



# Special Report

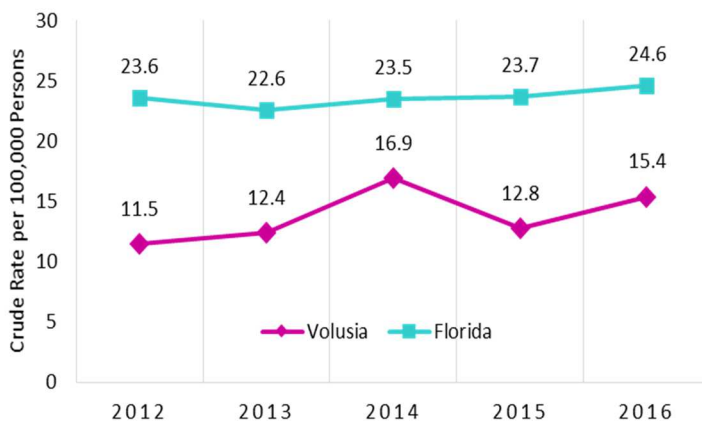


## HIV/AIDS IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

World AIDS day, celebrated annually on December 1<sup>st</sup>, started in 1988 and was the first ever global health day. It is an opportunity for the community worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS, show support for those living with the virus, and remember those who have died from the disease.

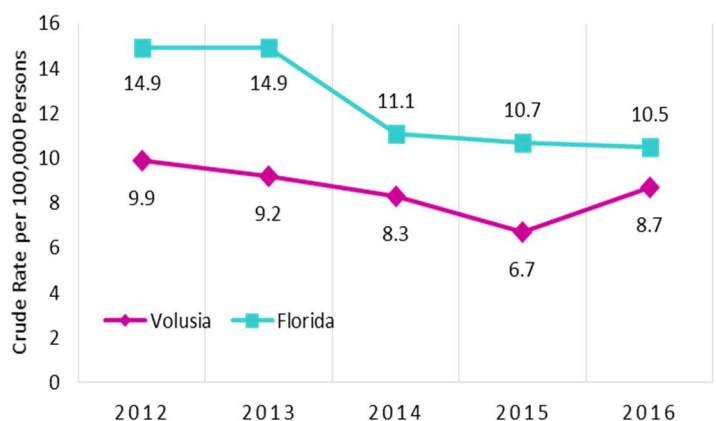
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) define HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) as a virus spread through certain body fluids that attack the body's immune system, specifically the CD4 cells (T cells) which help the immune system fight off infections. Over time, HIV can destroy so many of these cells that the body cannot fight off infections and disease. Untreated, HIV reduces the number of T cells in the body and can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Unlike other viruses, the human body cannot rid itself of HIV completely, even with treatment. Understanding the impact of HIV/AIDS on our residents is the first step towards healing our community.

**New HIV Infection Cases, Volusia County and Florida, 2012-2016**



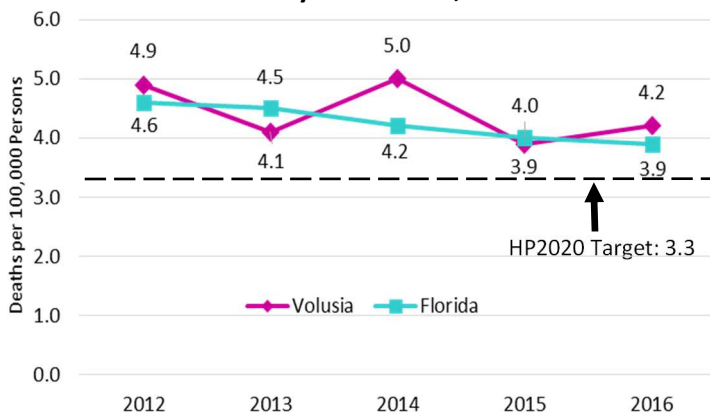
- ◆ Volusia County's rates of new cases of HIV infection were lower than Florida's from 2012 to 2016; however, the county rate increased by 33.9% in the same time period
- ◆ The rates of new HIV infections increased for Volusia and Florida from 2012 to 2016, while the rates for new AIDS cases decreased

