



# Stigma and Challenges in Rural America

- Rural communities struggle with issues of stigma and lack of information
- Geographical challenges
- Many people may avoid testing because they fear who may see them or what may happen if they test positive for HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis
- If someone is diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis, there are fewer resources in rural communities
- Lack of resources in the areas of: access to treatment (medical and substance use), case management, secondary prevention, medications, advocacy and qualified medical professionals
- Medical and other services are expensive and often challenging for those who lack resources
- If someone has Medicaid, it does not pay for pain medications needed for someone who is undergoing HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis treatment
- Medicaid or Insurance is often very limiting for anyone seeking Chemical Dependency Treatment

**THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE NOW, RURAL AMERICA NEEDS HELP TOO!!!!**

**HEPATITIS, AIDS, RESEARCH TRUST [WWW.HEART-INTL.NET](http://WWW.HEART-INTL.NET)**

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