

# AIDS AS IT EFFECTS THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

## PART I

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) continues to be one of the nation's major public health problems, with an estimated one million Americans already infected, an increasing number of them minorities.

By the end of 1993, the cumulative U.S. total of acquired

immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases is projected to reach 390,000 to 480,000 and result in 285,000 to 340,000 deaths.

Over the years, the percentage of AIDS cases occurring among racial/ethnic minority populations has risen. In 1992, slightly more than half of all reported cases occurred among

blacks (33.7 percent) and Hispanics (17.6 percent).

Because blacks and Hispanics comprise only 21 percent of the U.S. population, but half of the reported AIDS cases, the disproportionate impact of the HIV epidemic on these communities is an area of grave concern.

"Comprehensive health pro-

motion represents the best solution for preventing the spread of HIV infection in all U.S. communities said HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala.

"To come to grips with the HIV epidemic in the United States, we must present a united front, linking prevention, care, and social services in the fight against all sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse and tuberculosis."

Through March 1993, 289,320 AIDS cases have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); 88,238 of those were reported among U.S. blacks. Of the total number, 68,506 were adults/adolescents males, 17,285 were adult/adolescent females, and 2,447 were children under age 13. More than

50,000 black Americans have died.

These statistics do not mean that people of color are at risk of acquiring HIV infection simply because of their race or ethnicity, but because they are often disproportionately represented in areas where HIV is widespread.

HIV prevention efforts must take into account not only the multiracial and multicultural nature of our society, but also other social and economic factors, such as poverty, underemployment, and poor access to health care system, that often affect communities of color in the United States.

Based on provisional 1991 data from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, HIV infection is now the 9th leading

cause of all deaths in the United States. These deaths are occurring primarily among young, productive citizens between the ages of 25 and 44 years. In this age group, HIV infection is the second leading cause of death among U.S. men and the sixth leading cause of death among U.S. women.

**Men.** In 1990, more than one-fifth (21.5 percent) of all deaths among Hispanic men 25-44 years of age were caused by HIV/AIDS, as well as nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of all deaths among black men in the same age group.

That year, the death rate for black men was more than three times as high for white men in this age group; for Hispanics, the rate was nearly twice as high.

TO BE CONTINUED

# HEALTH

## BROADNAX NAMED TO HHS POST

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala has designated Deputy Secretary Walter D. Broadnax as her chief operating officer to assist in managing the huge Department of Health and Human Services.

Broadnax, 48, was tapped by President Bill Clinton in February for the No. 2 position in the agency. HHS has the government's largest budget — some \$600 billion — with 250 programs and more than 125,000 employees.

Broadnax says the magnitude of the HHS job and its focus on service and benefit delivery are the key differences from his previous position as president of the Center for Governmental Research, Inc., of Rochester, N.Y., a research and management consulting firm.

"Here the focus is on ways to appropriately and efficiently deliver services to our clients, whether to an individual or to an institution such as a major university conducting biomedical or social research," he said.

HHS directly or indirectly touches the lives of virtually all Americans. It includes such agencies and programs as the Social Security Administration, Medicare and Medicaid, the Food and Drug



WALTER D. BROADNAX

Administration, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Broadnax finds satisfaction "in dealing with the different groups we serve and their overlapping

(See Broadnax, Page 22)

## NEW SURVEY SHOWS 120 MEDICINES IN DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

A new survey conducted by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA) shows 120 medicines in development for disease that largely afflict African Americans, including 28 for heart disease, 25 for respiratory disorders, 21 for AIDS/HIV infection and 20 for cancer.

Forty-five percent of the new drug developments covered by the survey are for heart disease, cancer and cerebrovascular disease — the three major causes of death among African Americans. Diabetes is the fourth disease killer, and the PMA study shows 14 medicines in development for that ailment.

The new survey, announced at a joint press briefing recently of the PMA and National Medical Association (NMA), is the first comprehensive effort to determine what medicines are in development for diseases that

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS		1993
• Total Medicines in Development for African Americans		120
• Total Companies Developing Medicines for African Americans		50
SURVEY RESULTS BY DISEASE CATEGORY		1993
• AIDS/HIV Infection		21
• Blood Diseases		5
• Cancer		20
• Diabetes		14
• End-Stage Renal Disease		5
• Glaucoma		1
• Heart Disease/Hypertension		28
• Respiratory Disorders		25
• Stroke		7
• Tuberculosis		1
SURVEY RESULTS BY DEVELOPMENT STATUS		1993
• Phase I		23
• Phase I/II		7
• Phase II		41
• Phase II/III		5
• Phase III		45
• Phase I/II/III		1
• Phase Unspecified		3
• Applications Submitted		10
<b>TOTAL RESEARCH PROJECTS</b>		<b>135</b>
<i>(reflects medicines in development for more than one use)</i>		

disproportionately affect African Americans, or are one of the top 10 causes of death for African Americans.

The press briefing was part of this year's NMA Convention in San Antonio, Texas, which began August 7.

Dr. Richard O. Butcher,

Immediate Past President of the NMA, said the results of the new survey provide "tangible hope of effective treatments."

Butcher and Robert F. Allnut, PMA's Executive Vice President, emphasized the importance of making sure that these medica-

(See Survey, Page 21)

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