

AIDS hits minorities

ATLANTA — Minorities are being hit increasingly harder by AIDS, accounting for more than half of all new cases in the United States in 1993.

Of the 106,949 AIDS cases reported last year in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands, 58,538 - or 55 percent - were among minorities, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

In 1992, minority cases accounted for 52 percent of new cases, up from 51 percent the year before.

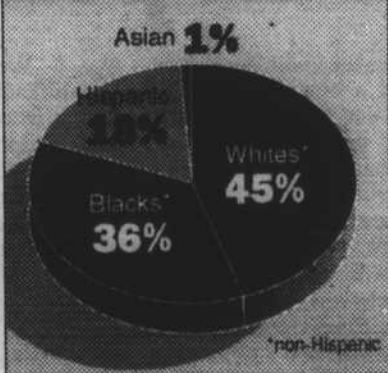
As the epidemic develops, its pace has slowed among homosexual white men while quickening among minorities, particularly among blacks.

The AIDS rate last year among whites was 30 cases per 100,000 people. The rate was more than five times higher among blacks (162 cases per 100,000 people) and three times higher among Hispanics (90). Among American Indians and Eskimos, it was 24 per 100,000, and among Asians and Islanders, 12 per 100,000.

Black women, with an AIDS rate of 73 per 100,000, were about 15 times more likely than white women to get the disease. Black males, with a rate of 266 per 100,000, were nearly five times more likely than white males to get AIDS.

Geography also makes a difference in how the virus spreads, said Dr. Teresa Diaz of the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases.

AIDS and race
in the United States, 1993



Source: CDC AP

"Although we aggregate minorities together, there are large geographic differences among minority groups," she said. "For black and Hispanic men in the Northeast, it's spread by intravenous drug use," while homosexual contact is the greater risk elsewhere for those men.

The Northeast has the highest rates of AIDS infection for both blacks and Hispanics, while the South and Midwest are generally lower.

In some states, vast differences between minorities exist. In Florida, the rate for blacks is almost three times greater than for Hispanics.

Witness names private eye

LOS ANGELES—A man jailed for refusing to testify before a grand jury in the O.J. Simpson case told authorities a private eye witnessed the slayings of Simpson's ex-wife and her friend, the investigator said Thursday. He denied he was there.

Anthony Pellicano, who has represented such celebrities as Michael Jackson and Roseanne, said he wasn't shadowing Nicole Brown Simpson and wasn't outside her condo the night she and Ronald Goldman were slashed to death.

"This is untrue," Pellicano told The Associated Press, adding he has now been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury investigating Al Cowlings' role in Simpson's flight from police June 17.

Pellicano was fingered by John Dunton, a convicted forger who was jailed for contempt Wednesday after he refused to testify before the grand jury.

Dunton told police he saw the sleuth in a car outside Ms. Simpson's Brentwood home on June 12, the night of the murders, Pellicano said.

Dunton's lawyer, Robert Rentzer, was unavailable for comment Thursday.

According to Pellicano, Dunton gave police several scenarios about what he saw the night of the slayings.

"I don't think police believe him," he said. "I think he made the whole thing up to police and when he was called before a grand jury and was put under oath his attorney told him to shut up."

Simpson, 47, has been charged with two counts of murder and is scheduled to go on trial Sept. 26.

Earlier this year, Pellicano testified before a Santa Barbara County grand jury investigating child mole-

station allegations against Michael Jackson.

Pellicano said his name would be surfacing again in the Simpson case: He's working for police Detective Mark Fuhrman, who found a bloody glove, a key piece of evidence in the murder case, at Simpson's estate. He has been portrayed by the defense as a racist, rogue cop.

Cowlings' friend, porn actress Jennifer Peace, 23, met with prosecutors Thursday.

Her attorney, Elliot Abelson, said they asked her to talk with them after she testified before the grand jury last week.

Abelson confirmed investigators executed a search warrant at her home and seized audio tapes and phone records. He didn't know whether any of the tapes were conversations between Ms. Peace and Cowlings or Simpson.

