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Bulletin No. 4
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AIDS Policies
Recommendations for Colleges and Universities

Background

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by infection with a virus known as human T-cell lymphotropic virus or HTLV-III. There is a wide spectrum of HTLV-III infections, ranging from infection in the absence of signs and symptoms at one end to infection with confirmed AIDS and a high degree of mortality at the other end.

Groups Included

- Students of colleges/universities
- College and university faculties
- Other college and university employees

SCOPE OF PROBLEM (As Of December 30, 1985)

- 3403 (21%) of 15,948 reported cases of AIDS in the United States were among persons aged 13-29.
- Only 71 reported cases were in teenagers aged 13-19.

Risk Of Transmission

None of the identified cases of HTLV-III infection in the United States are known to have been transmitted through casual person to person contact.

Other than sexual partners of HTLV-III infected patients and infants born to infected mothers, none of the family members of 15,948 AIDS patients have been reported to have AIDS.

Based on current evidence, casual person-to-person contact as would occur among college/university students, faculty, or other employees, appears to pose no risk.

Sexual activity and I.V. drug abuse are risk factors for university students and employees.

Findings

All medical evidence to date finds that there is no risk of transmission of AIDS virus in the kinds of contacts students, faculty, and other college and university personnel have under normal circumstances.

Recommendations

1. AIDS infected college and university students should be allowed to attend classes and other school activities in an unrestricted setting.
2. Since some college and university students are sexually active or abuse I.V. drugs, college and university students, faculty, and other personnel should be made aware of the risks associated with such activities.
3. Members of high-risk groups should not be excluded from admission to colleges or universities or excluded from employment as faculty and staff.
4. Routine screening for AIDS virus infection for college/university entrance or employment is not warranted.