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Repository Citation

Hartford, Tammy, "People still ignoring AIDS" (1988). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 632. https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/632

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Editorial

People still ignoring AIDS

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is fast becoming the leading health threat in many countries of the world, but there are still many people who try to ignore it.

Maybe they foolishly think they're immune from this killer, or maybe they just don't care.

By intravenous drug use alone, a person shows little regard for his own life, but by sharing a needle with another user these days he shows complete irreverence for it.

There are those who are not ignoring the AIDS threat.

They are arming themselves for the battle. The weapons they are using come in the form of knowledge.

These people read everything they can find about AIDS. They watch reports about it on television. They hear about it on the radio.

Sadly, no matter how much these people read, see, or hear about it, they will never know enough about AIDS to keep them from dying of it if they don't employ methods of protecting themselves first.

According to an article by Kristen McCleary in the February 1988 issue of *U. The National College Newspaper*, people are at one of the highest risks of contracting the disease during college.

A source in the article was quoted as saying that this is because of the experimental attitude of college students combined with their 'immortality complex.'

People have difficulty believing in their own mortality. They think AIDS is a disease "for other people."

Unfortunately, this just isn't true.

AIDS doesn't discriminate.

It doesn't care if a person is black or white, male or female, bisexual or homosexual. Sexual activity or sharing an intravenous needle with an AIDS carrier gives the disease a chance to spread.

While abstention from sexual activities is the most effective method of protection, the proper use of condoms has been proven to be nearly as effective in preventing the transmission of the AIDS virus.

Since the incubation period for AIDS can be up to 10 years, it is likely that a carrier won't even be aware that he is spreading the disease to others. If the carrier doesn't know, how are his partners supposed to know?

The answer is they can't possibly know...and that is why everyone must do everything they can to protect themselves.

Jimmy Hartford