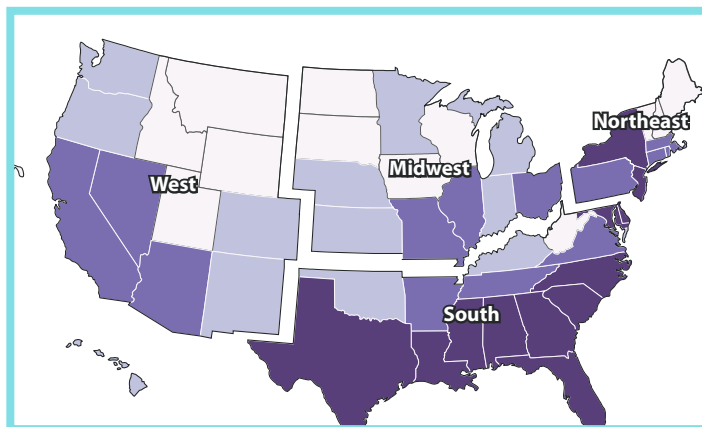


Samaritan Ministry

Our Spring 2016 Newsletter

Making an Impact in the South

A CDC study released in February 2016 provides the first-ever comprehensive national estimates of the lifetime risk of an HIV diagnosis for several key populations at risk and in every state.



Overall, the likelihood that an American will be diagnosed with HIV at any point during his or her life is now 1 in 99, an improvement from a previous study using 2004-2005 data that reported lifetime risk at 1 in 78. Despite overall progress, this study reveals stark disparities by race, risk group and geography.

Lifetime risk is higher for people in the Southern United States (Highest Lifetime Risk indicated by darkest color on the map.) People living in the South are more likely to be diagnosed with HIV over the course of their life than people in other parts of the country. For those of us working in the field, we see an urgency around several issues, and a lot is being done to address these.

1) HIV disease has special challenges in areas where poverty and rural geography are significant.

- 2) HIV disease continues to have a significant and disproportionate impact on minority communities.
- 3) The Bible Belt falls behind the rest of the country in the areas of education, particularly in the public schools, and with access to medical care, as evidenced by failures of many Southern States to expand Medicaid.
- 4) Stigma, related to HIV, and specifically homophobia, are still terrific challenges in many parts of the South.

Samaritan Ministry is working hard to address each of these areas through many educational programs, with advocacy in the Tennessee Legislature, leadership on the State level, and with compassionate care for the most vulnerable among our citizens.



**Still Relevant
After All these
Years?**

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**FAITH Coalition
Hosts Events
During National
Week of Prayer
for the Healing
of AIDS**

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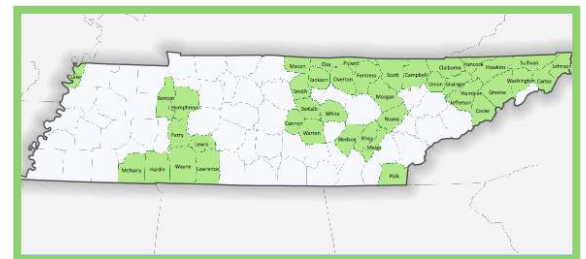
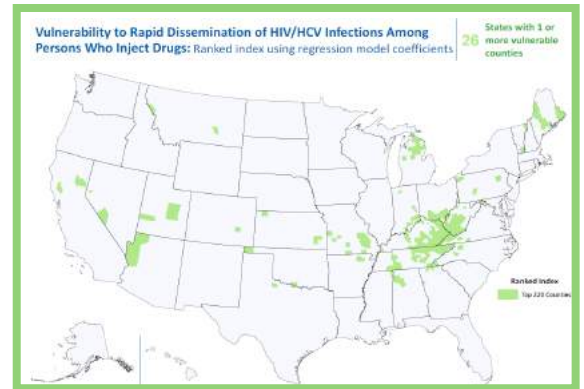
We Need YOU!

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220 Vulnerable Counties Identified in the U.S.

CDC has identified counties vulnerable to rapid dissemination of HIV and Hepatitis C.

