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U.S. Oil Spill Impacts HIV Services Along Gulf Coast

*Survey Finds Over Half of People Living With HIV Report Impact;
Half of HIV Service Providers Responding Need Help Planning for Displaced Clients*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – According to the *HealthHIV Pulsepoints 2010: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill* survey, 54% of people living with HIV along the U.S. Gulf Coast responding to the survey report their family and friends are impacted by the oil spill. In addition, 49% of HIV service providers responding to the survey indicate they need assistance planning for clients displaced by the oil spill.

“Our work with HIV service organizations and community health centers along the Gulf Coast alerted us that the oil spill is impacting their communities, so we conducted a survey to better determine the situation,” said HealthHIV Executive Director Brian Hujdich. “Many HIV service organizations report needing help developing plans for clients displaced due to the oil spill. These results raise concerns about the public health impact the disaster may have on HIV services, as populations migrate due to the economic and environmental impact from the oil spill.”

The *HealthHIV Pulsepoints 2010: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill* survey collected online survey responses – from both people living with HIV and HIV service providers – between June 21-July 14, 2010 from 114 respondents in the Gulf Coast states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Survey results will help guide HealthHIV’s prevention, care and support efforts throughout the affected region.

“While it is too early to measure the full impact of the spill on people living with HIV, this data captures initial reactions to the disaster,” said HealthHIV Researcher Paul Angelone. “Phase II of the survey, this Fall, will allow us to focus in greater depth on the impact the oil spill is having on HIV care.”

For a complete report on the *HealthHIV Pulsepoints 2010: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill* survey, visit www.healthhiv.org.

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HealthHIV is the premier, national HIV non-profit working with organizations, communities and professionals to advance effective prevention, care, and support for people living with, or at risk for, HIV through education and training, technical assistance and capacity building, advocacy, and health services research and evaluation. HealthHIV supports primary care providers treating HIV, as well as community and faith-based organizations involved in HIV prevention, care and treatment.