**New AIDS Cases, Volusia County and Florida, 2012-2016**



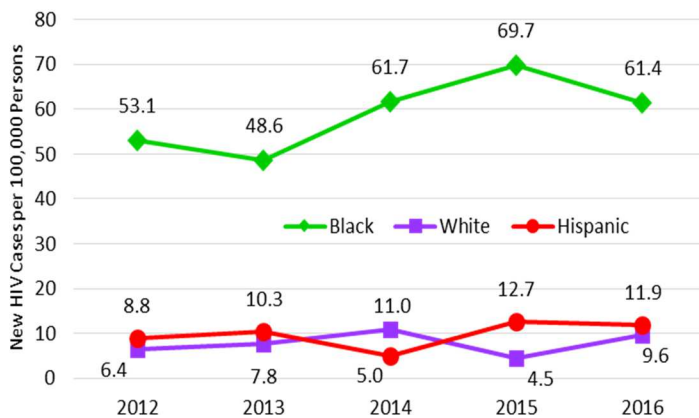
- ◆ Volusia County's rates of new AIDS cases were consistently lower than Florida's rates from 2012 to 2016

**HIV/AIDS Age-Adjusted\* Death Rates Volusia County and Florida, 2012-2016**



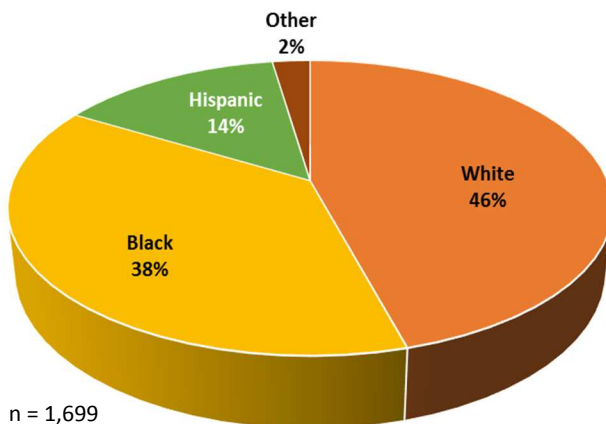
- ◆ Volusia County and Florida were above the HP2020 target of 3.3 deaths from HIV infection per 100,000 persons each year from 2012 to 2016
- ◆ The Volusia County age-adjusted HIV/AIDS death rates decreased by 14.3% from 2012 to 2016

### Diagnosed HIV Cases by Race, Volusia County, 2012-2016



- ♦ White residents had the highest percentage of persons living with HIV/AIDS, but had the lowest rates of diagnosed HIV cases and diagnosed AIDS cases in Volusia County in 2016

### Percent of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity, Volusia County, 2016



NOTE: \*Age-Adjusting

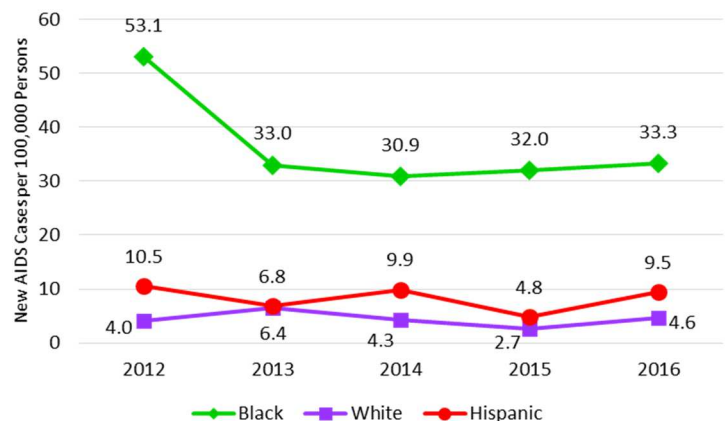
The frequency with which health events occur is almost always related to age. For example, mortality rates tend to increase after 40 years of age. The age-adjusted rate is a summary measure that eliminates the effect of the underlying age distribution of the population, allowing for comparisons between populations regardless of their age structure. Visit [www.floridacharts.com](http://www.floridacharts.com) for more information.

#### Sources:

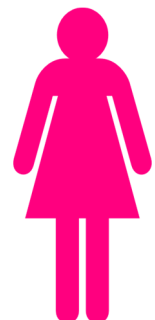
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/index.html>  
 Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (FLHealthCHARTS), <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/DataViewer/DeathViewer/DeathViewer.aspx?indNumber=0122>  
 Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease, HIV/AIDS Section, Surveillance Program, 2016  
 Healthy People 2020, <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/hiv/objectives>

- ♦ Black residents consistently had the highest rates of diagnosed HIV cases and AIDS cases from 2012 to 2016
- ♦ There was a 37.3% decrease in the rate of diagnosed AIDS cases for black residents from 2012 to 2016

