

UP TO DATE HIV/AIDS Medical News

A Legacy of AIDS: Orphans

Washington Post (03/29/94) P. A3; Vobejda, Barbara

AIDS will leave 72,000 to 125,000 American children without mothers by the year 2000, reports a study released today. Conducted by the Orphan Project in New York City, it is the first study to provide estimates for the six cities hardest hit by the problem: New York; Newark, N.J.; Miami, Fla.; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Los Angeles; and Washington, D.C. "The scope of it is stunning," says coauthor Carol Levine, executive director of the Orphan Project, which conducts research on policies to help children and young adults affected by AIDS. According to Levine and coauthor Gary L. Stein, these children have many needs, including mental health services, housing assistance, and legal services. A problem arises, say the authors, when states neglect to provide assistance to relatives who take in AIDS orphans. Although they are willing to do so, relatives often cannot assume the financial burden. David Michaels, a professor of epidemiology, says the estimates may be conservative, since they include neither children whose parents are infected but are still alive, nor children whose fathers have died of AIDS-related causes. Related Stories: *New York Times* (03/29) P. B4; *Philadelphia Inquirer* (03/29) P. A1

Needle Exchange

Associated Press (03/28/94); Neergaard, Lauran

Intravenous drug users who cease to share needles greatly reduce the risk of contracting HIV, reports the first study to examine the habits of individual addicts. "This study really is unique," said Jennifer Lorvick, a researcher at the Institute of Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. "Looking at the individual level you can have a lot more faith in your conclusions because you're looking at: What did Joe do that Susie didn't? Why is Joe safe and Susie isn't?" The study, conducted by Dr. Don DesJarlais of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, followed 173 addicts in Bangkok. Of 111 who stopped sharing needles from 1987 to 1989, only 5 percent became infected with HIV, compared with 18 percent of the 62 who continued to share needles. Whether infected addicts contracted the virus before the study could not be

determined. "For the first time there is direct evidence that what drug users are telling us about changing their behavior relates to lower infection," said DesJarlais.

Education Increases Teens' AIDS Knowledge

United Press International (03/28/94); Klinger, Karen

School-based education programs may reduce risky behaviors that promote HIV transmission, according to government researchers' interpretations of two nationwide surveys of high school students. "We see an indirect effect on behaviors such as having multiple sex partners, based on greater knowledge of HIV and how it spreads," said Deborah Holtzman of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Compared with students surveyed in 1989, significantly more of those polled in 1990 received HIV instruction in school, said Holtzman and co-researchers in their report in the *American Journal of Public Health*. Investigators also found that fewer white and female students questioned in 1990 reported having sex, and fewer whites said they had two or more lifetime sexual partners. While many American schools have offered HIV education programs since the mid-1980s, Holtzman said it was uncertain just how effective they were in modifying risky sexual behavior.

UBI Approved to Test a Novel Immunotherapy for AIDS

Business Wire (03/24/94)

The Food and Drug Administration has granted approval to United Biomedical Inc. of Hauppauge, N.Y., to conduct clinical trials to evaluate a novel approach for treatment of HIV infection.

UBI has developed the therapy designed to delay progression to AIDS by specifically stimulating the body's immune responses known as cytotoxic or "killer" T lymphocytes (CTL), which are responsible for identifying and destroying HIV-infected cells.

The ability to stimulate HIV-specific CTL has major implications for accelerating development of the UBI global AIDS vaccine currently undergoing international clinical study. The company has designed a cocktail of lipid-modified-peptides that can stimulate HIV-specific CTL responses.

The Cost-Effectiveness of HIV Testing of Physicians and Dentists in the United States

Journal of the American Medical Association (03/16/94) Vol. 271, No. 11, P. 851; Phillips, Kathryn A.; Lowe, Robert A.; Kahn, James G. et al.

Since reports that six patients were infected with HIV in a dental office, testing of health care workers for the virus has become a topic of heated debate. Some states have adopted guidelines released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which proposed identifying "exposure-prone" invasive procedures, recommending that health care workers know their HIV status, and possibly restricting infected workers from performing these procedures or requiring them to inform patients of their condition. Phillips et al. said their analysis neither justifies nor precludes mandatory testing.

Declining Age at HIV Infection in the United States

New England Journal of Medicine (03/17/94) Vol. 330, No. 11, P. 789; Rosenberg, Philip S.; Biggar, Robert J.; Goedert, James J.

