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Deborah Tyroler

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Panama: Report On A.i.d.s. Statistics

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to a report released Jan. 22 by the Health Ministry, 325 cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) were registered between 1984 and 1991. AIDS fatalities came to 208. Of total cases, 249 contracted the disease during relations with homosexual or heterosexual partners, and 24 with bisexual partners. Remaining cases were described as follows: 27 drug users, infected via contaminated needles; 12 hemophiliacs; and, nine infants. The source of infection for four AIDS victims is unknown. A total of 54 females have been diagnosed with AIDS and 38 have died. Males between the ages of 20 and 44 account for about 83% of the AIDS victims. In 1991, 45 people died from AIDS and 66 new cases were reported, compared to 44 and 64, respectively, in 1990. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that for every AIDS diagnosis, there are another 25 to 100 undiagnosed AIDS carriers. In Panama, the high end estimate would be 30,000 "zero-positive" carriers. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 01/22/92)

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