



Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (“SASI”):
Focusing White House Attention on
the HIV Epidemic in the South

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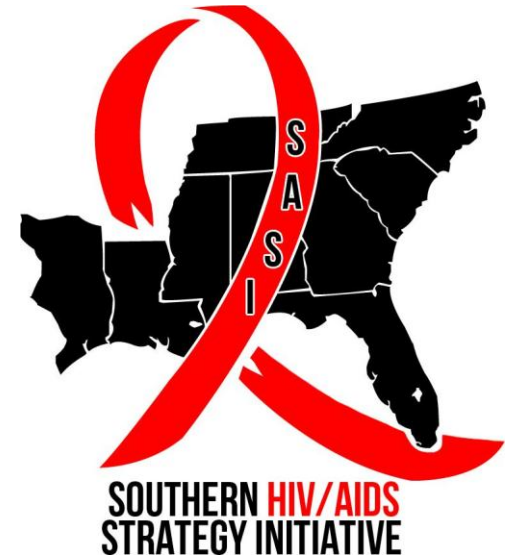
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What is SASI ?

- Broad-based Southern Coalition
- advocating for increased federal resources targeting the HIV epidemic in the South
- Funded by the Ford Foundation



National HIV/AIDS Strategy

- First ever.
- Announced by President in July, 2010.
- Strategy acknowledge that the South is a region “disproportionately impacted by HIV”



HHS 12 CITIES PROJECT





DUKE LAW



AIDS
legal project



SASI Research Report



- Worked with  Center for Health Policy
& Inequalities Research
AT DUKE UNIVERSITY to create
report documenting HIV epidemic in the
South



SASI Research Report



- First, looked at the epidemic in the Southeast generally.
- Then looked at 9 states that have been particularly affected by the HIV epidemic in recent years:
- AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX/East Texas



SASI REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the South Reaches Crisis Proportions in Last Decade
Duke Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Research

