Rural, Southern U.S. Suffers HIV Funding Shortages

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Home to more than half of the 1.1 million HIV-positive people in the United States, the South struggles to provide treatment and related services through federally funded programs, according to the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC) as reported by *The Westside Gazette*.

Despite federal efforts to increase HIV/AIDS resources in 2006 by revising funding distribution through the Ryan White CARE Act, a lot of Southerners living with HIV—particularly those in rural areas—still lack adequate health care, housing and transportation services

“Certainly the $30 million shifted to the South helped, but we still have bigger problems,” said Kathie Hiers, former co-chair of SAC. “There needs to be a better level of parity between the states. The money should follow the epidemic, but the way it stands now, the cities get way more per person than the rural areas.”

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