The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." HOSEA 4:6

Vol. 6, No. 4 (Letter # 68) EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld April 1992

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce these risks. "Without vision, the people perish."

AIDS Hits Texas High School (...plus an AIDS Update)

Last December an AIDS counselor by the name of Dona Spence dropped a bombshell on the Johntown, Texas, school board by informing them that six of 197 students at Rivercrest High School were infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and would eventually come down with AIDS. Spence, who works for a state-funded AIDS program covering nine counties in northeast Texas, also reported seven more cases at two other schools in the area, making a total of 13 involving teens aged 16 to 19, about evenly divided between girls and boys.

The news sent shock-waves across this remote, conservative, heavily Baptist region 100 miles east of Dallas. To date, Texas health officials know of about 360 teenagers infected with HIV in the entire state. This outbreak in Johntown represents a rate of infection seven times higher than the national average.

Spence says the students were tested individually at their own request, and subsequently contacted her for counseling. No one else — not even their parents —knows who they are. Johntown superintendent Freddy Wade, who said he was "surprised, but not shocked" at Spence's figures, waited until after the Christmas holidays to inform the school and issue teachers rubber gloves for handling students who may be injured. Two junior-varsity basketball games were canceled when parents from another town refused to let their children play Rivercrest, but on Valentine's Day a different opponent took the floor and gave Rivercrest a symbol of support, a Valentine reading, "Our Heart Is With You."

Spence is a 40-year-old nurse whose husband died of AIDS, contracted from a blood transfusion, but who is not infected herself. She has a reputation as a crusader and agrees that "the most important thing in my life is to fight against the thing that took what I loved the most away."

Undoubtedly, the episode has been a learning experience for everyone. To Wade, it proves that "there are no locations that are immune to the virus. We may live in a rural area, but we're in contact with the rest of the world." One Rivercrest High School senior said it would not be surprising if the report were true. "There's not a lot to do around here, so sex becomes something everyone expects," said the student, who asked not to be identified.

To many students, the news has been an occasion to re-examine their behavior. Most

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of the infected students claim they were infected through heterosexual intercourse. If true, it proves that plastic wrap or sandwich bags, which some teens say they used because they couldn't afford condoms, are a poor substitute for the real thing.

In general, students say their parents have been understanding. "They tell us to be careful, but they trust us enough to let us make our own decisions," said Rivercrest sophomore Teri Speir. Rivercrest principal Ray Miller says he saw one big change in students' behavior when the school recently screened a film about AIDS. Nobody giggled. (*Newsweek*, 3/2/92; *Boston Globe*, 3/13/92)

Comment:

The public has been getting confusing and often contradictory information about the spread of HIV infection among teenagers and college students. According to the Centers for Disease Control's HIV/AIDS Surveillance of March 1992, the number of teenagers with full-blown AIDS in the U.S. is 808. The number of AIDS cases among 20-to-24-year-olds is 8,402. No doubt, many of the latter became infected during their teenage years.

The future of the disease among the young will depend on their sexual behavior. If abstinence is promoted, the spread of AIDS will be curtailed. But if "safer sex" with condoms is promoted by the schools, then we can expect the number of cases to increase. As anyone with an ounce of common sense knows, condoms are anything but failsafe. To tell children that a little balloon is going to protect them from the world's most deadly plague is irresponsible to the point of being criminal.

We are not being told how the teenagers in Johntown became infected. As of March 1992, the number of AIDS cases reported in Texas is 14,911. Of those, 3,629 were in Dallas, which is only 100 miles from Johntown. The press has reported incidences of individuals with AIDS continuing to engage in promiscuous behavior. One such individual can conceivably infect a whole group of naive juveniles. There is no way to prevent this sort of thing from happening, since confidentiality is one of the rights that individuals with AIDS enjoy. This was brought out after the arrest in Philadelphia of Edward Savitz, a businessman with AIDS who was accused of paying hundreds of boys for sex.

"Once he was arrested, he was anxious to have his condition divulged," said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. If Savitz had remained silent, however, prosecutors would have been prohibited by Pennsylvania's AIDS privacy laws from disclosing that he had the disease. However, Savitz's attorney claimed that his client practiced "safe sex" with the boys.

The students at Rivercrest don't know who among them have the AIDS virus. But, according to the students, their parents have been understanding. "They tell us to be careful, but they trust us enough to let us make our own decisions," said one student.