### Diagnosed AIDS Cases by Race, Volusia County, 2012-2016

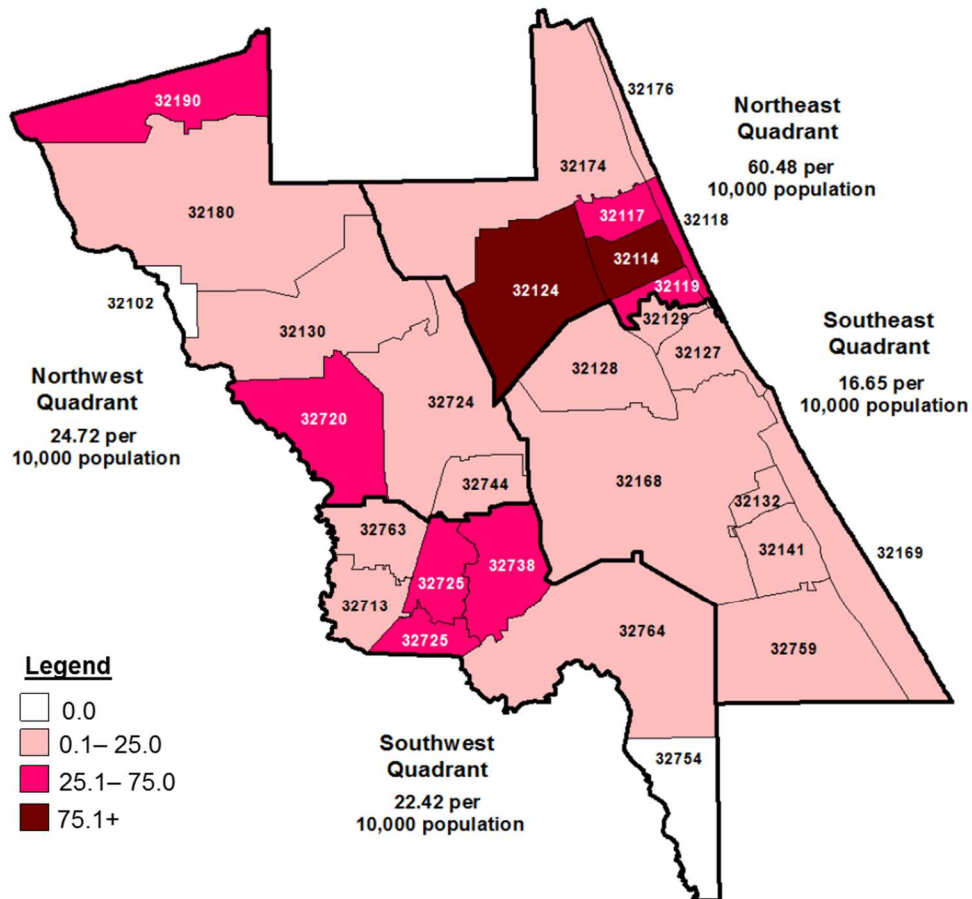


Persons Living with HIV/AIDS by Gender and Exposure, Volusia County, 2016



Male Percent	Exposure Category	Female Percent
74.0%	Men having Sex with Men	Not Applicable
10.7%	Intravenous Drug Users	24.1%
6.1%	Heterosexual	73.0%

### Crude Rates of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS by ZIP Code, Volusia County, 2016



#### Persons Living with HIV/AIDS per 10,000 Population

ZIP Code	Crude Rate*	ZIP Code	Crude Rate*
32102	0.0	32174	17.6
32114	134.2	32176	23.9
32117	69.5	32180	14.4
32118	63.5	32190	48.6
32119	48.5	32713	14.9
32124	103.6	32720	39.1
32127	18.6	32724	17.4
32128	10.0	32725	25.5
32129	17.3	32738	29.8
32130	11.2	32744	17.4
32132	17.5	32754	0.0
32141	13.7	32759	14.6
32168	23.5	32763	19.7
32169	10.3	32764	20.1

\*The crude rate is not a count, it allows for the comparison of the extent to which the disease exists in the ZIP codes.

#### Health Inequities in Persons Living with HIV/AIDS by Race and Quadrant, Volusia County, 2016

Quadrants	Measure	Black	White	Hispanic
Northeast	% Population	17.8%	72.0%	6.0%
	% HIV/AIDS	49.5%	39.8%	7.7%
Southeast	% Population	3.6%	88.8%	3.9%
	% HIV/AIDS	15.7%	70.4%	8.5%
Northwest	% Population	8.8%	71.8%	16.0%
	% HIV/AIDS	45.1%	36.9%	13.1%
Southwest	% Population	8.4%	62.7%	25.1%
	% HIV/AIDS	17.5%	44.4%	35.8%

