The Ending HIV in Alabama Scientific Working Group has a strong focus on interdisciplinary collaborations to enhance research in HIV prevention (treatment as prevention), behavioral and biomedical intervention development to improve treatment adherence, healthcare policy, geospatial modeling, and epidemiological and biostatistical methods.

The HIV epidemic in Alabama exemplifies the extensive health disparities in the Southeastern US, with the highest rate of new diagnoses, the highest percentage of people living with HIV (PLWH), and the lowest rates of viral suppression observed nationally.

- Risk factors for transmission of HIV:
  - 53% men who have sex with men (MSM)
  - 24% heterosexual sex
  - 2% injection drug users (IDUs)

- Demographics of persons living with HIV:
  - 73% male
  - 64% black/African American
  - 28% white
  - <3% Hispanic

Multi-disciplinary members over the last year include:

**UAB:**
- Department of Medicine – Division Infectious Diseases
- School of Medicine – Emergency Medicine
- School of Public Health – Biostatistics, Health Behavior, and Epidemiology
- College of Arts and Sciences – Department of Social Work
- School of Nursing
- 1917 Clinic

**Community Organizations:**
- AIDS Alabama
- Birmingham AIDS Outreach
- Aetheia House
- Five Horizons (Tuscaloosa)

**Public Health Organizations:**
- Alabama Department of Public Health (HIV Surveillance, HIV Prevention and Care, and HIV Planning Council)
- Jefferson County Department of Health

**GOALS**

- 90% of all living with HIV will know their status
- 90% of all living with HIV will receive treatment
- 90% of all receiving treatment will have viral suppression

**OUTCOMES**

- Birmingham is the 13th US Fast Track City (2017)
- Hosted a symposium of UAB faculty, clinicians, stakeholders from state and local health departments, AIDS service organizations, advocates and consumers
- ‘Getting to Zero’ R01 application receives fundable score - Aadia Rana and D. Scott Batey (Co-PIs)
- First pilot awarded to Dustin Long to “Estimate Undiagnosed HIV+ person in Alabama by Demographics and Geography”

An informed, diverse, empowered, and engaged community is key to the success of this initiative.