What decision is there to make? If these conservative, Baptist parents would simply drum into their children's heads the fact that premarital sex is a sin and that abstinence is to be strictly adhered to, those six teenagers at Rivercrest would not be facing death at an early age.

Better still, if those Christian parents were truly concerned about their children's souls they would have never put them in atheistic government schools where the morality and worldview of humanism are taught. It is that permissive morality which paved the way for the AIDS plague, and it is that same morality that promotes the distribution of condoms among school children.

The Humanist Manifesto of 1973 spells

out its anti-Biblical views on sexual morality quite explicitly as follows:

> In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized. While we do not approve of exploitive, denigrating forms of sexual expression, neither do we wish to prohibit, by law or social sanction, sexual behavior between consenting adults. The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered "evil." Without countenancing mindless permissiveness or unbridled promiscuity, a civilized society should be a tolerant one. Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise, individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their life-styles as they desire. We wish to cultivate the development of a responsible attitude toward sexuality, in which humans are not exploited as sexual objects, and in which intimacy, sensitivity, respect, and honesty in interpersonal relations are encouraged. Moral education for children and adults is an important way of developing awareness and sexual maturity.

That is the sexual morality implicitly preached throughout the public school curriculum, and that is why so many Christian children are confused. They are taught one set of morals at home and another contradictory set at public school, and they are expected to make their life-and-death decisions on the basis of this confusion. It is not the children who should be making these moral decisions, but their parents. It is the parents who must decide which moral code is to prevail within their family: the Biblical or the humanist. You cannot have both. You cannot believe in both. You cannot live your life according to both.

Letting children make their own decisions as to which moral code they will live by is tantamount to parents telling their children that someone else's moral code is better than theirs. Only parents who place little or no value in their own moral code would encourage their children to adopt someone else's. In America today there are no absolute moral values governing our society. The humanists have won that war, and moral relativism is the order of the day. The fact that millions of women can legally murder their unborn children with the help of the medical profession means that humanist law is the supreme law of the land. And, as R. J. Rushdoony has demonstrated, a nation's laws are its religion.

AIDS Update

When we published our first report on AIDS in November 1986, the number of cases by September of that year had reached a total of 24,447. Of that number, about half had already died. Five and a half years later, in March 1992, the total number of cases has reached 213,641 and the death toll is now 136,473.

While the rate of increase has not been as great as earlier projected, the numbers are still growing. For example, it took eight years from the start of the epidemic to reach the 100,000th case in 1989. It took just 26 months to reach the next 100,000 cases. The number of people in the U.S. who contracted AIDS from March 1990 through February 1991 was 42,787. The number who got the disease from March 1991 through February 1992 was 46,052.

In the first 100,000 cases, 5 percent were contracted through heterosexual sex. In the second 100,000 cases, 7 percent were heterosexual. Also, more women are getting the disease. In the first 100,000 cases, 9 percent were women. In the second 100,000 cases 12 percent were women.

The big news in the AIDS story was the revelation that basketball superstar Magic Johnson had become infected with the AIDS virus. He recently told an assembly of students in a Boston high school:

"Fifty-four percent of all teens with AIDS

are minority. That's big. Fifty percent of all children with AIDS are minority. In New York and New Jersey, for women between 17 and 30, the Number One killer of black females is AIDS. That's astounding. I'm here to tell you that HIV is growing. Nine to 11 million people are infected with HIV. By the year 2000, it's going to be 30-to-40 million people....

"The safest sex is no sex but, of course, everyone is going to have sex so be responsible and use a condom.... Don't be getting into this thing where he says, 'Oh baby, it's all right' because this is your life. If you don't have that condom, then don't be doing it."

That advice is basically in line with what Dr. Koop, the former Surgeon General, advocated. (*See charts on pages 6, 7 and 8*)

Boston Health Chief Backs Condoms for Students

Citing chilling trends that portend a "new reality of teen-age AIDS," Boston's public health commissioner is urging that condoms be made available to students in the city's high schools beginning this September. The recommendation by Commissioner Judith Kurland, contained in a draft report released 2/16/92, has triggered intense debate among parents and educators and could escalate pressure on Mayor Flynn, who has opposed condom distribution in the city's public schools.

Kurland proposes that health clinics be established in each high school and that health professionals be allowed to make condoms available to sexually active students.

"We have to make sure that those children who are going to have sex anyway take as many precautions as they can," said Kurland.

Noting that surveys show that half of Boston's public high school students are already sexually active, Kurland said a national epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases is hitting minority teenagers particularly hard and creating the potential for an AIDS crisis among teenagers.

