

AIDS-infected child shows no sign of virus after five years

Test results are miraculous and give hope to ending the spread of AIDS, doctor says.

NEW YORK (AP) — A Los Angeles boy who was infected with the AIDS virus at birth apparently fought off the infection and is virus-free at age 5, astonishing his doctors.

Dr. Yvonne J. Bryson, a pediatrician and AIDS specialist at the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angeles, said she believes it is the first carefully documented case of someone casting off all signs of infection.

Tests proved conclusively that the boy was infected for at least a month during the first two months of his life. Later examinations found no sign of the virus, Bryson said.

"It's like a miracle to me and a miracle to his mother. It's every mother's dream that their child won't be infected," Bryson said.

Bryson said she and her colleagues are studying the boy's immune system for clues that could be used to stop AIDS infections in others.

"It just opens up a lot of things to look at. Before now, there was such skepticism about the possibility that this could occur," said Bryson, whose findings appear Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The boy's mother remains infected but does not yet have symptoms of AIDS, Bryson said. The boy and his mother were not identified.

Doctors cannot be certain

Simpson driver unsure of what he saw

Limousine driver admits he was not paying much attention to cars on the night of the murders.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Limousine driver Allan Park's second day on the stand was preceded by another heated legal debate outside the jury's presence. Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden drew sharp criticism from the defense when he announced he would have new evidence Thursday regarding a small black

Revocation of licenses receive mixed reviews

The practice of denying permits to deadbeat dads' has had varied results throughout the country.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Last week's bitter debate on Capitol Hill over welfare reform found one bit of common ground for Republicans and Democrats: a measure requiring states to revoke the driver, professional and sporting licenses of parents who owe child support. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala estimated it could recover as much as \$2.5 billion in delinquent payments over 10 years.

"Taking licenses away from deadbeats is one of the simplest, most effective and easy-to-understand tools we have," said Rep. Marge Roukema, the New Jersey Republican who sponsored the amendment.

While Maine got thousands of parents to ante up, other states rarely act on their regulations. The laws are so laden with court hearings and appeals that officials loathe to enforce them.

Massachusetts sent out letters to 60,000 people, threatening to lift their licenses. But officials concede it's an empty threat. Just 2,000 people have responded; only nine licenses have been revoked.

"There are so many safeguards that it's nearly impossible to yank someone's license," said Brian Pedro, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Nineteen states tie licensing restrictions to child-support payments. They are: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia.

There have been successes. California's practice of denying new commercial and occupational licenses to child-support delinquents netted \$10 million. South Dakota got promissory notes from 2,500 people threatened with the loss of their driver's licenses.

But laws were enacted with

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— Brian Pedro, Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue

limited plans for enforcement; five states simply deny new or renewed licenses, giving delinquents an unofficial grace period of years.

Proponents point to Maine as an example of how streamlined laws can work. Maine state agencies have the power to lift licenses in just 20 days. The quick revocation of 40 licenses got the attention of nearly 13,000 child-support delinquents who have paid back more than \$24 million.

Colburn Jackson, director of the state Department of Human Service's enforcement division, said delinquents get two warnings: an initial letter, then "a real hateful notice."

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