Although studies in special populations have indicated relatively high seroprevalence and seroincidence of HIV in young people, age-specific trends in the United States remain unknown. Rosenberg et al. of the National Cancer Institute have reported "back-calculation" methods to link data on AIDS incidence to data on the incidence of HIV infection, using the incubation distribution—the time from HIV infection to the onset of AIDS. The estimated incubation distribution revealed a connection between younger age and slower progression to AIDS. On average, the estimated treatment-free incubation period was 12 years for infection at age 20, 9.9 years for infection at age 30, and 8.1 years for infection at age 40. Rosenberg et al. find, in their best-fitting model of national data on the incidence of AIDS, that the estimated median age at the time of infection declined as the epidemic grew, falling from more than 30 years in the early 1980s to 25 years from 1987-1991. During that four-year time frame, one in every four newly infected HIV patients was under the age of 22.

SSA Updates brochure

The Social Security Administration (SSA) recently updated the brochure, "A Guide to Social Security & SSI Disability Benefits for People With HIV Infection," to reflect changes in Social Security rules that took effect on July 2, 1993, and how SSA evaluates claims based on HIV/AIDS.

Copies of this publication, available in English and Spanish can be ordered through Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. The publication numbers are 05-10020 (English) and 05-10920 (Spanish).

One important thing to keep in mind; you do not have to have AIDS to be eligible. To apply for benefits you'll need your Social Security number, your latest W-2, medical information and in some cases your birth records.

Mary Winifred MacDonald

Maine's HIV community marked the passing of a tireless and dedicated spokeswoman last month. "Winnie", as she was known to her friends actively participated in many AIDS organizations urging those present to commit their time and energies to making others aware of the realities of living with HIV disease. Taking a stand with the Portland AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) she was a living example to others to take the message Silence = Death to those unwilling to listen. Her work with Women, AIDS and Power brought to the forefront the struggles of women infected with the virus. As a board member of the PWA Coalition of Maine, Winnie brought a perspective on many issues that challenged our thinking and made for changes in Coalition policies. As forceful as she was in the HIV arena she was truly at heart a *pussycat*. Her love for her cats was well known and

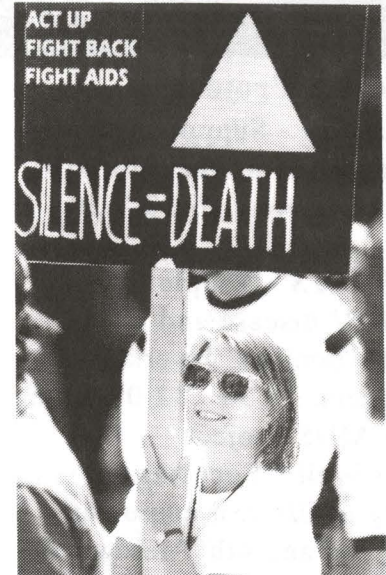


Photo Courtesy of Jim Daniels

anyone visiting her home was quickly introduced to her feline family. Those who had the privilege of knowing and working with Winnie MacDonald were most fortunate. She left us a challenge to continue with the same intensity the education work that she has left unfinished in her passing. "A truly distinguished Maine woman" reads the 1993 Maryann Hartman Award from the University of Maine. Indeed!

New policy at food pantry

By Lee Stewart

Greetings from the Coalition food pantry! We've been busy creating new policies and new ways to make our food pantry more convenient, nutritious, and organized to serve you better. We will be ordering more food items that are easy to prepare, and full of vitamins, protein and carbohydrates. We must remember that proper nutrition is a must in this battle.

Our food pantry hours and days have changed. New days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 2:30. If for some reason you can not make it on these days due to an emergency you may make an appointment or have a friend or relative come in for you. People using the pantry will receive an ID card which must be presented before using the pantry. To qualify you must show a physician's note verifying your

HIV status. The pantry may be used twice a month with limitations on how many items you may take per visit. All items are clearly marked as to how many may be taken. We have done this so that everyone may be served fairly. We will also be publishing some great recipes in *The Scoop* that are easy and full of nutrients. We hope these changes will make the food pantry run more efficiently & effectively.

STATEWIDE: HIV/AIDS NEWS OF MAINE

Portland AIDS Monday Meetings

PORTLAND - Begun in January, representatives of the Portland area AIDS service organizations have begun meeting once a month to discuss issues and programs that affect persons with HIV in the greater Portland area.

The AIDS Project, the PWA Coalition, the AIDS Lodging House, Portland STD Clinic, ME Medical Center AIDS Consultation Service, Me Hemophilia, Childrens' AIDS

Network and Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services have been working together to form a consolidated approach to solving problems and being pro-active in their approach to the ever increasingly complicated issues surrounding HIV disease. At the February meeting tentative plans were made for an AIDS Awareness Fair to be held the afternoon before the AIDS Candlelight Memorial in May.