For example, the report cites data showing that the rate of sexually transmitted diseases is higher than it has been in the last 40 years. In Massachusetts, black female teenagers have been found to be 57 times more likely to have syphilis and 13 times more likely to have chlamydia than their white peers, according to the report, while black male teenagers are 43 times more likely to have syphilis and 32 times more likely to have chlamydia than whites of similar age.

The gonorrhea rate among black female teenagers was 2,206 per 100,000 in 1990 compared with 54 per 100,000 for their white peers, while the rate for black male teenagers was 1,974 per 100,000 compared with 19 per 100,000 for white teenagers.

In an interview, Kurland said sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs, are "a forerunner of AIDS. The way you get STDs — multiple partners — is the same way you get AIDS." Kurland cites nationwide data that show the number of adolescents diagnosed with HIV doubles every 14 months.

Some AIDS activists have portrayed Mayor Flynn's opposition to condom availability as myopic and misguided, whereas the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston has published a booklet that is critical of condoms as an AIDS-prevention measure. Archdiocese spokesman John Walsh said that, "Handing out condoms sends an unmistakable message to teenagers that regular sex, even promiscuity, is perhaps the normal thing. What young people need from adults are for adults to come right out and say abstinence is the only truly safe way to behave, in terms of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases." (*Boston Globe*, 2/17/92)

Harvard Divinity School Displays Art Works Made of Condoms

In the interests of promoting "safe sex," the Harvard Divinity School decided to exhibit the works of artist Karen Norberg who uses condoms as her art medium. Titled "Sacred Condoms" the exhibition included 22 works of art designed to transform the condom into a benign balloon.

For the Harvard Divinity School, Norberg's work is a small part of an intensive AIDS awareness week, one designed to prepare future clerics for the mission of ministering to those touched by the AIDS epidemic, said Richard Valantasis, director of ministerial studies. And so, in a paneled Harvard room where the clergymen of yore sternly look forth from solemn oil portraits, "Sacred Condoms" reposes incongruously under plexiglass.

The table-top exhibit features dolls dressed up in condom rainwear. Other condoms are tricked out with Navaho beads and rabbit's foot fur. Some are filled with honey, others with alphabet soup. Near the back, an effigy in latex lionizes C. Everett Koop, the former surgeon general. In several studies, condoms interact with tea services, Slinky toys and a deconstructed vegetable steamer.

"The subject of condoms is so charged with anxieties," said the artist. "By being playful with them, it shifts the attention away from their functional use and makes people feel more comfortable."

When not in the artistic mode, Norberg, 41, is a child psychiatrist. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, she heads a consulting department at Boston City Hospital. In the pursuit of her art, Norberg began experimenting with condoms as part of an AIDS awareness project. From this, she drew her inspiration for "Sacred Condoms," which made its debut last year, she said, at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge.

"Because they preserve life, condoms have become sacred," said Tony Botti, a Harvard Divinity School graduate who has worked with Norberg. Botti is now a coordinator at Cambridge Cares About AIDS.

Norberg hopes that "Sacred Condoms" will find a special resonance with women. Condoms have been a male preserve, she said, and maybe her exhibit will convince women that condoms are "an instrument of both self-care and intimacy." Such a message is important, she said, because heterosexual women are more vulnerable to AIDS than many of them realize.

Norberg hopes that "Sacred Condoms" will enjoy a life after Harvard, possibly as a traveling exhibit for educating groups at risk. (*Boston Globe*, 3/27/92)

Comment: If anyone needed proof that our humanist academic-clerical elite has gone bonkers, this story should fit the bill. What it indicates, more than anything else, is that it will take more than AIDS to bring these reprobates to an acknowledgment of the sovereignty of God and His abiding law. Meanwhile, we have an excellent example of how perverted the human mind can become when it separates itself from the true God.

Kissing Can Spread AIDS

A team of six Italian physicians assert that passionate kissing is not "safe sex," and the practice may be one way of transmitting the deadly AIDS virus. In a letter to the Journal of the American Medical Association, the researchers described their study of saliva in 90 volunteers. They analyzed the couples' saliva for traces of blood before and after tooth brushing, eating, and deep, passionate kissing.

