
From: The FAIR Foundation [mailto:fair@dc.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2007 8:13 PM
To: Jeremy Olson, TwinCities.com (jolson@pioneerpress.com)
Subject: TwinCities.com: Hispanics, young men drive rise in AIDS cases

RE: [Hispanics, young men drive rise in AIDS cases](#)

Dear Mr. Olson,

I am writing to request that you report HIV/AIDS statistics in a positive light as opposed to a threatening tone, which is not indicative of the great successes against this illness in Minnesota and nationally. In addition, when HIV/AIDS Directors/coordinators make inflammatory statements regarding HIV disease as in "HIV numbers jumping dramatically" I urge that you query them and get them to recognize their great success as opposed to leaving the public with the negative impression given by such remarks.

The success in MN is evidenced by the MN Dept of Health reports (page 24 [here](#)) of the leading causes of death and their corresponding number of deaths in 2005 as follows and please note that HIV/AIDS is not included.

Malignancies	8,823
Heart Disease	7,913
Cerebrovascular dis.	2,312
Lower Respiratory	1,962
Accidents	1,920
Alzheimer's dis.	1,320
Diabetes	1,259
Influenza, pneumonia	854
Nephritis	659
Suicide	542
Renal dis.	540
Parkinson's	444
Chronic Liver dis.	320
Aortic aneurysm	283
Septicemia	262

The number of deaths from HIV/AIDS in 2006 was fifty-six (56) as reported by the MN Dept. of Public Health in Table 4 [here](#).

You wrote, "The 2006 state health report shows that there were 35 new HIV cases among men ages 13 to 24, a doubling since 2002."

What is indicative of Minnesota's great success against HIV is that this figure is only 4 per year and that statistic of 4/yr. would have been a fair way to characterize your state's citizens' wonderful effort. In addition, a very real segment of this increase could be as a

result of better adherence by physicians to reporting HIV cases now that name-based reporting is becoming mandatory.

You also state, "New cases also have increased, though less dramatically, among young women, suburban residents and white and black women."

To refer to either as "dramatic" is not supported by the facts when compared to the fifteen diseases above that are killing a total of 29,413 of your citizens.

Such reporting with exaggerative statements are then repeated by other media outlets and the Kaiser Foundation's HIV/AIDS [reports](#), further adding to the misimpression of HIV disease as a crisis in the USA.

In over 100 presentations to the legislative health aides working for the members of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee overseeing NIH bio-medical research funding, I have called for such recognition of the success against HIV disease. Our 28-member [Board of Directors](#) joins with me in urging that you focus on the positive in your reporting of HIV/AIDS in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and know that I'm always available for interviews.

Gratefully,

Richard

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: [National Public Citizen of the Year \(NASW-'03\)](#)

President and CEO: [The FAIR Foundation](#), a national movement to reverse inequities in research funding distributions

by the National Institutes of Health and to institute new organ-donor policies to reverse our country's organ-donor crisis

Founder: [The Coachella Valley Hepatitis C, Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group](#)

Board of Directors: United Organ Transplant Association

Author: [Coma Life](#), an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer,

three liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes, Muscular Dystrophy (Myasthenia Gravis)

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Disease	2005 NIH Research \$	Deaths Per Disease	\$ Per Patient Death	\$ Per Patient
HIV/AIDS	2.93 Billion	16,316	\$ 178,046	\$ 3,052
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	930,000	\$ 2,523	\$ 40
Diabetes	1 Billion	73,965	\$ 14,236	\$ 50
Alzheimer's Dis.	642 Million	63,343	\$ 10,182	\$ 143
Prostate Cancer	373 Million	27,350	\$ 13,638	\$ 192
Parkinson's Dis.	205 Million	17,898	\$ 12,403	\$ 148
Hepatitis C	121 Million	12,000	\$ 10,166	\$ 25
Hepatitis B	36 Million	5,000	\$ 6,600	\$ 32
COPD**	66 Million	126,128	\$ 500	\$ 5
West Nile Virus	63 Million	161	\$ 390,304	\$ 14,932

** COPD = Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Statistics derived from the CDC & NIH facts. See:

<http://www.fairfoundation.org/update.htm>

[Fourteen million](#) Americans have impaired vision. [702 million is spent on "eye disease" research](#), which is only \$50 per patient.

Join the FAIR Foundation today: <http://www.fairfoundation.org/join.htm> (free)
[NIH Orphan Drug Allocation of \\$1.2 Billion](#) for 6000 diseases equals only \$200,000, on average, for research on each disease.