



Memorandum

Date February 1, 1983

From Assistant Director for Medical Science
Division of Hepatitis and Viral Enteritis

Subject Prevention of AIDS Among Homosexual Men

To James W. Curran, M.D.
Chief, AIDS Task Force
Office of the Director, CID

It is clear that homosexual men with large numbers of sexual partners are at greatest risk of AIDS. Indeed, some feel that it is these individuals who have allowed for the presently observed amplification of the AIDS epidemic. To date, the effect has been primarily felt among men in coastal cities and, although not substantiated, it is stated that many have decreased their numbers of partners in these areas. Yet, from my discussions with homosexual men in non-coastal cities, the fast life continues in other places and soon these will, no doubt, be added to the expanding epidemic.

I feel that to control AIDS we are obligated to try to do something to modify sexual activity. No doubt neither the fear of gonorrhea nor syphilis nor hepatitis B has decreased the numbers of sexual partners among homosexual men. But the fear of AIDS might. It seems mandatory for CDC to spread the word of AIDS to all areas of the country. We have the network of VD clinics by which this word can be spread. Why not try?

Donald P. Francis, M.D., D.Sc.

cc: Dr. Dowdle
Dr. Bennett
Dr. Cates