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Costa Rica: Note On Health Statistics

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On Nov. 7, Health Ministry spokespersons told reporters that the incidence of diarrhea and other intestinal diseases, respiratory ailments, measles, chicken pox, and polio had increased considerably during the first 10 months of 1991 compared to the same period last year. Measles cases rose from 12 to 1,670; chicken pox, 6,174 to 8,103; respiratory ailments, 43,605 to 60,500; and infectious intestinal diseases, 26,480 to 35,920. Next, the spokespersons said the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases has declined. The drop was attributed to public education campaigns aimed at preventing the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Costa Rican trade union leaders say the deterioration in health conditions is largely the outcome of drastic reductions in the federal government's health budget. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/07/91)

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