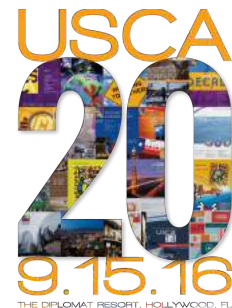
Following news of a serious outbreak in a rural county in southern Indiana, the CDC has identified 220 counties with similar characteristics that appear to be vulnerable to such an outbreak. In Tennessee, we are in the epicenter of this area, with 42 counties identified as part of this group. The situation involves an odd confluence of two factors. First, these counties are heavily impacted by injection drug use (IDU - the drug Opana appears to be the major offender.), poverty, and unemployment. Secondly, while we don't see a lot of HIV in these impacted areas, Scott County, Indiana has taught the rest of the country what can happen when HIV is introduced into the IDU community. The Scott County HIV outbreak in 2015 involved 200 HIV cases. The map to the right highlights the 41 counties identified in Tennessee.



Samaritan Ministry is engaged in this public health threat with an aggressive Hepatitis C testing campaign, education among vulnerable populations, and with leadership in working with the Tennessee Department of Health.

Meet Us In Hollywood!

The Samaritan Ministry team will be heading to Hollywood, Florida for the 20th United States Conference on AIDS. This will be our 12th trip to this important national conference, and, once again, we expect to be the ONLY faith-based group the exhibit hall.



A SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPERATIVE

During the first full week in March, as part of the national recognition called **National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS**, Samaritan Ministry helped to sponsor a prayer breakfast to raise awareness about the on-going HIV epidemic in the U.S., with particular emphasis on the health disparities within the African American community.

Rev. Keron Sadler, from the NAACP, brought a message entitled, *“The Black Church and HIV: The Social Justice Imperative”*. Attendance at the breakfast was great, with more than 80 in attendance representing many local congregations.

The FAITH Coalition invites you to a prayer breakfast and training for faith leaders.

The Black Church and HIV: THE SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPERATIVE



Guest Speaker, Rev. Keron Sadler
NAACP National HIV Programs Manager

Saturday, March 12, 2016, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Community Evangelistic Church, 2650 Boyds Bridge Pike,
Knoxville, TN 37914

Please RSVP by February 29.
865-215-5170





World AIDS Day - Still Relevant After all these Years

Each Fall, Samaritan Ministry works with a group of community partners to plan a program to commemorate World AIDS Day, which always falls on Dec. 1.

This past December our event was terrific, with a great panel of HIV provider organizations and the Knoxville Gay Men's Chorus.

World AIDS Day began in the 80s as a way to memorialize the lives lost to AIDS, and while that is still a central component, World AIDS Day is now much more about living and celebrating all of the advancements in HIV prevention and treatment

Pictured above is a panel from the AIDS Memorial Quilt honoring Knoxville activist and friend, Jack N. Moore.



Happenings:



FaithWalk and Al Ichiki 5K - December 12, 2015



Our Valentines Day Project called *The Victory Basket* was a success this year despite poor weather in mid-February. We delivered 25 of these very cool baskets to some of our isolated female clients. Special thanks to the Hope Center, Central Baptist Bearden, Central Baptist Fountain City, Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Charity Chicks!

Coming Up:

Samaritan Ministry Summer Cookout

Tuesday, June 7 at 6:00 p.m. Central Bearden Ministry Center

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly

June 20-24 - Greensboro, N.C.

United States Conference on AIDS

September 15-18 - Hollywood, FL

Samaritan Ministry Thanksgiving Banquet

Thursday, November 17 - 6:30 p.m. Central Baptist Church of Bearden.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY
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Our Mission:

“Our church should be a beacon of light and hope, by way of Christ, to anyone who suffers from or has family or friends who suffer from this disease.”

PLEASE GIVE TO SAMARITAN MINISTRY!

As we move quickly into the second quarter of 2016, we are in need of your continued support. Yes, we do depend on your gifts to round out about 20% of our annual budget. Please consider making regular monthly or quarterly gifts to Samaritan Ministry. You can mail a check (made out to Central Baptist Bearden) or you can make an on-line gift at <https://my.simplegive.com/g3/h/>

Choose “Quick Give” and then Samaritan Ministry.

Thanks for your support!



It's Personal

In between conferences and testing opportunities, events, and meetings, are the ever-present encounters with people who are living with, often struggling with, HIV disease.

These men and women matter, and their stories and successes are central to the existence of Samaritan Ministry. Unfortunately, this also means that we still are losing people to this disease.



Last October we lost Kyle, a truly nice man, and this spring, we lost Jeff, a good friend, pictured at left. I was able to be with him at the end, and was honored to officiate at a memorial service for Jeff on April 8th in Indiana.

Another opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Wayne