Susan Reif PhD, LCSW

Kathryn Whetten PhD, MPH

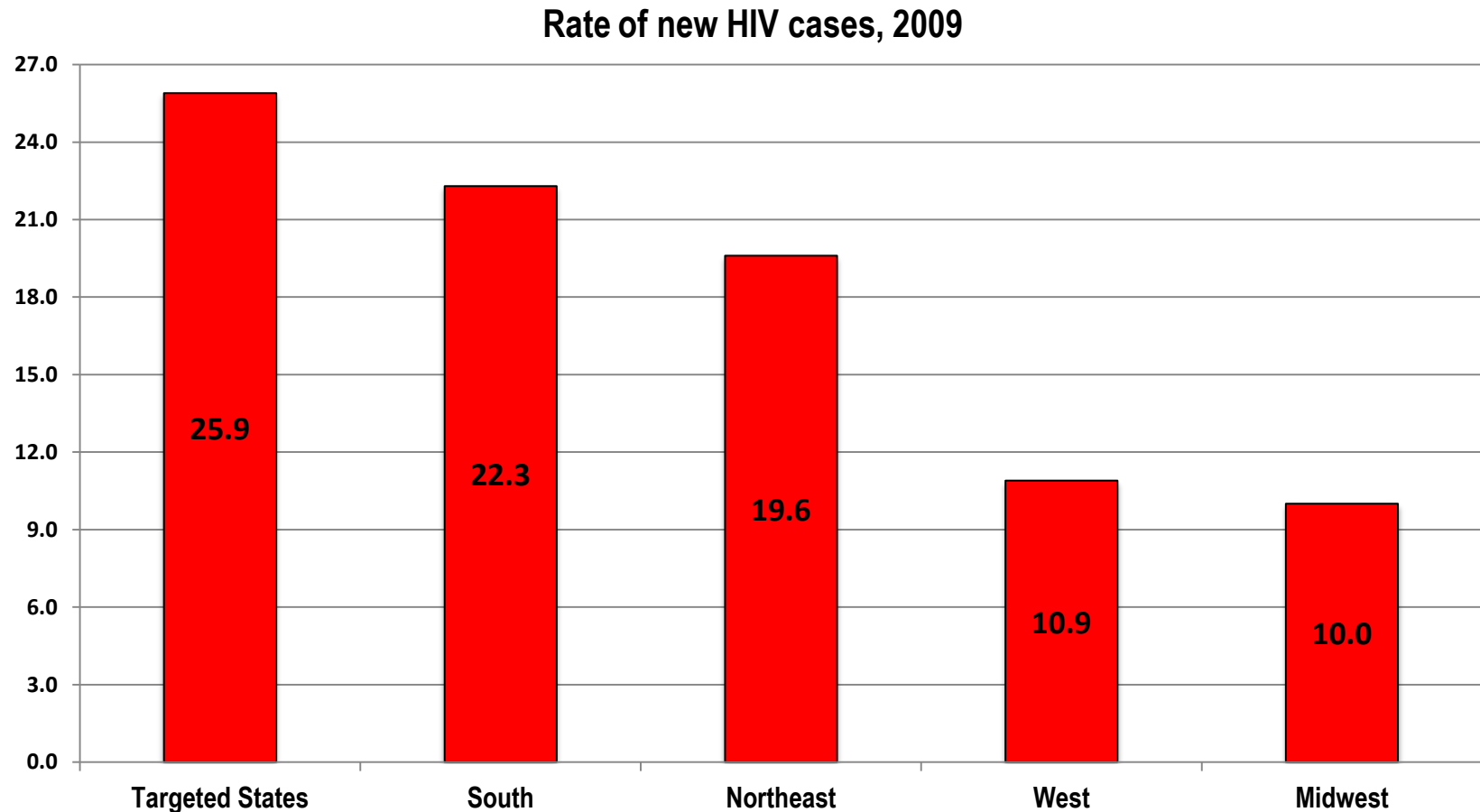
Elena Wilson MPH



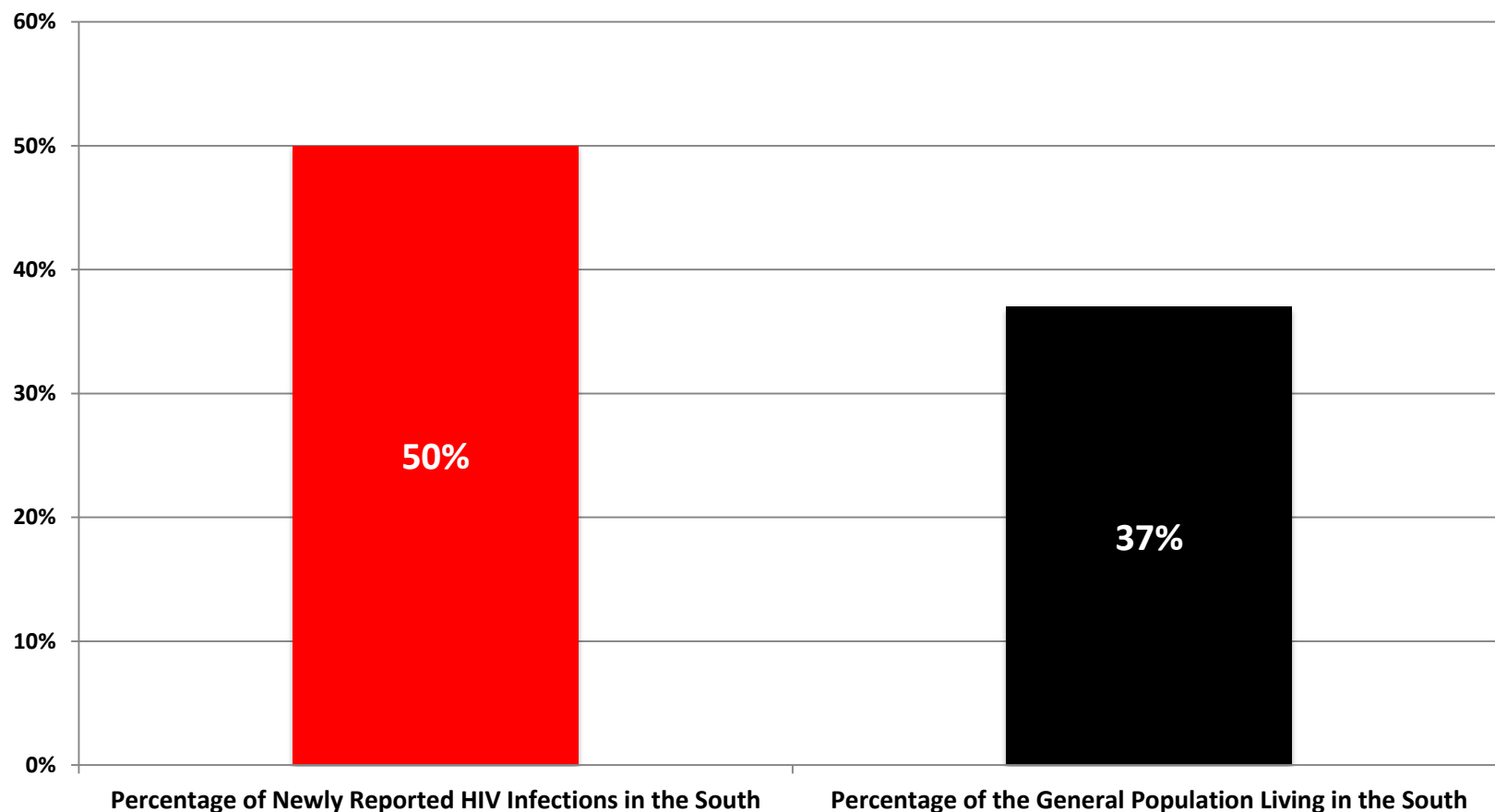
Center for Health Policy
& Inequalities Research
AT DUKE UNIVERSITY



