

Mrs Walden

AIDS

Mr Finsberg has asked for a factual brief relating to the Daily Telegraph article on AIDS. I attach the brief.

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cc Dr Field  
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## AIDS

### TRANSMISSION OF AIDS TO NON-HOMOSEXUALS

Although AIDS has so far occurred predominantly (75%) in male homosexuals, it has been reported in the following non-homosexual groups in the USA:

Hemophiliacs	0.7%
Intravenous drug abusers	13.0%
Haitian immigrants	6.0%
No apparent risk factors	5.0%

About 6.0% of all reported cases have been in females and a small percentage in children of AIDS sufferers.

The cases in females have mostly been in prostitutes and in the sexual partners of drug-abusing males or bisexual males with AIDS.

It has been accepted by the medical profession for some time that heterosexual partners of AIDS patients - and their children - may be at increased risk of contracting AIDS. The general view is that the transmission of AIDS seems to follow the pattern seen with the hepatitis B virus, that is, it may be transmitted by various types of sexual contact and by contact with blood and, possibly, other body fluids eg saliva.

The report in this week's New England Journal of Medicine to which the article in the Daily Telegraph refers, provides further evidence to suggest that AIDS may be transmitted by heterosexual as well as homosexual contact.