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African Americans Hit Hardest Study Tracks HIV Infection Among N.C. Women

RALEIGH — A new study indicates that 12.4 of every 10,000 North Carolina women giving birth are infected with the AIDS virus.

The study also indicates that HIV disproportionately affects blacks.

Since January 1989, AIDS virus testing has been performed on all blood specimens of newborns submitted to the North Carolina Public Health Laboratory. During the first six months, 50,055 specimens were tested. 62 specimens were HIV positive. A positive test indicates infection in the mother. There is a 30 to 50 percent risk that infants born to HIV-infected mothers will become infected.

Fifty-one of the 62 infected women were black, 8 white, and 3 other (includes Native Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders). HIV infection was 15 times as common among black women as it was among whites. That finding supports previous

observations that HIV infection is striking a disproportionate number of blacks. Approximately twenty-three percent of the state's population is black, but 49 percent of its reported AIDS cases are black.

"Race is associated with certain socioeconomic conditions and behaviors, such as drug use and unprotected sexual activity with others at high risk for infection, which increase the likelihood of getting the AIDS virus," said Dr. Adaora Adimora, Assistant Chief for Science of the Department's Communicable Disease Section. "In fact, all women, regardless of race, must heed advice about how to avoid infection."

Before Feb. 1, only full-blown cases of AIDS were required to be reported to state health organizations. As of Feb. 1, the General Assembly has requires the reporting of all cases of HIV infection. At public health clinics,

if requested, anonymous testing will be an option to those persons wishing to be tested.

Now approximately \$2.4 million in federal and \$694,000 in state funds are being used for treatment for AIDS patients.

While the increase in the incidence of new cases among gay white males seems to be decreasing, the rate of new infections among African Americans is still increasing.

AIDS is spread by having sex with or sharing needles or drug paraphernalia with people who are infected. People can avoid becoming infected by doing the following things: Don't shoot drugs. If you do, get help to quit. Never share needles, syringes or other equipment used to inject drugs. Abstain from sex or limit sexual activity to one uninfected person who only has sex with you and does not use drugs. Condoms significantly decrease the risk of getting HIV.

State public health officials will use these results to develop more programs to prevent HIV infection. The state currently supports eight community-based education and intervention projects aimed at minorities. Several projects deal with minority youth, others target women and minority adults with behavior that puts them at high risk for HIV infection. The Department is also conducting a media campaign to educate minorities about HIV infection.



N.C. A&T Chancellor Edward B. Fort, left, and NCCU Chancellor Tyronza Richmond, fiend questions from the press about the continuation of the athletic rivalry between the two schools. (Photo by L.A.A. Williams)

NCCU—A&T To Continue Rivalry, Play at Neutral Sites

By Khalid Fattah-Griggs & L.A.A. Williams
All News And Sports Service

Laying to rest speculation that their school's 60-year athletic rivalry would end, the chancellors of North Carolina's two largest institutions issued a joint agreement Tuesday that included the decision to play their future basketball and football games at larger off-campus sites.

Flanked by their respective university athletic directors and student government presidents, A&T Chancellor Edward B. Fort and North Carolina Central University Chancellor Tyronza Richmond also outlined plans for a Student Leadership Forum whose purpose will be to foster closer cooperation and sportsmanship between the two campuses.

These latest actions come in the wake of a 15-minute brawl that erupted between players and spectators with about eight minutes left in a January 18 basketball game between A&T and NCCU. The game, which was suspended following the brawl and later declared "no contest," was played before a packed house of over 7,500 fans at A&T's Corbett Sports center.

The chancellors said the yearly football and basketball rivalries between the two schools had outgrown on-campus facilities and they would seek and secure arenas for future match-ups. The two CEOs in conjunction with the athletic and student leaders, decided after a day of discussion that there was too much positive in the long term relationship to let the negative incident destroy it.

"The cancellation of the series was looked at but the pluses very clearly outweighed the minuses," Fort said while pointing

NEA Urges Speedy Implementation Of Minority Education Action Plan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Education Association called on public and private leaders across the United States to "change the map" that guided the education reform movement in the '80s and redesign it to include those students most at risk, yet still most ignored.