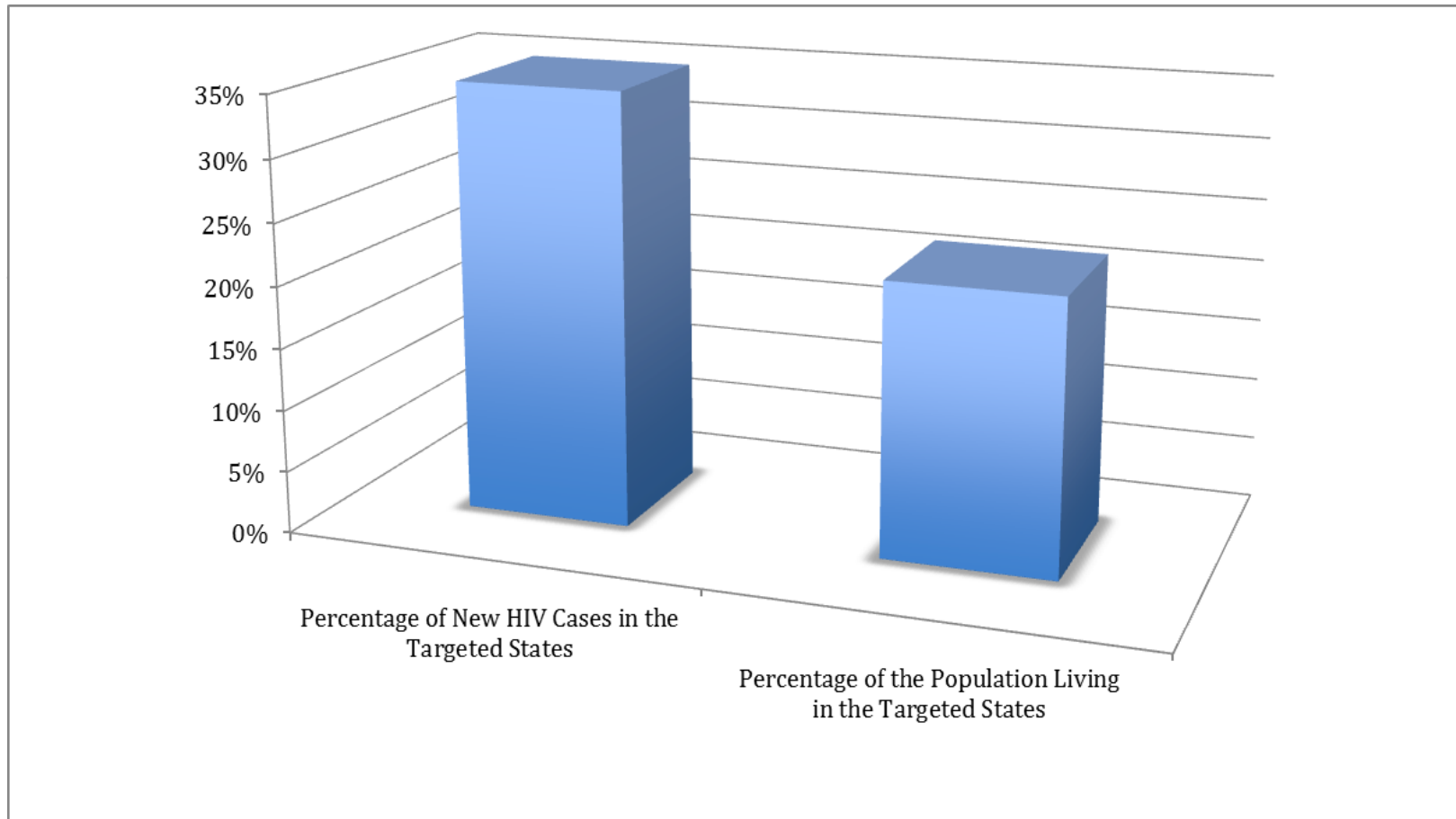
New HIV Infections: The targeted States have the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses in the United States



