

AIDS looms as major problem

By STEVE JONES
Staff Writer

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a disease that has been getting worldwide attention in recent years.

Some think it is only the disease of homosexuals and drug users, but AIDS is assaulting mainstream America. More and more non-drug users, heterosexuals and babies are testing HIV-positive.

The U.S. Surgeon General estimates that more than 1.5 million Americans have AIDS or carry HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), the virus which triggers AIDS.

About 20 to 30 percent of all HIV carriers will contract ARC (AIDS-related complex) within a month to a few years, according to the Surgeon General's office. Most of the patients will be diagnosed with AIDS after as little as a few weeks or as long as seven or more years from infection.

The majority of all AIDS cases are still found in homosexual men and in intravenous drug users. However, heterosexual men and women are quickly becoming more at risk than ever before.

The Surgeon General states that HIV cannot be transferred by casual contact with an infected person, insect bites, kissing or through clothes. It can be transferred through sharing drug needles, any types of anal sex



Art work courtesy of S.C. Aids Education Network Inc.

(protected or not) and unprotected sex with an infected person.

AIDS is not present in saliva, sweat or urine. It is present in blood, semen and vaginal secretion.

Intravenously-transmitted AIDS can be avoided simply and easily. Either avoid IV drugs completely or do not share needles.

Several steps should be taken to avoid AIDS.

The best way to avoid sexually-transmitted AIDS is to abstain from sex. This, however, is not always a popular option, especially among college students. The next best thing is the use of a condom.

These condoms should be latex, not lambskin or other natural materials. Latex does not have pores which allow HIV through, as natural materials do. Also, spermicides such as nonoxynol-9 have been shown in lab tests to actually kill the AIDS virus.

It is also imperative that lubrication be used with the condom to ensure its safety. The lubricant must be water-based, as petroleum-based products (Vaseline, baby oil, shortening) weaken the latex and may cause tears in the condom.

It is predicted that within 10 years, AIDS will become one of the leading causes of death around the world.

Sexual issues to be subject of weekly column by 'sexpert'

By LISA MOHN
Carolina Life Columnist

Editor's Note: Lisa Mohn is the program director of the Open Door Health Awareness and Promotion Program at USC.

Get SMART (Sex Means Awareness Responsibility and Truth) Carolina. Wake up, Gamecocks! Are you with the program, USC? Do you know all you have to for maximum pleasure and protection?

Sex is obviously where it's all at. It's all around us. You can't go a day without being exposed to sex-innuendos from friends, magazine advertisements and prime-time television.

It's not only gut instinct and national statistics that tell us lots of students here (at USC) are having sex. Unfortunately, we see a lot of negative consequences: epidemic sexually transmitted disease rates, unwanted pregnancies and date and acquaintance rape.

Knowledge isn't all it takes to insure the good without the bad

when it comes to sex, but it can't hurt. To help you Gamecocks learn all you want to about sex, this column will be a weekly feature. The format will be question and answer, giving each of you an opportunity to submit questions you want answered.

The "sexperts" at Open Door Health and Wellness Programs in the Student Health Center will be providing the answers. In the next few weeks look for the answers to the following questions:

- How do I get my partner to agree to the use of condoms?
- What's the sexual position women enjoy the most?
- Can you really get genital herpes from the cold sores on your partner's mouth?
- How do I know if I have a sexually transmitted disease?

To submit your anonymous questions, send them to:
Carolina Life
The Gamecock
P.O. Box 85131
Russell House

Professors put new twists in sex education class

From College Press Service

Dr. Reginald Fennell goes to great lengths to make his students think about AIDS.

For example, the bearded Fennell sometimes will arrive at his Health Education for AIDS class at Miami University of Ohio dressed in a green dress with a pink hat and shoes. He will call himself Abilene Bertha Stinence, or A.B. Stinence (as in "abstinence") for short.

"Some reports in journal articles say that humor is the better way to go" when teaching about AIDS, Fennell explained.

A number of schools recently have tried to demystify the subject by trying to make it "fun."

A gorilla-costumed "King Condom" has toured the University of Texas-Austin campus to show passers-by how to put a condom on a banana. The State University of New York at Albany held a "Sexuality Week" that included a condom dance.

A private company called College Condoms sells condoms that come in school colors at the universities of Southern California, California at Los Angeles, California at Santa Barbara, San Jose University and other campuses in Arizona, Florida, Iowa and Kansas.

At Miami of Ohio, Fennell's students once handed out 1,000 coupons for novelty "Kiss of Mint" and "Gold Coin" condoms designed by Joan Scott, a Columbus grandmother who first started decorating the devices to encourage her sons to use them.

And when crossdressing isn't enough to get his students' attention, Fennell has also held contests to see who in the class can get a condom on a banana the fastest.

It's all to get students to feel more comfortable discussing AIDS, said Fennell, who added that the class has been full almost every semester since he started teaching it in January, 1988.

"I'm certainly not trying to make light of a serious disease like AIDS," Fennell said. "I try to do things to make my students think."

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adding up to over 120 cases this semester. More than 8 percent of sexually active students nationwide suffer from chlamydia, Turner said. Nationally, chlamydia effects about four million people each year, and this number is on the rise.

Turner said the real terror of STDs is that they often result in infertility or birth defects when left untreated. Emotional and physical stress, possible life-threatening illnesses, medical bills and a feeling of helplessness are just a few of the strains incurred because of STDs.

Student concerns about sexually transmitted diseases are mixed.

Freshman Ingrid Drygala said, "Women are very concerned about STDs and as a preventative measure should demand the use of a condom before engaging in sex."

"Pregnancy is a greater concern for women. With many STDs a simple shot will serve as a cure" Drygala added. "A pregnancy on the other hand would be traumatizing both mentally and emotionally, and it is a great expense."

Mike Cleland, a freshman criminal justice major, said, "I'm not worried about sexually transmitted diseases because once you know the past history of the girl you can

make the right decision."

He admitted that "there is a temptation to engage in sex before reaching that point and it becomes risky."

Philosophy/psychology sophomore Jeremy Miles, said he is not particularly concerned with STDs.

"All college students think they are invincible, I'm no exception. Of the five major diseases, three can be cured easily, the use of a condom will stop four of them, including AIDS."

"I feel that regardless of most guy-talk, people are for the most part monogamous. I've never met a girl who enjoyed casual sex, by that I mean sex for the sake of its enjoyment, without a romantic commitment," Miles said.

Unfortunately, statistics provided by Open Door do not support that belief — only 40 percent of males use a condom regularly. Condoms are often looked upon as an inconvenience that destroys romantic spontaneity.

Turner said a condom does not make a person immune to any disease, but when supplemented by the application of a spermicide, studies have shown the combination controls the spread of AIDS and other infectious diseases.

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