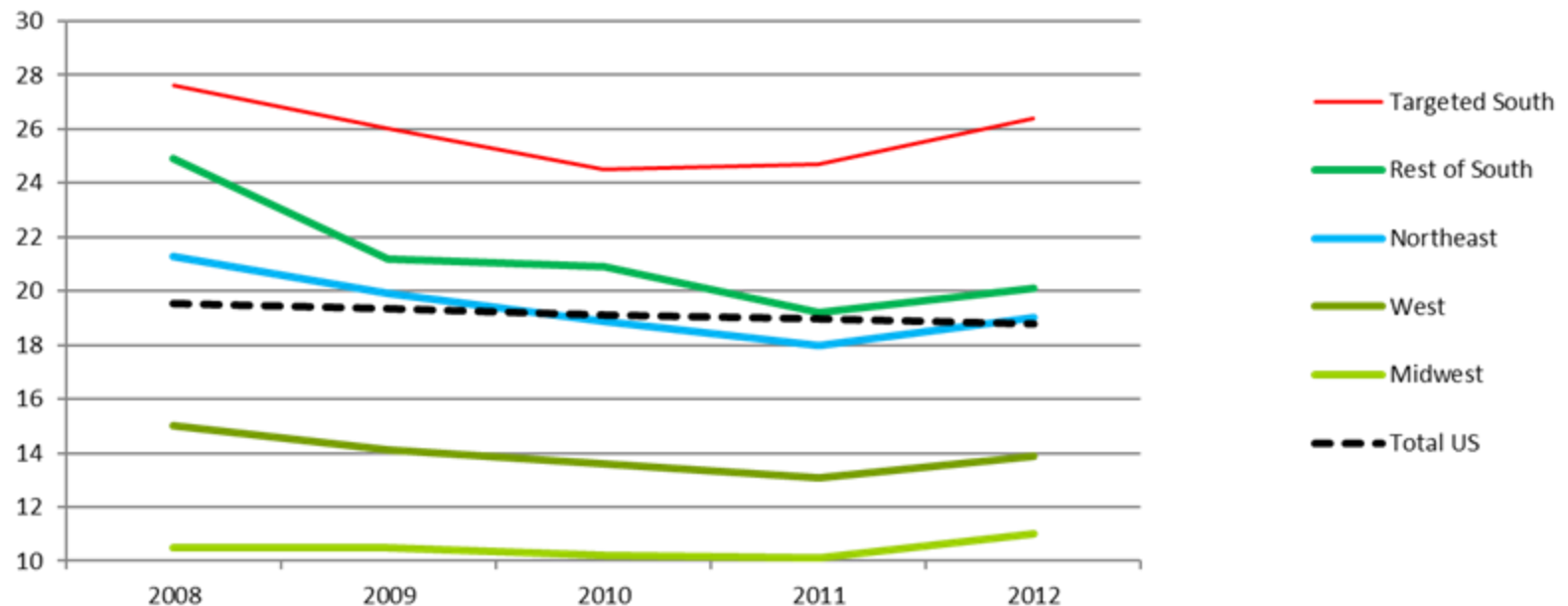
NEW HIV INFECTIONS IN WOMEN & TEEN GIRLS



HIV Surveillance Data- 2008-2012

- The targeted states region had the **highest HIV diagnosis rate** of any US region in 2008-2012 (CDC Atlas database)

