

AIDS cases down in Oakland - but . . .

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

With 1988 half over, the number of reported cases of AIDS in Oakland County is down from a year ago — but the county AIDS coordinator isn't sure that's good news for a county that still has the second-highest number of cases in the state.

Dr. Joy Schumacher said that at a time when the General Accounting Office is predicting an unexpected nationwide increase in AIDS cases, Oakland County has 18 reported cases so far this year. For all of 1988, the county had 60 cases.

"I'm skeptical because the rate of increase of new cases has gone down," Schumacher said. "It looks like the rate of increase has leveled off, but there are a lot of people out there who don't know they're infected."

She also thinks the figures may be misleading because of the disease's long incubation period, estimated at up to 10 years.

OAKLAND COUNTY totals 142 reported AIDS cases, the second-highest number for a county in the state, according to the June 12 Michigan Department of Public Health AIDS statistics list. Although not a county, Detroit has 513 reported cases, making it the highest statewide.

Michigan has recorded 1,189 AIDS cases since record-keeping began in 1981, making it the 18th state out of 20 with the highest number of AIDS cases. Of those 1,189 cases, 673 victims have died.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Center gets Skillman grant

The Baldwin Avenue Human Services Center has received a \$25,000 grant from the Skillman Foundation to begin an ambulatory care center for homeless and low income people in Pontiac. The center has a registered nurse on its staff and is in the start-up phase.

When the care center is fully operational within the next year, it will offer four basic health care areas: basic health care information to people who either cannot read or have very low reading levels; screenings to detect conditions which might lead to disease; treatment or referral for direct medical care for infected persons; and intervention in families where children are at risk if parents refuse to take medical action.

case Control report 94,289 AIDS cases, but caution that 1988 totals are incomplete. Of those, there are 54,302 known deaths. New York leads the country with 22,230 reported cases; Missouri ranks 20th on the list with 943.

Of the 142 reported cases in Oakland County, 127 are male; 115 are white; 24 are black; and three are Hispanic. While Schumacher said she's seen an increase in the number of cases among intravenous drug users, she added "homosexuals still have 70 percent of the cases."

MOST OF the county cases occur

in the 30-39 age group (59 cases, which account for 41.5 percent of the total), Schumacher said. The second-highest is the 40-49 age group (36 cases, 25.4 percent), followed by the 20-29 age group (26 cases, 18.3 percent).

Schumacher is particularly disturbed by statistics for the last group, because due to the decade-long incubation period, it means people in that group contracted the disease while they were still teenagers.

"They were infected early on. We need to think of our young people," she said. "People are sexually active. Parents don't want to see that."

'It looks like the rate of increase has leveled off, but there are a lot of people out there who don't know they're infected.'

— Dr. Joy Schumacher
county AIDS coordinator

"We have to stress prevention and education and be persistent and report the message. I think we have the opportunity to contain the epi-

demic" if these measures are observed, Schumacher added.

ONE MOVE the county is making

to contain the epidemic, in conjunction with the Pontiac Urban League, is initiating a program Schumacher unofficially tagged "Teach and Bleach."

Within the next few weeks, the Oakland County Health Department will be distributing kits that contain a bottle of bleach, instructions on how to clean needles with bleach, condoms and the Michigan AIDS hot line number (1-800-872-AIDS). The hot line, sponsored by the Wellness Network, is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Residents with questions also can contact Schumacher, 858-5476.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

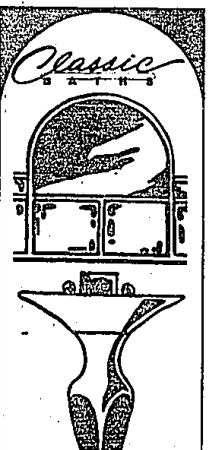
20% OFF
PRACTICALLY
EVERYTHING
STOREWIDE

DOLLS • TRAINS • DOLL
HOUSES • BEARS • BRID
PLAYMOBIL • TELESCOPES
• AND MUCH MORE!

BEAT THE HOLIDAY CROWDS &
ENJOY THE YEARS BEST SELECTION!

The Doll Hospital
& Toy Soldier Shop

3947 W. 12 Mile • Berkley • 543-3115
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5 • Fri. 'til 7



A showroom of
luxurious fixtures
in colors & styles
for discriminating
tastes,
featuring...
THE BOLD LOOK
OF KOHLER
1137 South Adams at Lincoln
in Birmingham
Call 847-BATH

Scott Shuytrine

Fine Furniture Since 1927

Storewide Savings

You'll find incredible reductions throughout the store as we prepare for the remodeling and reorganization of our showrooms.

Save 40-60% Off
all in-stock Drexel Heritage
living rooms, bedrooms & dining rooms

Thomasville
is available
at our two
Grosse Pointe
locations
only.

**Save 35%
and more!**
on all Thomasville
including special orders.

**All
Hancock & Moore
leather office
chairs reduced
60% Off and more!**

Save 40% Off And More!
on top-grain leather upholstery
from Hancock & Moore

For the very best prices on the very best names in fine furniture...

Scott Shuytrine
Fine Furniture Since 1927

18850 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe Farms
886-5200

19435 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe Woods
881-9390

12200 Hall Road
Sterling Heights
739-5100

Open daily 9:30-5:30 • Mon., Thurs., Fri. 'til 9pm • Closed Sunday • Use your Visa, Mastercard, Discover Card or Scott's Revolving Charge.