(*Continued on page 8*)

Table 1. AIDS cases and annual rates per 100,000 population, by state, reported March 1990 through February 1991, March 1991 through February 1992; and cumulative totals, by state and age group, through February 1992[1]

State of residence	Mar. 1990-Feb. 1991		Mar. 1991-Feb. 1992		Cumulative totals		
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Adults/ adolescents	Children < 13 years old	Total
Alabama	266	6.6	390	9.6	1,310	34	1,344
Alaska	19	3.5	23	4.1	121	3	124
Arizona	282	7.7	288	7.7	1,597	11	1,608
Arkansas	205	8.7	197	8.4	666	14	680
California	7,212	24.2	8,317	27.4	39,541	266	39,807
Colorado	380	11.5	452	13.6	2,111	12	2,123
Connecticut	458	13.9	543	16.4	2,452	73	2,525
Delaware	84	12.6	88	13.1	406	4	410
District of Columbia	788	129.8	707	117.1	3,458	52	3,510
Florida	4,625	35.7	5,585	42.1	19,819	528	20,347
Georgia	1,208	18.6	1,392	21.2	5,816	57	5,873
Hawaii	176	15.9	184	16.4	850	7	857
Idaho	25	2.5	32	3.2	112	2	114
Illinois	1,293	11.3	1,641	14.4	6,468	99	6,567
Indiana	273	4.9	330	5.9	1,394	11	1,405
Iowa	68	2.4	93	3.4	329	3	332
Kansas	134	5.4	152	6.1	612	4	616
Kentucky	193	5.2	167	4.5	695	9	704
Louisiana	654	15.5	827	19.6	3,158	53	3,211
Maine	56	4.6	58	4.7	280	2	282
Maryland	976	20.4	988	20.4	4,189	90	4,279
Massachusetts	844	14.0	1,006	16.6	4,413	94	4,507
Michigan	586	6.3	621	6.7	2,675	42	2,717
Minnesota	188	4.3	220	5.0	1,057	9	1,066
Mississippi	251	9.8	220	8.5	889	18	907
Missouri	586	11.5	663	12.9	2,589	27	2,616
Montana	18	2.3	26	3.2	85	1	86
Nebraska	54	3.4	62	3.9	255	2	257
Nevada	203	16.9	257	20.7	913	11	924
New Hampshire	49	4.4	50	4.4	246	5	251
New Jersey	2,397	31.0	2,212	28.5	12,600	360	12,960
New Mexico	108	7.1	109	7.1	466	2	468
New York	7,841	43.6	7,910	43.9	42,721	986	43,707
North Carolina	581	8.8	600	9.0	2,300	38	2,338
North Dakota	2	0.3	4	0.6	24	—	24
Ohio	642	5.9	643	5.9	2,987	50	3,037
Oklahoma	182	5.8	216	6.8	935	12	947
Oregon	307	10.8	299	10.4	1,340	7	1,347
Pennsylvania	1,092	9.2	1,256	10.6	5,739	92	5,831
Rhode Island	85	8.5	100	9.9	479	9	488
South Carolina	351	10.1	360	10.2	1,434	28	1,462
South Dakota	8	1.1	5	0.7	29	1	30
Tennessee	355	7.3	382	7.8	1,512	17	1,529
Texas	3,239	19.1	3,061	17.7	14,748	163	14,911
Utah	88	5.1	149	8.5	488	12	500
Vermont	22	3.9	14	2.5	93	2	95
Virginia	632	10.2	686	10.9	2,798	55	2,853
Washington	669	13.7	596	12.1	2,894	16	2,910
West Virginia	59	3.3	70	3.9	253	4	257
Wisconsin	227	4.6	209	4.3	872	9	881
Wyoming	9	2.0	14	3.1	54	—	54
U.S. total	**41,050**	**16.5**	**44,474**	**17.7**	**203,272**	**3,406**	**206,678**
Guam	2	1.5	3	2.2	11	—	11
Pacific Islands, U.S.	1	0.4	—	—	2	—	2
Puerto Rico	1,724	48.9	1,554	43.7	6,661	188	6,849
Virgin Islands, U.S.	10	9.8	21	20.5	97	4	101
Total	**42,787**	**16.9**	**46,052**	**18.1**	**210,043**	**3,598**	**213,641**

[1]During February 1992, 3,872 cases and 2,918 deaths among adults/adolescents and 76 cases and 42 deaths among children were reported to the CDC.

