Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2019 [VIDEO]

#SHAAD debuts Tuesday, August 20. Here's how you can be part of the Southern Solution.

August 19, 2019 By Trent Straube

Tuesday, August 20, marks the first annual Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (SHAAD). Launched by the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC), the event is a chance to raise awareness and an opportunity for advocates across the nation to address the HIV crisis in the South.

In the video above, HIV infographic site AIDSVu visualizes the epidemic in the South. Take a deeper look at the AIDSVu statistics here.

The 16 states, plus Washington, DC, that make up the South account for 38% of the U.S. population, but as AIDSVu points out, the region made up 52% of new HIV cases in the country in 2017. The South also comprises 45% of all Americans living with HIV, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

> On August 20th, we mark the first ever Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, to draw attention to disparities in new cases of #HIV impacting the southern United States. Go to https://t.co/VkDFo48hw0 to learn more. #SHAAD pic.twitter.com/I5oEZTo6aH
>
> — The AIDS Institute (@AIDSadvocacy) August 19, 2019

"Some communities in the South," writes AIDSVu, "such as Black and Latino gay and bisexual men, are disproportionately impacted by HIV and are seeing increased rates of new infection—a chilling reminder that the HIV epidemic is far from a thing of the past."

The SHAAD website, SouthernSolution.org, adds that more than 511,400 people are living with HIV in the South and that about 2,580 people in the region died of AIDS-related complications in 2017.

New HIV cases in the South, 2017Courtesy of AIDSVu.org

For the record, the CDC defines the South as including Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia as well as Washington, DC.

Earlier this year, Trump introduced his administration's HIV initiative: Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America. As part of the plan, funding would go to the 48 counties (plus Washington, DC, and San Juan, Puerto Rico) and seven states with high rural HIV rates. Those states include Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and South Carolina. Some 48% of the targeted counties are in the South. To read more about the plan, click here.

#DYK 52% of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States are in the south. Visit https://t.co/VkDFo48hw0 to learn more about #HIV in the south. #SHAAD pic.twitter.com/VRDTYYZo3q

— The AIDS Institute (@AIDSadvocacy) August 17, 2019

Visit the SHAAD website for resource guides, downloadable and sharable images (like the ones in this article), more data about HIV in the South and a list of SHAAD events.

In related POZ news, read the recent articles "The South Suffers a Lack of HIV Care Providers" and "Southerners Support HIV Prevention, but Many Don't Know U=U and PrEP" or click #South.

Despite accounting for only 19% of the Southern population, Black Americans accounted for more than half of all new #HIV diagnoses in the South in 2017. Take a deeper look at HIV in the South to learn more: https://t.co/tfsJbxJjGM pic.twitter.com/aR0IwwhZrr

— AIDSVu (@AIDSVu) August 1, 2019

A sample social media post for SHAADCourtesy of Southern AIDS Coalition/SouthernSolution.org

For a related article in POZ, read AIDS United’s interview with an ordained Baptist reverend: “From Alabama to Africa, Faith Fuels Aquarius Gilmer’s Advocacy.”

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