- ◆ Black residents were over-represented in the HIV/AIDS populations in each quadrant in comparison to their numbers in the general populations in 2016; the percentage of black residents with HIV/AIDS was more than twice the percentage in the population
- ◆ Similarly, but at a lower rate than black residents, Hispanic residents were over-represented in the HIV/AIDS populations in three of the four quadrants

## HIV Continuum of Care in Volusia County from Prevention to Care

By Jeanine Robinson, MPH and Paula Burns, MSH, FCCM

Receiving a positive HIV result can be a devastating, life altering diagnosis, leaving an individual confused, distraught and uneasy at best. The Florida Department of Health in Volusia County (FDOH-Volusia) is actively working towards the state of Florida's strategic plan to eliminate HIV transmission and reduce HIV-related deaths using four key methods:

1. Implementing routine HIV and STI (sexually transmitted infection) screening in health care settings and priority testing in non-health care settings
2. Providing HIV testing and rapid access to treatment and ensure retention in care (Test and Treat)
3. Improving access to antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP)
4. Increasing HIV awareness and community response through outreach, engagement, and messaging

One of the most effective ways to prevent HIV transmission is to know one's HIV status through HIV testing. HIV testing is readily available in Volusia County through FDOH-Volusia registered HIV Test sites and upon request at routine primary care visits. HIV tests are free, no appointment is needed, and all testing is completed in private under strict confidentiality rules. In 2016, FDOH-Volusia and its community partners provided over 5,000 HIV tests throughout Volusia County.

While the primary goal is to prevent the transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS, there are measures in place to provide care for individuals recently diagnosed or living with the disease for a period of time. The recently implemented Test and Treat program provides immediate linkage to HIV primary care and initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) at the time of HIV diagnosis or when returning to care after a gap in services.

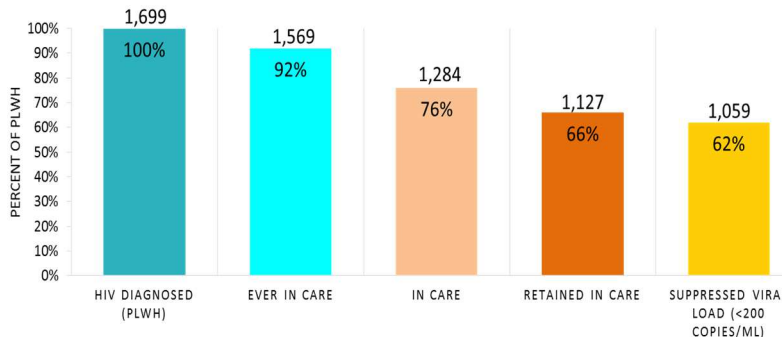
The FDOH-Volusia Linkage to Care program connects HIV-positive individuals to medical care by assisting individuals who have been newly diagnosed or who are not currently accessing HIV/AIDS care by providing them with short-term, intensive support in engaging with a HIV care provider. The FDOH-Volusia Linkage to Care program ensures that clients will be linked to care within one week, with all referrals going through our Linkage to Care Specialist. Referrals can be received from a registered HIV test site, a non-FDOH-Volusia HIV test site, private physicians, hospitals, emergency departments, etc., internally (e.g. Walk-in, HIV testing, self-referral), and from a Prison Release Planner.

The Linkage to Care program serves as a pivotal and very instrumental tool feeding into the HIV continuum of care. The HIV care continuum provides a framework that depicts the series of stages a person with HIV engages in beginning with initial diagnosis through the successful treatment with HIV medication. The HIV care continuum shows each step of the continuum as a percentage of the number of people diagnosed and living with HIV disease (PLWH) as of the end of 2016.

In recognition of World AIDS Day and in remembrance of those who has lost their lives, loved ones, and friends to this disease, it is imperative that we continue to raise awareness that HIV/AIDS is still a public health concern in our community. FDOH-Volusia and its community partners continue to provide educational materials and messaging through its Prevention Campaign in the forms of brochures, pamphlets, bus wraps and educational seminars/classes whenever needed. Condoms are also distributed freely at all HIV Test sites, with peers and educational staff available on hand as needed.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Paula Burns, HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator, at 386-274-0585/[Paula.burns2@flhealth.gov](mailto:Paula.burns2@flhealth.gov) or Jeanine Robinson, Ryan White Program Manager at 386-281-6651/[Jeanine.Robinson@flhealth.gov](mailto:Jeanine.Robinson@flhealth.gov), FDOH-Volusia, Disease Control.

**Persons Living with HIV (PLWH) in Volusia County along the HIV Care Continuum in 2016**



For more information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County Office of Planning and Performance Management at 386-274-0605, or visit our website [www.VolusiaHealth.com/stats](http://www.VolusiaHealth.com/stats)