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Table 2. AIDS cases and annual rates per 100,000 population, by metropolitan area with 500,000 or more population, reported March 1990 through February 1991, March 1991 through February 1992; and cumulative totals, by area and age group, through February 1992

Metropolitan area of residence	Mar. 1990-Feb. 1991		Mar. 1991-Feb. 1992		Cumulative totals		
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Adults/ adolescents	Children <13 years old	Total
Akron, Ohio	29	4.4	37	5.6	146	—	146
Albany-Schenectady, N.Y.	97	11.1	94	10.7	427	9	436
Allentown, Pa.	47	6.8	37	5.3	199	5	204
Anaheim, Calif.	387	16.1	564	22.9	1,909	12	1,921
Atlanta, Ga.	951	33.6	1,054	36.3	4,448	33	4,481
Austin, Tex.	220	28.1	184	22.8	926	11	937
Bakersfield, Calif.	38	7.0	56	10.0	173	2	175
Baltimore, Md.	663	27.8	561	23.4	2,517	67	2,584
Baton Rouge, La.	48	9.1	89	16.7	283	4	287
Bergen-Passaic, N.J.	306	23.9	243	19.0	1,590	39	1,629
Birmingham, Ala.	84	9.3	113	12.4	409	8	417
Boston, Mass.	584	15.4	694	18.3	3,338	67	3,405
Bridgeport, Conn.	124	15.0	157	18.9	721	24	745
Buffalo, N.Y.	109	11.3	76	7.9	354	3	357
Charleston, S.C.	76	15.0	70	13.6	308	3	311
Charlotte, N.C.	92	7.9	96	8.1	425	7	432
Chicago, Ill.	1,100	18.1	1,325	21.8	5,403	80	5,483
Cincinnati, Ohio	128	8.8	117	8.0	477	9	486
Cleveland, Ohio	134	7.3	191	10.5	784	15	799
Columbus, Ohio	148	10.7	123	8.8	641	5	646
Dallas, Tex.	717	28.1	778	29.8	3,606	23	3,629
Dayton, Ohio	73	7.7	43	4.5	288	7	295
Denver, Colo.	317	19.5	379	23.1	1,736	8	1,744
Detroit, Mich.	398	9.1	454	10.4	1,890	29	1,919
El Paso, Tex.	52	8.8	32	5.3	161	1	162
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	972	77.4	953	74.5	3,529	77	3,606
Fort Worth, Tex.	210	15.8	186	13.6	846	12	858
Fresno, Calif.	55	8.2	80	11.7	273	2	275
Gary, Ind.	21	3.5	30	5.0	128	1	129
Grand Rapids, Mich.	39	5.7	39	5.6	146	2	148
Greensboro, N.C.	97	10.3	104	10.9	366	7	373
Greenville, S.C.	52	8.1	39	6.0	177	—	177
Harrisburg, Pa.	36	6.1	41	6.9	207	4	211
Hartford, Conn.	158	14.1	166	14.7	742	16	758
Honolulu, Hawaii	122	14.6	133	15.8	635	4	639
Houston, Tex.	1,325	40.1	1,139	33.9	6,054	64	6,118
Indianapolis, Ind.	131	10.5	131	10.4	634	3	637
Jacksonville, Fla.	287	31.7	244	26.4	1,031	28	1,059
Jersey City, N.J.	372	67.3	408	73.8	2,162	60	2,222
Kansas City, Mo.	271	17.3	269	17.0	1,289	6	1,295
Knoxville, Tenn.	32	5.3	38	6.2	153	1	154
Lake County, Ill.	14	2.7	41	7.8	115	3	118
Las Vegas, Nev.	164	22.1	195	25.3	682	11	693
Little Rock, Ark.	77	15.0	70	13.5	260	7	267
Los Angeles, Calif.	2,304	26.0	2,961	32.9	13,925	115	14,040
Louisville, Ky.	68	7.1	70	7.4	286	5	291
Memphis, Tenn.	115	11.7	119	12.0	482	6	488
Miami, Fla.	1,276	65.9	2,001	101.7	6,303	203	6,506
Middlesex, N.J.	179	17.6	175	16.9	1,012	27	1,039
Milwaukee, Wis.	120	8.4	103	7.2	474	5	479
Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minn.	165	6.7	189	7.6	938	6	944
Monmouth-Ocean City, N.J.	205	20.8	141	14.1	821	29	850
Nashville, Tenn.	113	11.5	121	12.1	492	8	500
Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y.	423	16.2	311	11.9	1,978	47	2,025
New Bedford, Mass.	58	11.5	72	14.1	237	5	242
New Haven, Conn.	143	17.8	185	22.9	796	31	827
New Orleans, La.	374	30.2	488	39.4	1,963	30	1,993
New York, N.Y.	6,621	77.5	6,807	79.4	37,062	890	37,952