Death toll 131 in USAirplane crash

ALIQUIPPA, Pa. (AP)—A USAir jetliner nose-dived into a ravine while trying to land near Pittsburgh on Thursday, killing all 131 people on board in the deadliest U.S. crash in seven years. Flight 427 originated in Chicago and was to stop in Pittsburgh before continuing to West Palm Beach, Fla.

"I looked up and there it was," said Tom Michel, who was at a gas station near the crash site. "It was just coming straight down. I was screaming for everybody to run. It looked like it was under full power and he just went straight in."

Air traffic controllers said they lost contact with the plane when it was about seven miles from the airport, said Pat Boyle, a spokesman for the Allegheny County Department of Aviation. There were no indications of any problems on the flight and a report of an explosion before the crash could not be confirmed.

Michel said there was a "big boom and the sky lit up. There was black smoke everywhere and that was it."

Witnesses reported a gruesome carnage in a clearing on a heavily-wooded ravine.

"All we saw was body parts hanging from the trees," said Denise Godich, a nurse who was one of the first at the scene. "There were people everywhere. You could just see parts of them."

Another eyewitness said pieces of plane and baggage were scattered throughout the area.

"We have done a fairly extensive search of the area and there are no survivors," said Jim Eichenlaub, manager of Hopewell Township and coordinator of emergency services at the scene.

The plane's black box, which records flight data, was recovered, he said.

Emergency crews put out the fire and the search was called off about two

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JIM EICHENLAUB
Emergency Coordinator

hours after the crash. The area was sealed off for the night, but off-road vehicles were spotted heading to the crash site.

The plane went down shortly after 7 p.m. in a field about seven miles from the airport, which is 20 miles northwest of Pittsburgh.

Jordan to play again

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan, who as an NBA player displayed an uncanny ability to change his shots in midair, has changed his mind. He's going to play one last game in Chicago Stadium.

Last week, Jordan said he wouldn't compete in a charity basketball game hosted by his former Chicago Bulls teammate Scottie Pippen. But Thursday, Pippen announced Jordan would join other NBA stars in Friday night's exhibition.

"It's going to be a great reunion, a great opportunity for us to go out and have some fun," said Pippen, who teamed with Jordan to lead the Bulls to three straight NBA titles.

Jordan just completed his first season of minor league baseball with the Double-A Birmingham Barons after retiring from the Bulls 11 months ago. He will be making his first public basketball appearance since June 1993 when Chicago beat the Phoenix Suns in Game 6 for the Bulls' third straight title.

"Michael is a great athlete, and

I'm sure he's not going to come out there and embarrass himself," said Pippen, who put together the charity game along with the PUSH Excel Foundation.

"This gives me an opportunity to play against him for the first time in my career," Pippen added.

Jordan and Pippen will be on different sides.

The stadium has been replaced by the United Center across the street and the exhibition game will be one final sendoff for the "Madhouse on Madison" that opened in 1929.

The announcement that Jordan would play made Friday's game one of the hottest tickets in Chicago.

"It will be extra special, not just for me but for the fans, for the players who came out to watch the game. There are so many great memories in the stadium, and we're going to have one last hurrah," Pippen said.

NBA players B.J. Armstrong, Horace Grant, Toni Kukoc, Charles Oakley and John Starks also are scheduled to play.

Marine's remains found

HANOI, Vietnam — U.S. search teams apparently have made a significant breakthrough in accounting for Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War, a U.S. official said Thursday.

American search teams recovered remains believed to belong to a U.S. Marine who died in captivity in Quang Ngai Province, once part of South Vietnam, 325 miles northeast of Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.

The discovery was seen as a breakthrough by U.S. officials in Hanoi, who

are investigating 84 cases of Americans missing in action from the war.

"I'm excited by it, I'm hopeful," said Army Lt. Col. Melvin E. Richmond Jr., head of the U.S. MIA Office in Hanoi. "It's an important step."

The United States handed over the 84 "special remains cases" to the Vietnamese a year ago, but not one had been solved up to now.

The Vietnamese photographed the dead American servicemen or the sites where POWs died in captivity and their remains were buried.

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