Responding to a \$1.2-million study funded by the Carnegie Corporation on improving U.S. education for minorities, NEA vice president Robert (Bob) Chase said, "The national education reform movement has paid insufficient attention to those students — particularly minority students — whose performance is most critical to the success of education reform."

to the outstanding records of the two institutions in the development of young minds. "We concentrated on finding guidelines under which the rivalry could continue."

Richmond added, "...The athletic

rivalry between our two institutions is a cherished tradition and ... (we) will always seek victory on the playing fields and courts. ... A strong bond exists between our two

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President Bush, Private Citizens, Other Organizations, Outraged At NAACP Assaults

BALTIMORE — From the White House, a broad range of national and local organizations, and from "just private citizens", has come an outpouring of indignation and concern over the recent series of violent acts directed by white supremacists against NAACP personnel and property.

The NAACP headquarters in Baltimore has been literally flooded with hundreds of messages of support in the make of a campaign of terror that has already claimed the lives of an NAACP retained attorney and a federal judge, resulted in the narrow escape from death of an NAACP branch president, and caused property damage to NAACP headquarters and its southern regional office in Atlanta.

Strict security has been instituted at all NAACP offices across the country, and the national headquarters is now under 24-hour police surveillance following a demonstration at that site on New Year's Day by white supremacists who shouted support for the violent acts directed against the Association.

"We have no doubt that we have been singled out as targets by race haters who are opposed to our efforts on behalf of African-Americans. However, we do not intend to retreat one single inch and through our actions will continue to say no to racial terrorists," Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director, NAACP has declared.

The intensity of the attacks on the NAACP has reached such a critical stage that in a New Year's Day message to Hooks, President George Bush said:

"The recent bombings make it clear we have not totally beaten back the evils of bigotry and racial prejudice. We cannot let up in the fight against racism. Please assure your members I will see that the federal government does not let up as it works to bring the perpetrators of these hideous crimes to justice."

The full weight of the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as the Postal Service Inspectors and local police have all been brought to bear on the incidents, particularly the bombings, where pronounced similarities in Construction and mode of delivery of the pipe bombs had been identified.

While the NAACP has in the past received it perceives as a "normal" number of hate message, this is the first time in a number of years that it has been the target of direct attacks, according to Hooks.

"Over a given period you will get some hate mail, but we've entered into a different dimension when people are trying to maim or kill us. This is the type of terrorism that has become all too common in too many parts of the world, and now it has come to our shores," Hooks said.

In a private meeting with Hooks at the White House on Tuesday, January 9, Bush reiterated his concern that those responsible for the violence be brought to justice. He said he met with Hooks to "personally express to him" his outrage at the bombings, obscene phone calls and hate mail aimed at NAACP headquarters and branches.

Hooks expressed satisfaction at the president's assurances and said he would be meeting later with attorney General Dick Thornburgh and FBI chief William Sessions.

The series of violent events began on July 19, when an unknown party of parties fired four shots into the NAACP headquarters late at night. The building was empty except for security personnel. However, there was the real possibility someone could have been founded or killed since the shooter fired into offices where the lights were on.

The incident was reported to local police and federal officials, but no arrests have been made. The Baltimore police increased their surveillance of the building and additional internal security measures were instituted.

On August 21 came the tear gas bombing of the NAACP regional office in Atlanta. The bomb was sent through the mails. When it was opened, a heavy cloud of noxious tear gas spread through the NAACP office and the building in which it is located. Everyone has evacuated. Several children and aged persons who were in a physician's office in the building received medical treatment.

A federal judge, Robert Vance of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, was the first person killed by the terrorists. A package was delivered to his home in suburban Birmingham, Ala., on December 16. He was not

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NEWS BRIEFS

Most Firms Still Refuse To Honor King

ATLANTA, GA. — birthday of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has been celebrated as a national holiday since 1986, most of the nation's businesses do not mark the holiday.