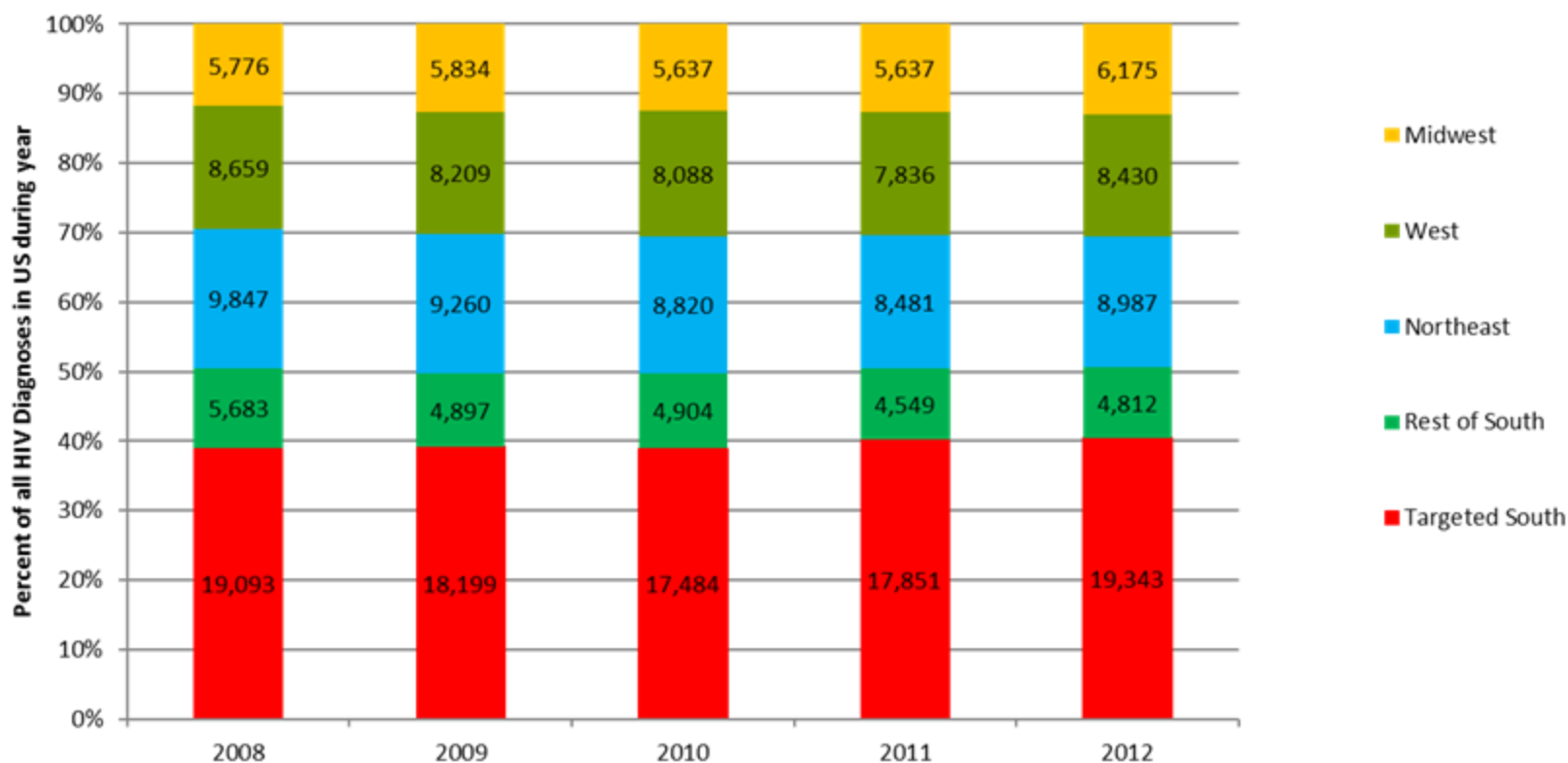
Regional HIV Diagnosis Rates





Number of HIV diagnoses – 2008-2012

Number of HIV Diagnoses by Region and Year





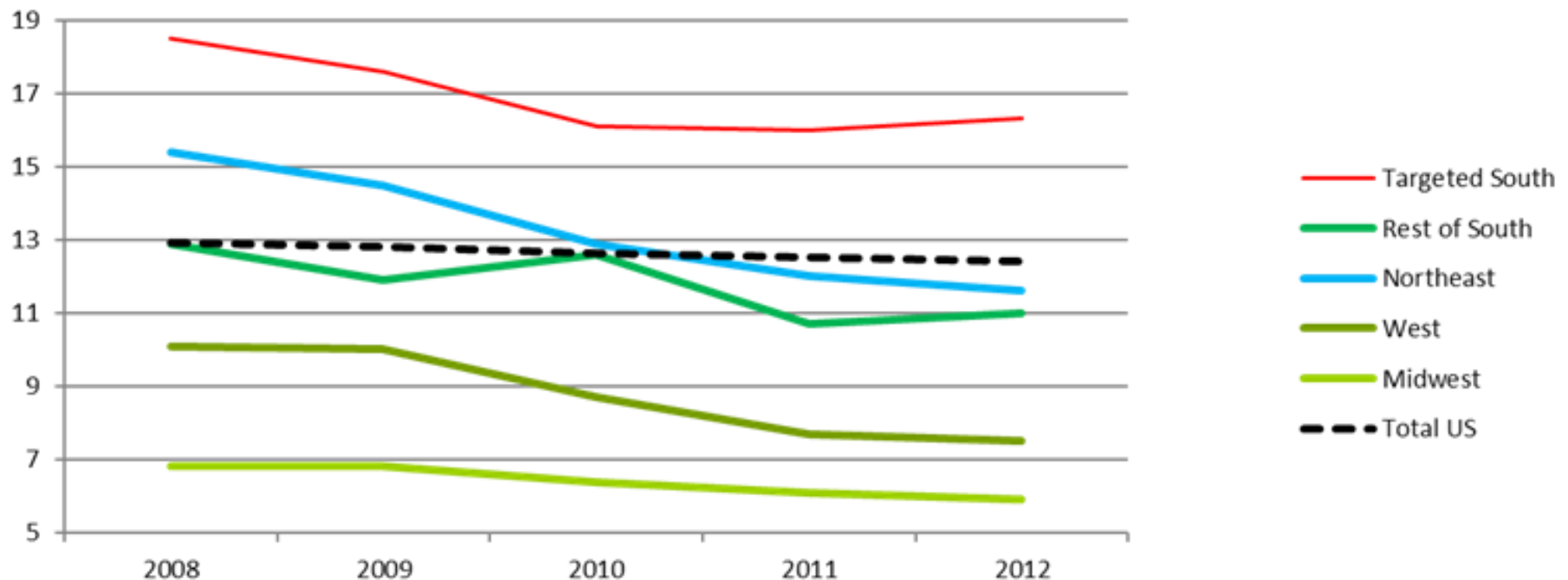
CDC/SASI Collaboration

- **CDC/SASI Collaboration: “*HIV Diagnoses, Prevalence and Outcomes in Nine Southern States*,”** Journal of Community Health, 2014
 - Targeted states had **higher** proportions of HIV diagnoses that were **female, black or African American, young** (age 13-24) and living in a **rural area** than US average.
 - 23.3% of **new diagnoses** in the Deep South region were **female** (US average = 20.9%)
 - Targeted states also had a higher percentage of **persons living with HIV** who were **female** (27.7%) than US average (24.9%)

AIDS Diagnosis Rates – 2008-2012

- The AIDS diagnosis rates and number of individuals diagnosed were higher in the targeted states than any other US region.

Regional AIDS Diagnosis Rates





HIV Survival

- ✓ 5-year HIV survival for persons diagnosed 2003-2004 was **lower in the targeted states** (85%), indicating that 15% of those diagnosed with HIV in 2003-2004 had **died within 5 years**.
- ✓ In the target states, HIV survival was lower among **women, black/African Americans** and persons living in **rural areas** than the US average.
- ✓ HIV survival rate within the region was **equal** for men & women.
- ✓ **Injection drug use** strongly associated with **lower** 5-year survival.
- ✓ **Louisiana** had the **lowest** 5-year survival percentage (81%) followed by **Mississippi** (83%) and **South Carolina** (84%)



AIDS Survival

- ✓ For **5-year survival after an AIDS diagnosis**, the targeted states had the **lowest** survival percentage of any region (73%), indicating that **27% of those diagnosed with AIDS in 2003-2004** had died within 5 years.
- ✓ Again, **Louisiana** had the **lowest** AIDS survival percentage (**67%**) followed by **Mississippi (68%)** and **Alabama (69%)**

