

Study shows youth unafraid of AIDS

By Sean McCarthy
Staff Reporter

Sixty-six percent of students polled said that AIDS was not considered a threat to their sex life, yet 82 percent of students engaged in sexual intercourse, according to a survey conducted by the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"That figure is very similar to the national average of 80 percent," Dr. Pat Tetreault, sexuality education coordinator and health aide supervisor at the University Health Center, said.

"Most students are sexually active before they reach college," she said.

In the June issue of the "Nebraska AIDS Update," AIDS was reported as the sixth leading cause of death among 15 to 24-year-olds in the United States.

The article also stated that the number of reported AIDS cases among adolescents has increased from one case in 1981 to 159 cases in 1992. A total of 1,412 cases have been reported among adolescents, according to the article.

That figure is somewhat deceiving, Dr. Tetreault said. Because the incubation of the HIV/AIDS virus can last up to 10 years, it is only now that a distinct number of people can be documented with AIDS, Dr. Tetreault said.

"College is the prime time to engage in intercourse and be exposed to the HIV virus," Dr. Tetreault said.

In Nebraska, 132 AIDS cases have been reported among 20 to 29-year-olds, according to the "Nebraska AIDS Update."

The increased number of AIDS cases among 15 to 24-year-olds may have put a change on the status of sexual partners, Dr. Tetreault said. According to the University Student Health Survey, 84 percent of students polled were said to have exclusive or celibate partners in 1993.

"The more likely you perceive yourself at risk, the more likely you're going to take action," Dr. Tetreault said. Roughly 34 percent of sexually active people use condoms on a regular basis, but the number of users is much greater when it comes to irregular use of condoms, Dr. Tetreault said.

When used properly and consistently,

condoms can be very effective in fighting STD's, Dr. Tetreault said. The chances of being infected decrease nearly 10 times if a condom is properly used, she said.

Those engaging in the highest risk behavior need to be educated most.

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—Dr. Pat Tetreault
Sexuality Education
Coordinator
and Health Aid Supervisor
University Health Center

Dr. Tetreault said.

One form of risk includes "binge drinking", in which mass quantities of alcohol are consumed in a short

AIDS in Nebraska (through March 1994)

Confirmed Cases	517
Male	471
Female	46
Deaths	289

Age Groups

Under 5	4
5 to 12	1
13 to 19	3
20 to 29	132
30 to 39	232
40 to 49	110
Over 49	35

period of time. During this time, it is not likely that drinkers will consider using a condom, Dr. Tetreault said.

Condoms are readily available at many locations on campus, including the residence halls and the Health Center. There is also a 24 hour access cabinet located at the back door of the Health Center, Dr. Tetreault said.

The Health Center also provides various pamphlets about AIDS and STD prevention. Contraceptive classes are also offered on a regular basis at the Health Center. During the summer, the class meets once a week and in the fall the class meets twice a week, Dr. Tetreault said.



Jason Levkulich/DN

One of StarTran's 64 buses rolls past the Union near the end of another school day.

UNL students, faculty to ride city buses for free next year

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

UNL may be getting a free ride this fall.

That is if the Lincoln City Council approves a contract between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and StarTran.

The contract provides for free busing throughout Lincoln for all faculty, staff and students. The free

service includes a new StarTran route between the City and East campuses.

UNL Parking Services will be picking up the \$228,000 tab. Officials estimate the department has a \$2 million annual budget.

In past years, Good Life was paid to run a route between the two campuses. Riders were charged 25 cents per trip.

Mike Cacak, transportation

manager, said the idea for a new contract started about a year ago.

When parking officials were putting together a plan for next year, the question came up of how to alleviate some of the parking crunch, Cacak said.

Busing was seen as an answer, he said.

Cacak said the expected costs

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