

The FAIR
Fair Allocations In Research
FOUNDATION

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12/1/07

Sharon Hader, MD, MPH, Director
HIV/AIDS Administration, District of Columbia Department of Health
64 New York Avenue, NE, Suite 5001, Washington, DC 20002

Cc: Carlos Cano, Interim Director, DC Dept. of Health, 825 North Capitol Street NE

RE: Request for Full Disclosure

Dear Dr. Hader,

You recently have been quoted in national news as saying that 37% of HIV cases were spread through heterosexual contact in the district and that this figure "blows the stereotype out of the water." You added that HIV is "everybody's disease" in the district.

Please exercise full disclosure in such public announcements by always stating the CDC's well-known figures (restated in your 2007 annual report) that 99% of all HIV cases are from men having sex with men, IV drug users or heterosexuals having sex with a person known to have HIV or at significant risk for having HIV. A heterosexual not falling into those categories, which clearly is most citizens, has zero chance of contracting HIV and without honestly disclosing this information you are unnecessarily spreading fear within the hetero community. This leaves you, your Department, and the entire Department of Health open to criticism of not being truthful in order to obtain more funding from Congress for your Department's goals.

I am also requesting that you insure full understanding of the facts on HIV/AIDS in DC by reporting in your public statements, not only percentages, but also real numbers. For example, in your statement that 37% of HIV cases were spread through heterosexual contact, which sounds like a very large number; however, the real number is 1,222 and that figure is small in comparison to DC residents suffering from cardiovascular disease and cancer. CVD and cancer account for 40% and 27% of all DC deaths compared to 5% for HIV.¹

On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters and our 26-member Board of Directors consisting of transplant surgeons, medical directors, dentists and other citizens, we thank you for your consideration.

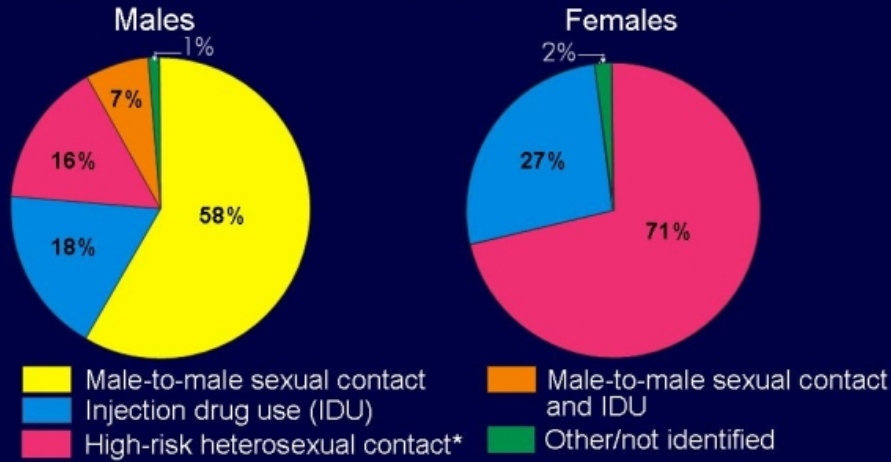
Sincerely yours,



Richard Darling, DDS
President & CEO

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/publications/factsheets/ChronicDisease/dc.htm>

Proportion of AIDS Cases among Adults and Adolescents, by Sex and Transmission Category Diagnosed in 2005—50 States and D.C.



Note. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays and cases without risk factor information were proportionally redistributed.
 * Heterosexual contact with a person known to have or to be at high risk for HIV infection.



Section III. National Overview

MODE OF TRANSMISSION

Nationally, in 2005, transmission attributed to sexual contact among MSM comprised over 45% of all people living with AIDS. Among males, 59% of living AIDS cases were attributed to MSM, 20% to IDU, 11% to high-risk heterosexual contact, and 9% to males who were both MSM and IDU. Among females, 65% of living AIDS cases were attributed to high-risk heterosexual contact and 33% to IDU.

http://doh.dc.gov/doh/frames.asp?doc=/doh/lib/doh/services/administration_offices/hiv_aids/pdf/epidemiology_annual_2007.pdf

Mode of transmission		
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	842	25.8%
Injection drug use (IDU)	432	13.2%
MSM/IDU	61	1.9%
Heterosexual contact	1,222	37.4%