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4/21/08

Letters to the Editor  
The Baltimore Sun  
PO Box 1377, Baltimore, MD 21278

RE: 03/31/08 Editorial entitled "Preventing AIDS"

Dear Editor,

In your editorial entitled "Preventing AIDS" you write "Once the disease is transmitted - mostly through injected drug use and heterosexual contact..." and you also wrote, "there are still 16,000 to 18,000 AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. each year."

Our organization has communicated with the departments of health in all fifty states and the number of deaths they report<sup>1</sup> is 10,523 with many states experiencing plummeting deaths in excess of 80 percent from the high before the introduction of the excellent drugs (HAART) that are now available to combat HIV disease.

The reference to "heterosexual contact" leaves one to believe all heterosexuals are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Centers for Disease Control has one category for heterosexual sex, HetSexPR: Heterosexual Contact with a Person with or at Risk for HIV Infection. For HIV cases, Maryland has added an additional category: HetSexPI: Heterosexual Contact with a Person of Indeterminate Risk for HIV Infection.<sup>2</sup> HIV cannot be transmitted between heterosexual partners when neither of them is infected with HIV.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Darling, DDS".

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: Past National Public Citizen of the Year (NASW)  
President and CEO: The FAIR Foundation  
Founder: The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group  
Author: Coma Life

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<sup>1</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids\\_deaths\\_by\\_state.htm](http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids_deaths_by_state.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Page 100 at

<http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/AIDS/Data&Statistics/Statistics/2005MDAnnualRpt.pdf>

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### HIV/AIDS Death Totals by State--USA & District of Columbia Compiled in 2007 and 2008 from each State's Department of Public Health.

**NOTE\*\* Many states' (e.g. CA, IL) AIDS death totals  
include deaths from non-AIDS causes, such as automobile  
accidents, assault, heart attack, etc.**

State	Deaths	Year	% ↓	State	Deaths	Year	% ↓
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	132	2006	72%	<a href="#">Missouri</a>	69	2006	N/A
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	1	2004	97%	<a href="#">Montana</a>	6	2006	77%
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	33	2006	84%	<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	24	2006	N/A
<a href="#">Arkansas</a>	73	2006	62%	<a href="#">Nevada</a>	106	2007	71%
<a href="#">California</a>	867	2007	89%	<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	11	2005	N/A
<a href="#">Colorado</a>	82	2006	80%	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	604	2005	76%
<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	74	2006	91%	<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	55	2005	75%
<a href="#">Delaware Pg. 10</a>	24	2004	N/A	<a href="#">New York</a>	1,209	2006	85%
<a href="#">District of Columbia</a>	224	2006	33%	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	425	2006	N/A
<a href="#">Florida</a>	1,706	2005	61%	<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	3	2006	N/A
<a href="#">Georgia Pg. 23</a>	650	2005	N/A	<a href="#">Ohio</a>	196	2006	80%
<a href="#">Hawaii</a>	25	2005	93%	<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	9	2006	97%
<a href="#">Idaho Pg. 17</a>	10	2006	N/A	<a href="#">Oregon</a>	48	2006	86%
<a href="#">Illinois</a>	100	2004	93%	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	97	2006	95%
<a href="#">Indiana</a>	7	2006	75%	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	26	2006	87%
<a href="#">Iowa</a>	19	2005	81%	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	249	2005	55%
<a href="#">Kansas</a>	31	2006	77%	<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	8	2006	N/A
<a href="#">Kentucky Pg 24</a>	4	2006	98%	<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	333	2006	50%
<a href="#">Louisiana</a>	526	2004	N/A	<a href="#">Texas</a>	1,029	2006	62%
<a href="#">Maine "Epi Profile"</a>	11	2006	84%	<a href="#">Utah</a>	23	2006	85%
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	386	2006	75%	<a href="#">Vermont</a>	4	2004	N/A
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	302	2005	N/A	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	183	2006	81%
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	230	2005	77%	<a href="#">Washington</a>	98	2006	85%
<a href="#">Minnesota (Table 4)</a>	56	2006	90%	<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	9	2006	92%
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	27	2006	89%	<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	87	2005	77%
				<a href="#">Wyoming</a>	12	2006	N/A
Subtotal	5,600			Subtotal	4,923		

**\*\*Total 10,523\*\***

% ↓ = the percentage drop in deaths since the high year in that state

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