Half of newly reported HIV infections were in the South although the South accounted for only 37% of the US population.



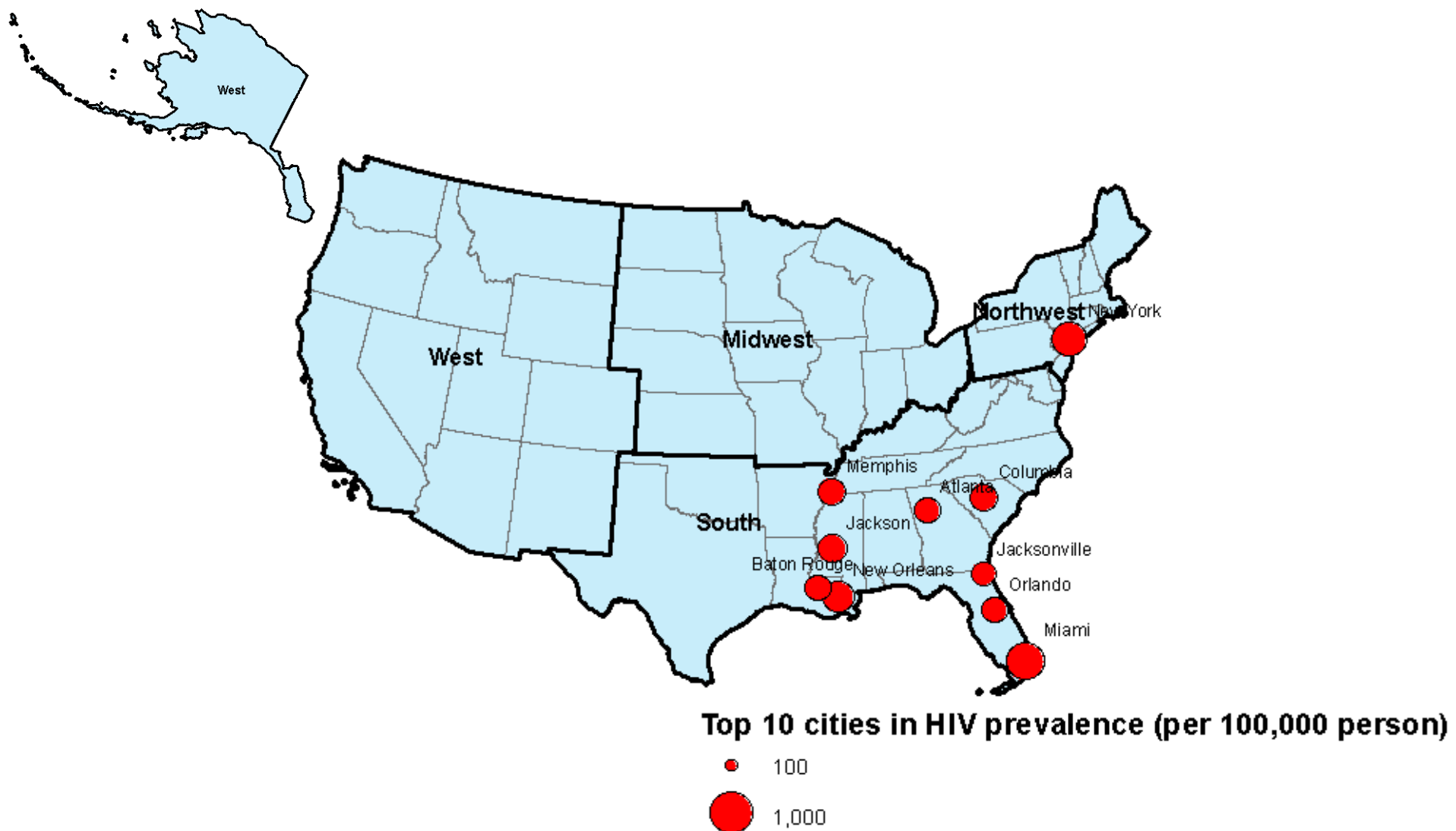
35% of newly reported HIV infections were in the Targeted States although the Targeted States accounted for only 22% of the US population.



