



www.FAIRFoundation.org

## Submitted by email

**From:** FAIR Foundation [mailto:fair@dc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2008 6:52 PM  
**To:** Cindy Hadish (hadish@gazettecommunications.com)  
**Cc:** Editor, Gazette Communications (news@gazettecommunications.com)  
**Subject:** HIV diagnoses in Iowa hit new high

TO: Cindy Hadish, Reporter, *The Gazette*  
Cc: Editor, Gazette Communications

RE: "HIV diagnoses in Iowa hit new high" (4/23/08)  
<http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080423/NEWS/394105993/1006/NEWS>

Dear Ms. Hadish,

I am respectfully requesting that you provide more balance in your HIV reporting so that the reader can ascertain the relative harm to your state from HIV versus other illnesses. Your article's headline of a "new high," although factual, encourages the reader to believe HIV is a significant health issue in Iowa; however, HIV/AIDS deaths in the most recent reported year of 2005 are reported to be 23 ([Figure 9](#)). When compared to deaths for heart disease and cancer of 7,138 and 6,344 respectively, as well as many other illnesses afflicting Iowans, one is reminded of the small relative harm they might expect from HIV. In fact, in the IA [2006 vital statistics report](#) from which those death totals for heart disease and cancer are derived, HIV is not even mentioned.

You report the increase in cases as a percentage, when the actual number of 14 gives less credence to this being a newsworthy event. In addition, you state that "Men having sex with men remains the number one risk factor for the transmission of HIV in Iowa, followed by heterosexual contact" without clarifying that in its HIV reporting, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines heterosexual sex as having sex with someone who has HIV or who is at risk of having HIV (see [b here](#)). A heterosexual having sex with someone without HIV is at no risk and that should always be clarified to preclude alarm with the general heterosexual community.

Please consider focusing on the positive in your reporting of HIV/AIDS in order to give well-deserved credit to your state's citizens. For example, in our ongoing national [database on HIV/AIDS deaths](#), only 12 states have fewer deaths—great success and a great headline!

Thank you for your consideration of this request for more balance and factual reporting on HIV.

With respect for your efforts, I am,

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

President and CEO: [The FAIR Foundation](#), a national organization with thousands of members and supporters whose goal is to reverse inequities in NIH research funding and to institute [new organ-donor policies](#) to reverse America's organ-donor crisis

Founder: [The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group](#)

Author: [Coma Life](#), an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer, coma, 3 liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes & Muscular Dystrophy (Myasthenia Gravis)

Address: 78629 Bougainvillea Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211

<b>Disease</b>	<b>2007 NIH Research \$</b>	<b>Deaths Per Disease</b>	<b>\$ Per Patient Death</b>	<b>\$ Per Patient</b>
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	2.9 Billion	<b>14,016</b>	<b>\$ 206,906</b>	<b>\$ 3,052</b>
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500	\$ 2,639	\$ 29
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817	\$ 13,365	\$ 39
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	721,696	\$ 8,828	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
Parkinson's Dis.	186 Million	19,547	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
COPD**	90 Million	126,128	\$ 714	\$ 7
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
All Cancers	5.5 Billion	559,650	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
West Nile Virus	56 Million	121	\$ 462,809	\$ 15,564

\*\* COPD = Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Statistics derived from the CDC & NIH facts. See:

<http://www.fairfoundation.org/factslinks.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://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