AIDS Survival Among Women in the Deep South



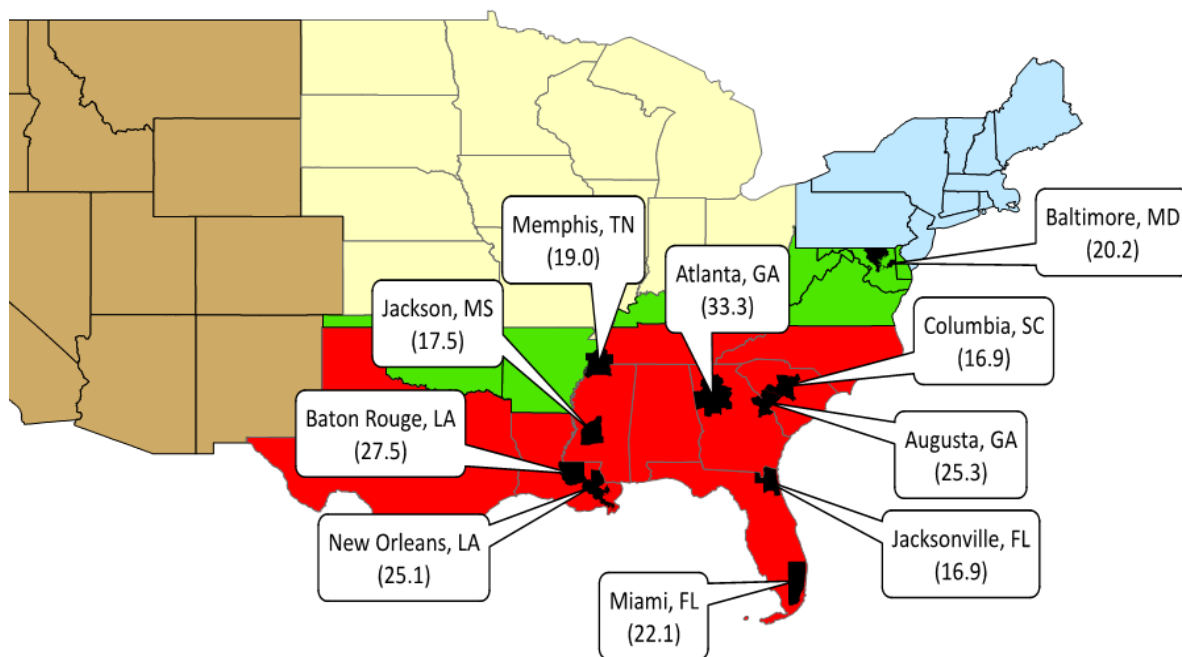
- ✓ In the targeted states, AIDS survival was **lowest** among **women, black/African Americans**, and **those living in rural areas**.
- ✓ **29% of females** diagnosed with AIDS in this region had **died within 5 years of diagnosis**. (compared to 26% of males.)



Death Rates

- ✓ **Death rates** among those **living with HIV** in the Deep South region were **higher** than in any other region. (27.3 per 1,000)
- ✓ **Death rates** among **women living with HIV** in the Deep South region were **higher** than among **males** (28.2 compared to 26.9)
- ✓ **Highest death rates** were in **Louisiana** (34.5) followed by **Alabama** (30.7) and **Mississippi** (28.6)
- ✓ CDC estimates that of **all women** living with HIV in the US, only 45% were **engaged in care** and only 32% had **achieved viral suppression**.

10 MSAs with the highest AIDS Diagnosis Rates -- 2012



Challenges to achieving positive outcomes in the Deep South

- A higher % of the region's epidemic is outside large urban centers:
 - Transportation issues
 - Lack of qualified providers
 - High levels of HIV-related stigma

Challenges to achieving positive outcomes in the Deep South (cont'd)

- Region as a whole faces:
 - ▣ High poverty
 - ▣ High numbers of uninsured persons
 - ▣ Lower educational levels
 - ▣ High levels of stigma and racism

Additionally...

- (From the SASI/CDC Report):
- “An additional contributing factor may be the social class system unique to the US South that has traditionally allowed for little social mobility, along with marginalization of, and discrimination against certain groups and often resulting in distrust of systems of care among those in a lower social strata.”
- These factors collectively create an environment in which HIV infection is more likely and health outcomes for HIV positive people are poorer than in other US regions.

For More Information:



Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI):

- ❑ Sign up for SASI list serve: sasi@law.duke.edu
- ❑ SASI website: www.southernaidsstrategy.org
- ❑ SASI research reports:
<http://southernaidsstrategy.org/research/>

Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC)

- ❑ Sign up for SAC list serve: info@southernaidscoalition.org
- ❑ SAC website: www.southernaidscoalition.org