New AIDS Diagnoses: 8 of the states with the highest AIDS diagnosis rates in 2009 are in the targeted States.

AIDS Diagnosis Rate, 2009	State	AIDS Diagnosis Rate
1	<u>Washington DC</u>	119.8
2	New York	24.6
3	<u>Florida</u>	23.7
4	<u>Maryland</u>	19.9
5	<u>Louisiana</u>	19.4
6	<u>Delaware</u>	18.0
7	New Jersey	16.9
8	<u>South Carolina</u>	15.6
9	<u>Georgia</u>	14.1
10	<u>Mississippi</u>	13.1
11	<u>North Carolina</u>	11.6
12	<u>Tennessee</u>	11.1
13	<u>Texas</u>	10.7
14	Nevada	10.6
15	California	10.2

10 Cities with Highest HIV Prevalence in 2009



When **HIV case fatality rates** were examined (defined as the number of HIV-related deaths among those who are HIV-positive), results indicate that **9 of the 10 states** with the highest case fatality rates were in the South; **eight** of these states were **targeted Southern states**.

Rank	State	HIV Case-Fatality Rate
1	<u>Mississippi</u>	32.9
2	<u>Louisiana</u>	32.5
3	Oklahoma	29.8
4	<u>North Carolina</u>	28.8
5	<u>Tennessee</u>	27.0
6	<u>Georgia</u>	25.6
7	<u>South Carolina</u>	25.2
8	<u>Alabama</u>	25.0
9	Wyoming	24.3
10	<u>Florida</u>	24.2
11	New Mexico	24.1
12	<u>Texas</u>	23.5

Note: Data corresponds to Texas rather than East Texas, as county level data was not available for HIV death rates.

Source: Hanna D, Selik R, Tang T, Gange S. Disparities among states in HIV-related mortality in persons with HIV infection, 37 U.S. STATES, 2001-2007. *AIDS*. 2011; Early Release.

Why the high death rates?

- Nine of the ten states with the worst health ratings are in the South.

General Health Status, 2011

41	<u>West Virginia</u>
42	Nevada
43	<u>Kentucky</u>
44	<u>Texas*</u>
45	<u>South Carolina*</u>
46	<u>Alabama*</u>
47	<u>Arkansas</u>
48	Oklahoma
49	<u>Louisiana*</u>
50	<u>Mississippi*</u>

Populations in the South that are particularly hard hit

WOMEN

- 8 of 10 Deep South states report higher proportion of women among new HIV infections
- 85% of women were infected through heterosexual sex
- 71% of women diagnosed with HIV in the South are African American

Populations in the South that are particularly hard hit (cont'd)

- **MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM)**
 - 49% of those diagnosed with HIV in the targeted states in 2009 were MSM
 - It is estimated that 1 in 5 African American MSM in the South are living with HIV

Populations in the South that are particularly hard hit (cont'd)

