IMPLICATIONS OF CORONAVIRUS: COVID-19’s Impact on Rural Communities

RURAL HOSPITALS: United States (Source: UNC Sheps Center; Becker’s Hospital Review)

1 in 5 Americans live in rural areas and rely on local hospitals, yet rural hospitals have shut down in 31 states since 2010.

- **2019**: 18 Rural Hospitals closed in the last year
- **2015 - 2019**: 69 Rural Hospitals closed in the last 5 years
- **2010 - 2019**: 124 Rural Hospitals closed in the last 10 years

RURAL HEALTH DISPARITIES: West Virginia (Source: Community Education Group)

Out of the **220 counties identified** by the CDC as being vulnerable to an HIV outbreak, **28 of West Virginia’s 55 counties were listed**.

**The highest rate of Drug Overdose Deaths** in the nation
(National Rate: 20.7; WV Rate: 51.5)

**The second-highest rate of Hepatitis C Virus**
in the nation
(National Rate: 1.2; WV Rate: 3.9)

A steadily increasing rate of new IDU-related HIV infections:

- **2018**: 45% of the 87 newly diagnosed HIV cases, 39 (45%) were IDU-related
- **2019**: 62% of the 146 newly diagnosed HIV cases, 91 (62%) were IDU-related
- **2020**: 68% of the 50 newly diagnosed HIV cases, 34 (68%) were IDU-related

COVID-19 SNAPSHOT: West Virginia (Source: WV Department of Health & Human Resources)

As of September 30th, there were **15,848 COVID-19 cases** and **350 deaths** in West Virginia, with steady increases in hospitalizations, ICU cases, and ventilator cases.

- **41.3% increase** in Emergency Medical Services Responses for Suspected Overdoses (Jan 2020 - June 2020)
- **10.3% increase** in Hospital Emergency Room Incidents Related to Overdoses (Jan 2020 - June 2020)

For more information visit our websites: [www.adapadvocacy.org](http://www.adapadvocacy.org) and [www.communityeducationgroup.org](http://www.communityeducationgroup.org).