

# Health Watch Attack AIDS In Blacks

HEALTH WATCH Information and Promotion Service (HEALTH WATCH), the not-for-profit organization devoted to improving the health and longevity of Black people nationwide, has launched a major attack on AIDS.

"Although AIDS is the leading public health problem worldwide today, it is having a greater impact among Blacks and Hispanics," said Dr. Norma J. Goodwin, founder and president of HEALTH WATCH. A striking 24 percent, or one-fourth, of all persons with AIDS are Black, and another 14 percent of AIDS cases are Hispanic although they make up 12 to 7 percent of the U.S. population, respectively. "The magnitude and multitude of problems signaled by the rise in AIDS cases among minorities has turned HEALTH WATCH to the AIDS issue as the top priority focal point of its 1987-88 campaign to prevent widening of the unacceptable Black/White health status gap which exists in America," continued Dr. Goodwin.

With the key message, "AIDS is preventable" HEALTH WATCH develops and disseminates culturally sensitive, accurate and relevant information on the prevention of AIDS and other HEALTH WATCH targeted disorders including cancer, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and obesity, each of which is a major killer and disabler.

The results and action oriented HEALTH WATCH has just published its first issue of HEALTH WATCH News. In keeping with its objectives to provide culturally sensitive health information for self-preservation, this issue contains concise, easy to read articles and tips to motivate more healthful lifestyles and behavior. The issue focuses on the "Wise Diet" which lowers risk of getting cancer and a number of other disorders which have been linked with weakened immune systems including AIDS, which attacks the immune system directly. One article is appropriately entitled, "Understanding And Fighting The AIDS Epidemic In Minorities." A unique feature of the newsletter is its Life Savers and Coping For Life columns, regular features spotlighting professional and personal contributions to the health field by Black health professionals and lay individuals with major health problems. The next issue of HEALTH WATCH News will be distributed in January, 1988.

Additionally, HEALTH WATCH was a major co-sponsor of the recent all-day seminar on "AIDS In The Black Population: Clinical, Public Health and Political Implications" sponsored by Provident Clinical Society of Brooklyn and held at the State University of New York--Health Science Center at Brooklyn. More than 400 Black physicians, dentists, nurses, social workers, health administrators, health educators, students and concerned members of the public participated in discussions led by national experts on:

- The AIDS Virus: What We Know and the Intravenous Drug Connection;
- The Spread of AIDS: In Africa and the U.S.; The Haitian Myth; and Homosexuality and Bisexuality in the Black Population;
- Drug Abuse and AIDS in Women and Their Affected Offspring;
- Clinical Manifestations and Management of the AIDS Patient;
- Pros and Cons of AIDS Testing: Ethical Issues and Counseling Requirements;
- What We Can Learn About AIDS From the Gay Community;
- Lessons About AIDS From Studies of Intravenous Drug Users;
- Destigmatizing AIDS Among Health Workers and Approaches to Risk Reduction Funding and Legislative Requirements;
- Discrimination Issues Related To AIDS.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Bal-lus Walker, President of the American Public Health Association and Dr. Norma J. Goodwin, President of HEALTH WATCH, emphasized the need for "Community Education, Community Organization and Community Mobilization to avoid extensive and unnecessary Death, Discrimination and Disability." Speakers also stressed the importance of more federal funds being earmarked for intensive educational efforts in Black communities throughout the na-

tion. The second HEALTH WATCH effort related to AIDS is a prevention project for Black youth in Bedford Stuyvesant funded by a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This church-based AIDS prevention initiative will be directed at Black pre-teens, teenagers and their parents. A brochure will be developed for both groups, and monthly discussion sessions for both groups will be held aimed at better understanding the AIDS virus and preventing its spread. For more information, please contact HEALTH WATCH Information and Promotion Service at 3020 Glenwood Road, Brooklyn, New York 11210.

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## Black Nursing Scholarships Available

Two scholarships for black nurses are available through the Nurses' Educational Funds, Inc. (NEF) for the 1988-89 academic year. The awards, for registered nurses enrolled in masters or doctoral degree programs, recognize outstanding scholastic achievement and potential for leadership in the nursing profession.

The Estelle Massey Osborne Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a black registered nurse who is pursuing a masters degree in nursing at a National League for Nursing accredited school. The award is made in honor of Ms. Osborne, the first black nurse in the United States to receive a masters degree. The award is made in memory of her contributions as a teacher, as an educational administrator, as a nursing service administrator, as a public health nurse, as a writer, and as a leader and role model to black nurses.

The M. Elizabeth Carnegie Scholarship is awarded to a black registered nurse who is pursuing a doctoral degree in nursing or in a related field. The award was initiated by Dr. Carnegie, a member of NEF's Board of Directors, in 1981 to recognize black nurses who were pursuing advanced degrees. Dr. Carnegie is currently serving as the first visiting professor of the

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