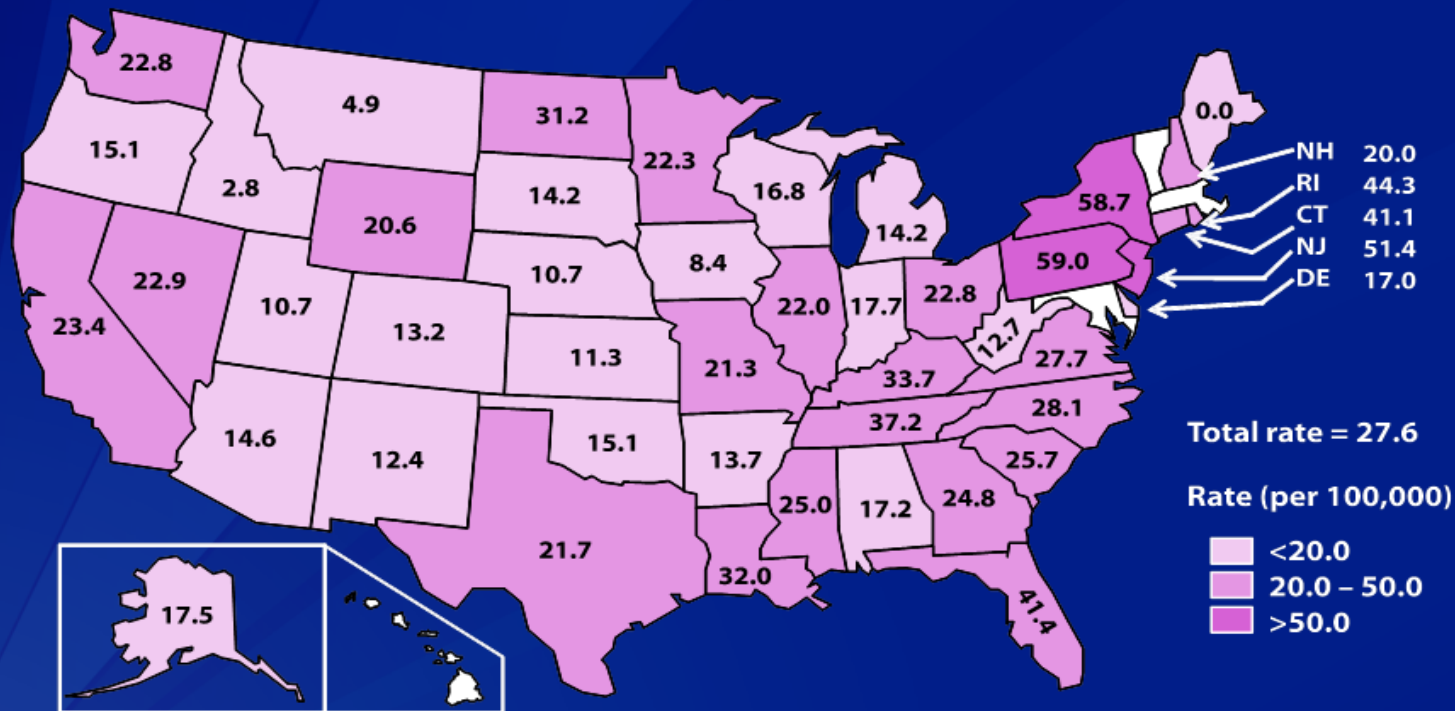
- **AFRICAN AMERICANS**: 54% of new HIV cases among African Americans in the US were in the targeted states
- **HISPANICS/LATINOS**: 50% of new HIV diagnoses among Hispanics/Latinos in the US were in the South

Hispanic/Latino Population Growth in the South

- **2000 – 2010**: the South saw a 57% increase in its Hispanic population
- Four times the total population growth in the South (14%)
- In 7 Southern States Hispanic population more than doubled in size
- (AL, AK, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adult and Adolescent Hispanics/Latinos^a, 2010—46 States

N = 9,620



Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of stage of disease at diagnosis. All displayed data have been statistically adjusted to account for reporting delays, but not for incomplete reporting.

^a Hispanics/Latinos can be of any race.