A recent survey found that nearly 80% of all major companies do not provide holiday pay for their employees in celebration of King's birth. In addition, four states still refuse to observe the holiday. Those states are Arizona, Idaho, Montana and New Hampshire.

Black Cabinet Member Said To Have Little Power

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After months in office, the Bush administration's only African American cabinet member is said to still be struggling for influence and power. Louis Sullivan heads the Department of Health and Human Services but has lost several battles with other administration members.

Perhaps the most embarrassing episode came when Sullivan spoke out publicly in favor of the Medicare catastrophic-illness law. Within hours of Sullivan's statement budget director Richard Darman sent a message to Congress saying Sullivan did not speak for the administration. Darman's message suggested that Sullivan had not yet mastered the intricacies of his \$425-billion budget.

U.S. African American Men Suffer More Than Men In Poor Countries

BOSTON, MASS. — A new study has found that black men living in Harlem, New York — perhaps America's most famous predominantly Black inner-city area — have less of a chance of living past age 40 than men living in such poor Third World countries as Bangladesh.

Published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine, the study revealed that the death rate for men in Harlem was twice that for whites. Alcohol, homicides, accidents and drug are thought to be the primary reason for the pre-mature deaths of black men. In the U.S., a person is said to have died pre-maturely if he or she dies before age 65.

The comparison with Bangladesh was particularly dramatic. Bangladesh is a poor country known for high levels of starvation and disease. However, in Bangladesh 55% of the men live to age 65 but in Harlem only 40% reach of the men reach that age.

Can't Afford College, Blacks Turn To Military

WASHINGTON, D.C. — According to a study by the American Council on Education, increasing numbers of young blacks unable to pay for college - are entering the various military services.

Study author Deborah Carter said nearly half of the recent drop in black college enrollment is accounted for by blacks entering the military. However, disproportionately it appears to be middle income Blacks opting for the military. This marks reversal of a trend. Previously, most blacks going in the military came from low-income backgrounds.

Division In Anti-Apartheid Ranks

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA — There is a growing division among South African blacks struggling to end white minority rule in their country. During a recent meeting in Lusaka, Zambia older members appeared much more willing to enter into negotiations with the country's new white leader, president Frederick de Klerk - who has displayed a more open attitude toward blacks.

However, younger blacks called for a step up in guerrilla warfare against the oppressive government and warned of accepting any compromise short of full black majority rule.

During their meeting, several South African blacks took time out to pay tribute to slain U.S. civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dudley Products To Be Featured On 'Tony Brown's Journal'

Dudley Products will be the featured guest on PBS's Tony Brown's Journal on Sun., Feb. 4 at 1:30 PM.

In an attempt to illustrate what some minority-owned firms are doing to help the economic future of America, award-winning journalist Tony Brown invited company owner and founder Joe L. Dudley, Sr. to share his philosophy of success with millions nationwide.

The show provides an inside look at Dudley Products and some startling answers to the question "Is Race a Disadvantage?"

Brown searches for answers through in-depth interviews with Dudley, his wife and co-founder Eunice, their son Joe Jr., and top sales managers from around the country.

Viewers will see how Dudley overcame obstacles to become owner of the largest black manufacturing firm between Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, DC. They'll learn more about the unique family that owns and operates Dudley Products and meet members of Dudley's strong national sales force and learn what success means to them.

Dudley Products manufactures and distributes more than 80 professional hair care products and personal care cosmetics. The company's national sales force markets these products directly to cosmetologist and beauty schools in 40 states nationwide.

Joe and Eunice Dudley started in the cosmetic business in 1967, making products in the family kitchen and selling them door-to-door. In 1970, they expanded the company, establishing a beauty supply chain throughout the Southeast.

In 1976, company headquarters moved from Greensboro to Chicago, where they obtained a manufacturing operation. Dudley Products began manufacturing and distributing a professional line of hair care products sold only to salons in 1980.

Four years later the company returned to Greensboro and, in 1986, built its present headquarters and manufacturing plant off I-40

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