



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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ADAP Advocacy Association Releases White Paper on "The Southern Epidemic"

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 16, 2014) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today released an important White Paper on the impact of HIV/AIDS in the South, entitled “**THE SOUTHERN EPIDEMIC: Are the South’s cultural, political and societal barriers making it difficult for public health programs, such as the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, to function effectively in this region?**” The White Paper examines the numerous factors contributing to people living with HIV/AIDS in this region of the country experiencing more barriers to access healthcare. It also addresses the disproportionate impact of waiting lists under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs that have historically plagued the South.

“The ADAP Advocacy Association has been concerned for many years about the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on the Southeastern United States, especially considering people living with HIV/AIDS in this region often must overcome major obstacles simply to access basic healthcare needs,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “To that end, it is our hope that this important analysis will not only continue the public health dialogue on this epidemic, but also foster further collaboration to reverse it.”

The White Paper summarizes, “The South’s seeming inability to adequately invest in public health was no more evident during the last ADAP waiting list crisis – often referred to as “The Perfect Storm” by ADAP stakeholders – which occurred from 2008-2012. People living with HIV/AIDS in the South were considerably more likely to be denied access to care and treatment. In fact, during “The Perfect Storm” over ninety percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS on ADAP waiting lists resided in the South.¹ The ADAP waiting lists reached its peak in August 2011, when 9,217 people living with HIV/AIDS were being denied care in 12 states. At that time, seven of these states were in the South, with 96.14% of the waiting list patients residing in these southern states.”²

To download the White Paper, go to <http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org/publications.html>.

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association or White Paper, please contact Brandon M. Macsata by phone at (305) 519-4256 or email at info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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¹ “The ADAP Watch.” NASTAD. November 11, 2010. Accessed April 22, 2014.

² “The ADAP Watch.” NASTAD. August 5, 2011. Accessed May 2, 2014.