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## 50pc rise in number of AIDS victims

The number of cases of AIDS reported in Britain jumped by 50 per cent, from 16 to 24, in September, the Public Health Laboratory report in the *British Medical Journal*.

There were three deaths among the eight new cases, though only one of the five homosexual men included died. The other two deaths were of a man suffering from the rare blood disease, haemophilia, who, according to some reports, was given blood-clotting agent contaminated by that from an AIDS-infected American donor, and a woman said to have had a number of sexual partners.

Four of the five homosexual men among the September cases had had sexual contact with United States nationals, the other with a Caribbean national, says the report. The laboratory are examining several other suspected cases.

**AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome —** is the breakdown of the body's natural disease-fighting system.

It has been linked with homosexuality and drug injecting in the US, where it first appeared in 1980. But a number of women have also been affected, including a nun who left her order to work among prostitutes in the Caribbean.

The disease, which has now claimed ten deaths in the UK, is believed to have been brought to Britain by homosexual men returning from holiday in the US and the Caribbean.

*We have already heard about these cases.*