Populations in the South that are particularly hard hit (cont'd)

RURAL EPIDEMIC:

- 64% of people with AIDS living in rural areas reside in the South

Rural HIV in the Targeted States

Table 2: New HIV infections and Prevalence in Rural Areas, 2010

State	Incidence (rural/overall, %)	Living cases (rural/overall, %)
Total	10.2	10.1
Alabama	19.0	data not available
Florida	2.8	7.1
Georgia	10.7	10.8
Louisiana	15.8	14.2
Mississippi	42.9	42.5
North Carolina	19.9	21.2
South Carolina	23.5	data not available
Tennessee	10.7	8.4
Texas	5.6	4.5

ADAP Waiting Lists

ADAP waiting lists:

- 93% of people on ADAP waiting lists live in the Southern region*

* As of June 7, 2012: 2017 out of 2170 on waiting lists live in the South

Possible Contributing Factors

Table 2: Characteristics[#] of the Deep South and Other US Regions[^]

	Deep South*	South without Deep South	Northeast	Midwest	West	US
Median Household Income	\$43,167	\$49,483	\$56,491	\$49,914	\$53,683	\$49,945
Poverty Levels	21.0%	17.3%	16.6%	16.8%	19.7%	20.0%
Syphilis Rate (per 100,000 population)	23.3	12.6	14.2	8.5	12.4	14.9
Gonorrhea Rate (per 100,000 population)	140.3	115.2	77.4	108.5	58.7	100.8
Percent of individuals living in a Health Professional Shortage Area	13.6%	10.9%	6.7%	11.3%	11.4%	11.2%
Individuals on a Waiting List for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)	3633	1103	0	23	15	4774

[#]State Characteristics from: Kaiser Family Foundation. State Health Facts. 2011; www.statehealthfacts.org. Accessed October, 2011.

[^]Regions are defined by the US Census: U.S. Census Bureau. Census Regions and Divisions of the United States. http://www.census.gov/geo/www/us_regdiv.pdf. Accessed November, 2011

*Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

Possible Contributing Factors

- Link between Hispanic/Latino ethnicity and having HIV diagnosed at a later stage of diseases progression has been identified.*

- **Late testing can lead to:**

- ❖ Poorer health outcomes
- ❖ Greater possibility of HIV transmission

- * Wohl A, Tejero J, Frye D. Factors associated with late HIV testing for Latinos diagnosed with AIDS in Los Angeles. *AIDS Care*. 2009;9:1203-1210.

Possible Contributing Factors

• Late testing among Hispanics/Latinos may be due to:

- ❖ Lack of health Insurance & access to health care
- ❖ Stigma
- ❖ Language barriers
- ❖ Legality concerns



What are we asking for?



It is urgent that the White House convene
a **State of the South Task Force** now

- Next steps of the **National AIDS Strategy** must be directed at the **South**
- The task force must identify opportunities across federal agencies to address the Southern HIV Epidemic
- The task force must identify funding opportunities to evaluate best HIV prevention and care practices for the South



Call-to-Action Sign-on Organizations



- 30 for 30 Campaign
- A Brave New Day (MS)
- Acadiana CARES (Lafayette, LA)
- Advocates for Youth
- A Family Affair HIV/AIDS Ministry (Orangeburg, SC)
- AIDS Action Coalition (Huntsville, AL)
- AIDS Alabama
- AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- AIDS Interfaith Network (Dallas, TX)
- AIDS Services Coalition (Hattiesburg, MS)
- AIDS Task Force (Wheeling, WV)
- AIDS United
- Alliance of AIDS Services Carolina
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana
- American Civil Liberties Union of NC
- American Civil Liberties Union of SC
- A Week 4 Life (Miami, FL)
- Basic NWFL, Inc. (Florida)
- Big Bend Cares, Inc. (Tallahassee, FL)
- Birmingham AIDS Outreach (AL)
- Catawba Care (Rock Hill, SC)
- Chattanooga CARES
- Community Access National Network (CANN)
- Community Impact, Inc. (MS)
- Community Information Center, Inc. (OR)
- DFW Pride Movement, Inc
- Duke AIDS Law and Policy Project
- Duke Partners in Caring
- Eastern Virginia AIDS Network
- Emory Midtown Infectious Clinic
- Friends for Life (Memphis, TN)
- Georgia AIDS Coalition
- HAART, Inc. (Baton Rouge, LA)
- HealthHIV
- Health Services Center, Inc. (Anniston, AL)
- HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA)
- Human Rights Watch
- Jefferson Comprehensive Care System, Inc. (AR)
- Latino Commission on AIDS
- Legacy Community Health Services (Houston, TX)
- Lenoir County HIV/AIDS Task Force, Circle of Friends (NC)
- Lifelong AIDS Alliance (WA)



