Turning the national spotlight toward AIDS

Continued from Page 1 ences and physical help if a case of the disease is diagnosed in the śchools, Richards said. ' "When you get into Hepatitis B and AIDS, you're talking about some relatively new diseases," she said. "Most districts are not in a position to take a bord line. we but don't to take a hard line . . . we just don't have enough information yet." she said.

MANY DISTRICTS, including Farmington, revised their communi-cable discase policles to include Hepatitis B when it became a nation-al problem in the early 1800s, Pru-tow and Richards said.

tow and Richards said. The Southeast Area Epidemiology Committee offers "an exceptional draft," according to Richards, that geos "beyond what the CDC recom-mended." The report walks officials step-by-step through every facet of AIDS, making analysis as objective as possible. The county health department plas offers a document to train bus drivers, secretarial workers, food service workers and administrative contaminated pfuids - a problem with some communicable diseases. In the past year, graged by such na-

In the past year, urged by such na-tional groups as the National School Boards Association, some school dis-tricts have offered students informa-tion about AIDS, but rarely before the bit of school bard

the high school level. Large citles such as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles include for-mal instruction for high school stu-dents about acquired immune defi-

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ciency syndrome. New York City is developing an AIDS curriculum for middle school students. "Education about AIDS should start at an early age so that children can grow up knowing the behaviors to avoid to protect themselves from exposure to the AIDS virus," Koop said.

ROXANNE FITZPATRICK, pres-ident of the local Farmington PTA Area Council, said the issue has not been discussed by her group, but she expects it to be handled at state and local levels in 1987.

"I'll lay you odds it's going to be a platform for the state PTA this year," she sald. "Whatever we do, it's absolutely imperative that we have the parents" support," Prutow agreed. "The best thing is for the parents to get in-volved."

THE FARMINGTON school dis-trict is approaching the problem exautously, beginning with an in-serv-vice training session for administra-ards, A teachers session in Farming-ton has not yet been scheduled, she sald. Teaching children about AIDS and other diseases associated with sex should be the job of parents, Koop added, but schools have to help pro-vide answers as well. thing is for the parents to get in-volved." "I'm not at all sure there would be a major uproaf from parents, "Shed-lin added. "If parents are generally confident about the teachers and their schools, I would think most of them would be quite relieved to have their children learning about it."

tional Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. Making the situation more serious is that many people with AIDS are not included in these government statistics under the current defini-tion of the disease, according to re-searchers who are studying a defini-tion of AID and the current definition of AIDS and AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current set of AIDS and the current definition of AIDS and the current count of AIDS. Redefining AIDs could increase totals by 14 percent, or 30,000 cases, they said.

IN ORDER for adults to be count-ed now as an AIDS victim by the CDC, they must show evidence of a depressed immune system and one

major specific illness such as Karpo-si's sarcoma, a form of skin cancer; or they must show evidence of a sup-pressed immune system, a positive AIDS antibody blood test and one disease from a CDC list of lessor in-fections. Physicians said a patient might be gravely III, have a positive test for AIDS antibodies in the blood, and show symptoms that were only re-cently found to be early multista-tions of AIDS. The vicini would not be listed as an AIDS vicinit by the CDC II no evidence of the listed dis-cases was shown.

AIDS attacks the body's immune

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system, making it unable to fight the disease. Chronic infections affilicting individuals with AIDs include a form of pneumonia, infections suito the eso-phagus and mouth area, herpes in-fections, an infection smillar to tu-berculosis and a form a skin cancer, causing bruise-like lesions on the body.

Homosexuals and intravenous drug users comprise the high-risk population, according to Oakland County health officials.

(The Associated Press contrib-uted to this story.)





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