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Table 2. AIDS cases and annual rates per 100,000 population, by metropolitan area with 500,000 or more population, reported March 1990 through February 1991, March 1991 through February 1992; and cumulative totals, by area and age group, through February 1992 — Continued

Metropolitan area of residence	Mar. 1990-Feb. 1991		Mar. 1991-Feb. 1992		Cumulative totals		
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Adults/ adolescents	Children <13 years old	Total
Newark, N.J.	956	52.4	915	50.3	5,248	164	5,412
Norfolk, Va.	149	10.7	145	10.2	612	15	627
Oakland, Calif.	563	27.0	478	22.6	2,557	18	2,575
Oklahoma City, Okla.	91	9.5	113	11.7	480	—	480
Omaha, Neb.	35	5.7	48	7.7	180	1	181
Orlando, Fla.	315	29.4	368	33.2	1,162	16	1,178
Oxnard-Ventura, Calif.	45	6.7	62	9.1	220	—	220
Philadelphia, Pa.	831	17.1	957	19.6	4,346	64	4,410
Phoenix, Ariz.	201	9.5	214	9.8	1,174	7	1,181
Pittsburgh, Pa.	125	6.1	120	5.9	684	4	688
Portland, Oreg.	247	19.9	229	18.3	1,051	4	1,055
Providence, R.I.	82	8.9	94	10.2	451	8	459
Raleigh-Durham, N.C.	119	16.2	131	17.4	503	10	513
Richmond, Va.	118	13.6	144	16.4	545	11	556
Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif.	282	10.9	387	14.4	1,448	19	1,467
Rochester, N.Y.	92	9.2	84	8.4	444	6	450
Sacramento, Calif.	149	10.1	260	17.1	908	13	921
Saint Louis, Mo.	295	12.1	353	14.4	1,229	19	1,248
Salt Lake City, Utah	81	7.6	127	11.7	428	9	437
San Antonio, Tex.	232	17.8	197	14.9	1,028	12	1,040
San Diego, Calif.	672	26.9	651	25.4	3,048	21	3,069
San Francisco, Calif.	2,088	130.2	1,970	122.0	11,629	19	11,648
San Jose, Calif.	187	12.5	169	11.1	903	8	911
San Juan, P.R.	1,112	65.8	901	52.8	4,114	119	4,233
Scranton, Pa.	40	5.4	38	5.2	169	3	172
Seattle, Wash.	506	25.6	421	21.0	2,164	10	2,174
Springfield, Mass.	96	15.9	110	18.2	318	14	332
Syracuse, N.Y.	44	6.7	38	5.7	199	6	205
Tacoma, Wash.	49	8.4	45	7.5	198	6	204
Tampa-Saint Petersburg, Fla.	480	23.2	524	24.8	2,101	38	2,139
Toledo, Ohio	40	6.5	37	6.0	156	3	159
Tucson, Ariz.	54	8.1	57	8.4	302	3	305
Tulsa, Okla.	46	6.5	70	9.8	271	4	275
Washington, D.C.	1,298	33.1	1,332	33.4	6,005	86	6,091
West Palm Beach, Fla.	407	47.1	393	44.0	1,809	74	1,883
Wilmington, Del.	73	12.6	66	11.3	333	3	336
Worcester, Mass.	56	7.9	76	10.6	257	4	261
Metropolitan areas with 500,000 or more population	**35,777**	**24.3**	**37,940**	**25.5**	**178,031**	**3,007**	**181,038**
Metropolitan areas with 50,000 to 500,000 population	**4,326**	**8.9**	**5,043**	**10.3**	**19,877**	**353**	**20,230**
Non-metropolitan areas	**2,515**	**4.4**	**2,892**	**5.1**	**11,523**	**222**	**11,745**
Total[1]	**42,787**	**16.9**	**46,052**	**18.1**	**210,043**	**3,598**	**213,641**

[1]Totals include 628 patients whose area of residence is unknown.

The researchers focused on blood because the AIDS virus is known to be transmitted by blood cells. In addition, signs of blood in the saliva indicate small tears are present in the lining of the mouth. Such tears could provide an entrance for the virus into a person's bloodstream.

The researchers, all doctors at the Clinica Malattie Secondo Policlinico in Naples, found about half the people in their study normally have some blood in their saliva; 55 percent had traces of blood in their saliva after eating; 80 percent after brushing their teeth; and 91 percent of the couples had blood in their saliva after passionate kissing. (*Boston Herald*, 1/13/89)