



Deep South Continues to Have Significant HIV Burden Outside the Large Urban Areas¹ Demonstrating a Need for Increased Federal Resources

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The US South² continues to experience a heavy HIV burden outside the large urban areas. This is especially true in the Deep South³. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), overall in the South, twenty-three percent of new HIV diagnoses are in suburban (50,000 – 499,999 population) and rural (< 50,000 population) areas—more than any other region. And according to a new analysis by the Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI), in the Deep South region overall, twenty-nine percent (29%) of persons living with HIV (PLWHIV) live in rural areas and smaller cities.

The South ... "has higher HIV diagnosis rates in suburban and rural areas as compared to other regions nationwide, which poses unique challenges to HIV prevention efforts."

--HIV in the Southern United States, CDC Issue Brief, updated May 2016

When SASI looked at each Deep South state individually, it became evident that some Deep South states bear a heavier HIV burden outside the large urban areas than others. For example, in North Carolina, a state that ranks in the top ten in the country in the number of people living with HIV, 46% of PLHIV live outside a large urban area or metropolitan statistical area (MSA). And in Alabama and Mississippi, more than 60% of PLWHIV live outside a large urban area. Despite this, in recent years, the CDC has provided direct HIV prevention funding only to community-based organizations located in the large MSAs.⁴ SASI's latest analysis suggests that there continues to be a significant HIV epidemic in the rural and suburban South and that there continues to be a need for increased federal funding to community-based organizations located outside the large urban areas in the Deep South.

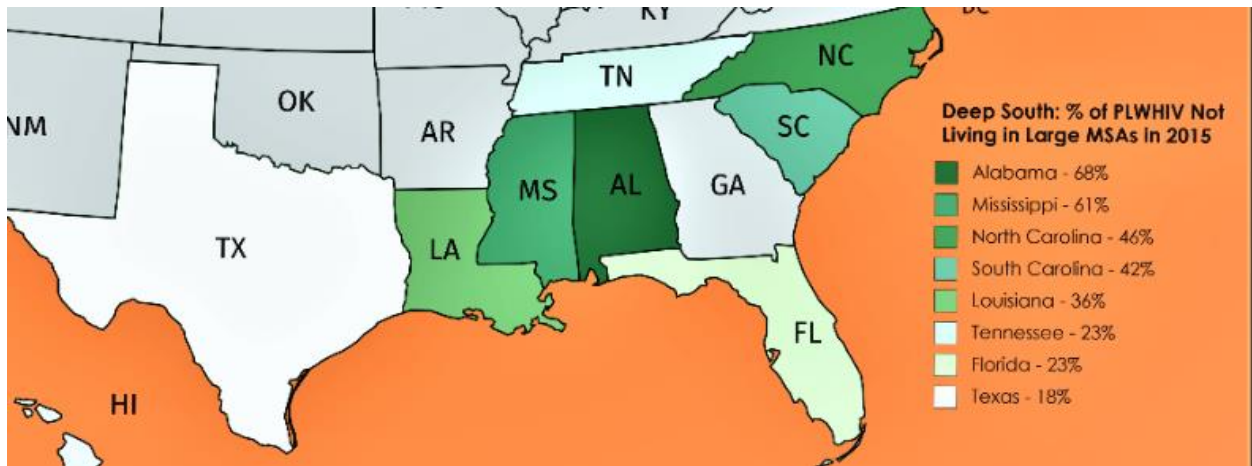
¹ The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) subdivides MSAs as: (1) \geq 500,000 population; (2) 50,000 – 499,999 population, (3) Nonmetropolitan (<50,000 population). For purposes of this policy brief, we define "large urban area" or "large MSA" as having \geq 500,000 population.

² As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, the South region includes AL, AR, DL, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV.

³ "Deep South" defined as AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX.

⁴ [SASI Analysis of Funds Distributed in the United States by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Pursuant to PS15-1502](#); [SASI Analysis of Funds Distributed in the United States by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Pursuant to PS17-1704](#).

**Percentage of People Living with HIV in the Deep South
Who live Outside a Large Urban Area in 2015⁵**



	Total Population of PLWHIV	Percentage of PLWHIV Living in Large MSA ⁶	Number of PLWHIV Living in Large MSA	Percentage of PLWHIV <u>Not</u> Living in MSA	Number of PLWHIV <u>Not</u> Living in Large MSA
Alabama	12,316	32%	3,941	68%	8,375
Florida	106,585	77%	82,366	23%	24,219
Georgia	49,463	69%	33,962	31%	15,501
Louisiana	19,492	64%	12,407	36%	7,085
Mississippi	9,236	39%	3,605	61%	5,631
North Carolina	29,814	54%	16,186	46%	13,628
South Carolina	16,224	58%	9,396	42%	6,828
Tennessee	16,425	77%	12,637	23%	3,788
Texas	81,873	82%	67,501	18%	14,372
Total	341,428	71%	242,001	29%	99,427

⁵ HIV prevalence data from CDC Atlas database, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm>; MSA counties based on OMB Bulletin No. 17-01.

⁶ Large MSA is equated to the OMB designation of a Metropolitan Statistical Area with ≥ 500,000 population.