MAA Sponsors Breakfast

Friday, February 18th, the Maine AIDS Alliance and friends sponsored a "thank you" breakfast for those legislators who have been on the front lines of HIV/AIDS legislation, sponsoring bills designed to improve prevention, education and care for persons living with, and af-

ected by HIV/AIDS in Maine.

Representatives of MAA organizations as well as persons living with HIV/AIDS were in attendance, and the informal atmosphere made for an opportunity to discuss issues that were of interest to all parties involved.

Opportunity knocks

Many HIV-related illnesses are called "opportunistic infections." Why?

Because the disease-causing organism is too weak to produce illness without the opportunity afforded by a weakened immune system.

In fact, some studies have shown that more than two-thirds of all Americans carry *Pneumocystis carinii*, but the organism is powerless to cause pneumonia except in people whose immune systems have been weakened by chemotherapy, organ transplants or HIV.

Students produce HIV P.S.A.

WINDHAM - Students from The Real School in Windham, Maine, have produced a 30 second public service announcement that incor-

porates their photojournalism project on persons living with HIV disease in Maine. The spot opens with the statement "These are just

ordinary people...ordinary people with HIV." Close-up shots of nineteen photographs of Maine people living with HIV are shown and their names are read. The entire exhibit is shown with one large red square at the end. The final statement is "If you don't think you need HIV education, we've saved space in our exhibit for you" and the Maine AIDS Hotline number appears on the screen. The PSA is being shown on WABI channel 5 in Bangor three times a day for the next three months, and then throughout the summer. WPXT channel 51 FOX in the greater Portland area will air this three times a day for a month

An Invitation

Please consider joining us for a new **Women's Group** for HIV+ women. Beginning April 27 thru June 22 every other Wednesday evening 7 to 9 pm

**First Parish Church
425 Congress Street
Small Chapel 2nd Floor**

Please call Linda Jipson, 854-1529, with questions or to indicate your participation by April 20 • *Facilitated by Rita Kissen, Women's Studies Program, USM, Educator, Mother, P-FLAG President*

Support Groups

The AIDS Project

MONDAYS - Support group for HIV-negative partners of HIV-positive persons. 6:30-7:30 PM.

TUESDAYS - People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 - 12:00 noon at the AIDS Project.

Living Well - Focusing on quality of life and empowerment, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the AIDS Project.

THURSDAYS - Women Living with HIV, 1:15 - 2:45 PM at The Aids Project. Men Living with HIV, 5:30 - 7:00 PM at The AIDS Project.

All the above support groups meet at 22 Monument Square, 5th Floor. Call Sandy Titus at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437

ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS

Support group for mothers, sisters and loved ones of people with HIV disease at 7:30 PM. Call Sandy (774-6877) for location.

The AIDS Project can be

reached at 774-6844 or 1-800-851-2437.

Lunch is served at 12:15 each Thursday at TAP. Support group participants and clients welcome.

The Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Lewiston/Auburn area.

Call Diana Carrigan at the TAP-Lewiston office: 783-4301

PWA Coalition

Support group for Heterosexual HIV+ men and women. Partners are welcome. First meeting - Wednesday, February 16, 1994. The Livingroom North (PWA Coalition) 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services

First & Third Wednesday of the month. Group for people who are HIV-positive. 1:30-2:30 PM. Above Dr. Kalustian's office. Call 725-4955 between 9AM- 1PM for location.

Waldo-Knox

AIDS Coalition

Every other Thursday mother's group for mothers of persons living with HIV/AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Meeting in Belfast. 338-1427.

THURSDAYS - PWA/HIV support group in the Rockland area. 7:15 PM. Call 338-1427.

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition

Support group for people with HIV and their loved ones. Tuesday's 7:30pm - 9:00 pm. Located at Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, 4 Lafayette Street, Lewiston. Call 786-4697 FMI.

DaySpring

Every Tuesday 5-6PM for those affected by HIV/AIDS, and 6:15-7:30PM for HIV+ individuals. Located at the Kennebec Valley Regional Health Agency, 8 Highwood Street, Waterville. Call 626 3432 for more information.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network

Support groups the first three Wednesdays of the month 6:30 - 8:00 PM. 1st Wed HIV+ people, 2nd HIV affected individuals, 3rd Wed anyone Infected or affected. 263 State Street, Bangor. Call Judith Atwood at 990-3626

H.O.P.E.

Thursday 6:30 - 8:30pm 1st Universalist Church Elm & Pleasant Street in Auburn. Contact 524-5966 Mike

watershed center for the ceramic arts

informational session for all those interested in this summer's residency for people living with AIDS

Dr. D. MacKenzie Harris

Thursday, April 14, 1994

1 PM

at The AIDS Project

join us beforehand for our regular Thursday lunch at noon, if you can