Call-to-Action Sign-on Organizations



- Lighthouse Counseling Center, Inc. (Montgomery, AL)
- Medical AIDS Outreach of Alabama
- Memphis Center for Reproductive Health
- Metro Health (Baton Rouge, LA)
- Minority AIDS Council of Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun Counties (SC)
- Mississippi Center for Justice
- Montrose Counseling Center (Houston, TX)
- My Brother's Keeper, Inc. (Jackson, MS)
- NAESM, Inc. (Atlanta, GA.)
- Nashville CARES
- National AIDS Housing Coalition
- National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
- National Health Law Program
- National Minority AIDS Council
- National Working Positive Coalition
- North Carolina AIDS Action Network (NCAAN)
- North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
- North Carolina Hepatitis Community Voice
- Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services, Inc. (OASIS)
- Older Women Embracing Life, Inc. (Maryland, DC)
- Project Inform
- Positive Voices (SC)
- RAIN, Inc. (Charlotte, NC)
- Rural Women's Health Project (FL)
- St. James Infirmary (San Francisco)
- Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
- Shelter Resources, Inc. (New Orleans)
- Sister Love, Inc. (GA)
- South Carolina Hispanic Outreach
- Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC)
- Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ
- Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative ("SASI")
- Special Health Resources for Texas, Inc.
- Street Works (Nashville, TN)
- Tennessee Association of People with AIDS
- The ACCESS Network, Inc. (Ridgeland, SC)
- The Black AIDS Institute
- The Mid-South Coalition on HIV/AIDS (Memphis, TN)
- The Western North Carolina AIDS Project
- Treatment Access Expansion Project (TAEP)
- Triad Health Project (Greensboro, NC)
- Unity Wellness Center (Auburn, Alabama)
- West Alabama AIDS Outreach (Tuscaloosa, AL)
- Women With A Vision, Inc. (LA)

New HHS Funding Initiative

- ❖ Funding Announcement just released **June 8, 2012**
- ❖ \$44 million over 3 years
- ❖ 18 State Health Departments eligible including 12 in the South. Goal:
 - Reduce HIV-related deaths and related health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities in the US

New HHS Funding Initiative, cont'd

❖ Focus of funding:

- Expanding & Improving HIV testing capacity
- Optimizing linkage to, retention in, and re-engagement with care and prevention services for newly diagnosed and previously diagnosed racial and ethnic minorities with HIV.

❖ Leadership and oversight provided by a multi-agency federal partnership

- CDC = lead agency

❖ 25% of awards must go to CBOs

❖ SASI Report cited throughout FOA

❖ Great first step towards developing a Southern Action Plan



What Can You Do?



- Let your State Health Departments know about the New Funding Initiative:
 - **CDC-RFA-PS12-1210, “Secretary’s Minority AIDS Initiative Funding for Care and Prevention in the United States (CAPUS) Demonstration Project”**
- **Application Deadline Date: July 31, 2012, 11:59pm EST**
- **To Access the Announcement & Application Package:**
 1. Go to: www.grants.gov
 2. Select: “For Applicants”
 3. Select: “Find Grant Opportunities”
 4. Select: “Basic Search”
 5. Type in the Funding Opportunity Number, formatted as: **CDC-RFA-PS12-1210.**



What Can You Do?



- Visit the SASI website
 - www.southernaidsstrategy.org
 - Sign the SASI petition
 - Write the White House and Members of Congress
 - Recruit community coalition partners for SASI
- Sign up for the SASI Listserv
 - sasi-list@googlegroups.com

Dear Mr. President,
We've signed the SASI petition!
December 2, 2011



Thank you

