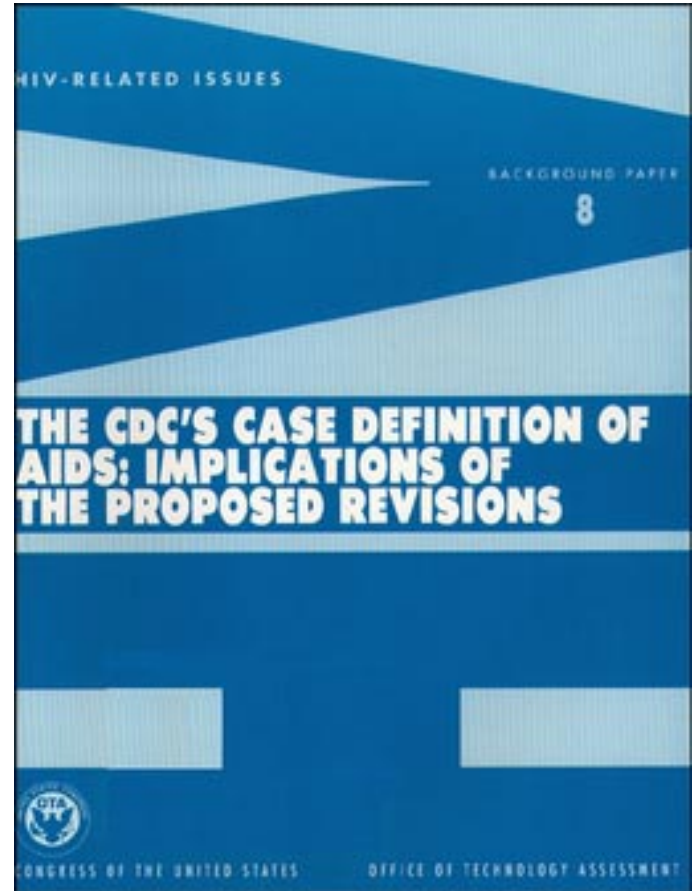


*The CDC's Case Definition of AIDS:
Implications of Proposed Revisions*

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OTA PROJECT STAFF--THE CDC'S CASE DEFINITION OF AIDS: IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED REVISIONS

BACKGROUND PAPER

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¹ Until June 1991.

FOREWORD

The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) AIDS case definition is used to monitor trends in the number and distribution of AIDS cases in the United States. The AIDS case definition measures severe morbidity due to infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This information is then used in formulating Federal and State policies for the prevention, treatment, and control of AIDS. In addition, the AIDS case definition has been used in disability determinations by the Social Security Administration.

Congress has been concerned about recent reports that the present AIDS case definition does not include some severe manifestations of HIV infection that occur in women and injection drug users. This is of particular concern because most HIV-infected women and injection drug users are African Americans or Hispanics. The CDC proposes to implement a revised definition of AIDS in the summer of 1992. The CDC believes that this revised definition of AIDS will adequately capture severe manifestations of HIV infection in these populations.

This background paper examines the epidemiologic evidence used by the CDC in deciding to revise the AIDS case definition and the impact the proposed definition will have on surveillance. The paper also explores the logistical consequences and other implications of the revised definition, including its impact on Social Security disability determinations. The issues discussed in this paper were the subject of a workshop conducted by OTA on October 22, 1991.

This background paper was prepared in response to a request by the Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations of the House "Committee on Government Operations.

This background paper is the eighth in OTA's series of studies on HIV-related issues. The preceding papers in this series were: *Do Insects Transmit AIDS?* (9/87); *AIDS and Health Insurance: An OTA Survey* (2/88); *How Effective is AIDS Education?* (6/88); *The Impact of AIDS on the Kaiser Permanence Medical Care Program (Northern California Region)* (7/88); *How Has Federal Research on AIDS/HIV Disease Contributed to Other Fields* (4/90); *The Effectiveness of Drug Abuse Treatment: Implications for Controlling UDS/HIV Infection* (9/90); and *HIV in the Health Care Workplace* (11/91).

Previous OTA reports addressing AIDS-related issues include: 1) *Blood Policy and Technology* (1/85); 2) *Review of the Public Health Service's Response to AIDS* (technical memorandum, 2/85); 3) *The Costs of AIDS and other HIV Infections: Review of the Estimates* (staff paper, 5/87); and 4) *Medical Testing and Health Insurance* (8/88).

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The Definition of AIDS: Epidemiological, Clinical, and Policy Implications

Tuesday, October 22, 1991
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