

# Doctor says AIDS cases the 'tip of the iceberg'

United Press International  
**BOSTON** — AIDS is probably far more widespread than previously believed, with many people unwitting carriers, because the disorder may also have a milder, non-fatal form, the nation's top AIDS investigator warned Wednesday.

Dr. James Curran of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta said the method to diagnose and report AIDS, which attacks the body's immune system, "leads to an underestimation of the size and severity of the problem."

In an interview, he said the 2,157 AIDS cases — 852 of them fatal — reported as of the third week of August may be "essentially the tip of the iceberg."

Curran wrote an editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine to mark the two-year anniversary

since Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome was first officially reported. He said in diagnosing AIDS doctors should check if victims — mostly homosexual men — have such infections associated with the disease as a rare form of cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, and an uncommon type of pneumonia.

The cause of AIDS remains a mystery and there is no test for the disease itself.

But Curran, an epidemiologist who heads the CDC's AIDS Activity unit, wrote it "is also likely that a variety of chronic symptoms that also may be the result of other diseases — swollen lymph glands, recurrent fevers and weight loss — are related to the syndrome."

Such disorders have been found among homosexuals, hemophiliacs, drug abusers and Haitians, the high risk groups for AIDS. Doctors believe it is transmitted through contaminated blood pro-

ducts and intimate sexual contact and may be caused by a virus.

"I think we'll probably find a larger number of people affected and the current figures represent a small portion," he said, estimating the eventual number may be higher by "several fold."

But, he said, "There is no need for hysteria or panic."

"Clearly those people who have a milder form with milder symptoms and a better prognosis. Some may go on to develop a more serious case or it's also possible the milder symptoms perhaps may ultimately persist."

"The good news is that the syndrome may have an overall lower fatality rate," he said. "The bad news is that more people may have it."

Eighty percent of people with AIDS — as presently defined — die within two years because they have a damaged defense system that is unable to ward off disease.

In another AIDS report in the journal, doctors said an unusual type of human interferon that has previously been found in homosexual AIDS patients has also been discovered in the blood of two hemophiliacs who only months later developed diagnosable AIDS.

The doctors from Pennsylvania State University said if corroborated with further research, the finding might lead to using the unusual form of interferon — a substance normally produced by the body to fight disease — as a marker for the early detection of AIDS.

## Warped

by Scott McCull

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by Paul Dirmeyer

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## Grand Jury to listen to tapes

United Press International  
**AUSTIN** — Attorney General Jim Mattox tape-recorded key conversations he had with a Houston law firm last June that has been the object of an Austin grand jury investigation, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Mattox will turn over the tapes to the Travis County Grand Jury to prove he did not threaten the law firm's bond business, the Dallas Times Herald reported.

Attorney Robert O. Smith of Austin, who is representing Mat-

tox's special counsel Athur Mitchell, confirmed existence of the tapes to the newspaper and said District Attorney Ronnie Earle agreed to give them to the grand jury Thursday.

The grand jury, among other things, is looking into allegations by Thomas McDade of the Houston law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski that Mattox threatened to harm the firm's municipal bond business. McDade represents Mobil Oil Corp. in a \$1.67 billion lawsuit against the state, which is represented by Mattox.

McDade, who has already appeared in the investigation, has hinted to reporters that he recorded Mattox's alleged threat in a telephone conversation, but heretofore Mattox had not suggested he also might have tapes.

Mattox Wednesday declined to comment on existence of the tapes, but he had referred to them in a letter to Smith Wednesday and said they would clear him of charges that he made the threats.

"The contents of these tapes will conclusively establish the fal-

sity of any testimony before a grand jury that I threatened to put the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski out of the bond business," Mattox said in the letter.

Assistant District Attorney David Garza said prosecutors learned about the Mattox tapes "recently," but he refused to elaborate.

Mitchell was scheduled to appear before the grand jury at p.m. today and will give jurors "one tape with one or more conversations on it," Smith said.

A Dallas Times-Herald source told the newspaper that the Mattox tapes will include late June conversations that Mattox had with attorneys for the Houston law firm, including at least one change between Mattox and McDade.

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United Press International  
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**RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIF.** — Controversy has erupted over a proposed \$90 million resort hotel and residential complex with residents of Rancho Mirage and former President Ford squaring off on the project.

The Houston-based Fated Development Corp. proposes to place a 250-unit, 180 hotel villas, 80 townhomes and 55 single-family homes on 130 acres in Rancho Mirage, a wealthy desert city which itself is playground of the rich and stars. The balance of the 450-acre site in the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains will be used for streets open for recreation and life preserve.

Although a majority of the city's councilmen favor development, called the Mirador Project, the proposal was rejected by 54 percent of voters when it was put on a ballot as an advisory measure in November.

Opponents like Sinatra's wife Barbara, who lives in Rancho Mirage, and Marjorie Marz, widow of the late comedian Harpo Marx, cite environmental concerns. They project is a threat to native desert bighorn sheep.

Child into h

United Press International  
**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** — A cancer-stricken 11-year-old daughter of a fund-raiser was ordered Thursday by an appeals court to stop her protests she rely on God to heal her.

Pamela Hamilton, of Knoxville, Tenn., was ordered to stop her protests she rely on God to heal her.

The girl and her parents place their faith in God. But the state Department of Human Services argued in less than six months case goes untreated.

The appeals court "full-blown evidence"

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