

National Black Church Initiative

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NBCI HED Drug Compliance Demonstration Project Savannah, Georgia

NBCI HED Drug Compliance Demonstration Project in Chatham County in Savannah, Georgia is a one year pilot program to address drug compliance amongst African Americans. NBCI is a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans committed to the eradication of racial disparities.

As a leader in the faith-based community we take our commitment to our membership very seriously and therefore made the dramatic step of declaring a health emergency in the black church - creating what we believe our lifelong work - NBCI Health Emergency Declaration (HED). Our HED Initiative is a 7 year, programmatic prevention initiative that will be launched in faith based communities nationwide. More information about HED and our other HED related initiatives can be found online at <http://www.naltblackchurch.com/health/>.

For the past 20 years NBCI's primary mission has been to improve the health status of our congregants and we have achieved monumental successes. Our recent advocacy of drug compliance stems from the urgent need to reduce preventable deaths amongst African Americans and to educate our membership on the importance of following medical advice. The findings of this demonstration project will be shared with health officials both in Georgia and nationwide.

This pilot program will consist of:

1. *News Conference – August 9, 2011*
Attendees include Mayor Otis Johnson and health experts and county, state and city health officials.
2. *Drug Compliance Seminars*
NBCI's Clinical Behavior team will conduct three seminars with 100 African Americans to understand compliance issues amongst African Americans in Savannah, Georgia.
3. *Expert Roundtable*
NBCI's Clinical Behavior team will join with pharmacists, physicians and health officials to address the findings of the Drug Compliance Seminars. This roundtable will discuss:
 - a. What are the barriers to drug compliance?
 - b. What can the black church do to improve drug compliance?

- c. How can the findings of this drug compliance demonstration project be extended to a nationwide HED program?
- d. What impact, if any, can discount prescription cards have on drug compliance amongst African Americans?