

## Appendix A Method of the Study

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OTA staff designed a survey instrument to examine whether AIDS and HIV research has contributed to advances in other biomedical and social science fields. Six people with varying degrees of familiarity with AIDS/HIV research reviewed the questionnaire and accompanying cover letter. Based on their comments, OTA staff revised both the questionnaire and the cover letter (see app. B for final questionnaire and cover letter).

In February 1990, OTA mailed packets including a questionnaire, a cover letter, and an addressed return envelope to 400 people. The recipients were randomly selected from a membership list of an organization of distinguished biomedical and social scientists. The packets differed by type of mail delivery and type of cover letter. Two hundred were sent by overnight mail, accompanied by a personalized cover letter (Group A); 100 were sent by first class mail with a personalized cover letter (Group B); and 100 were sent by first class mail with a "Dear Colleague" letter (Group C). The response rates were 44.5 percent for Group A, 32 percent for Group B, and 26 percent for Group C.<sup>1</sup> Overnight mail and personalized cover letter thus increased the response rates.

The questionnaire solicited comments on 42 different fields that comprised 5 broad areas: basic science, medical disciplines, applied medical sciences, epidemiology, and public health and health services research. The recipient was asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 10, the contributions that AIDS/HIV research had made to each field and the

recipient's expertise in each field. The main text of this document reports the results of this portion of the survey. The recipients were also asked to give specific examples of contributions of AIDS/HIV research to each specific field. Appendix E lists the responses to this portion of the survey. These responses include those received during the pilot test of the questionnaire. Recipients were also asked questions about AIDS/HIV funding levels and general demographic information. The main text also reports the results of this portion of the survey. Respondents' primary fields of expertise are listed in Appendix D.

Seven returned questionnaires included indications that the randomly selected recipient was not the sole respondent. Six of the 7 questionnaires indicated that the respondent was someone other than the randomly selected recipient. These responses were not included. One questionnaire indicated that the randomly selected recipient and another person had jointly filled out the questionnaire. This questionnaire included demographic characteristics for both people. Only the demographic characteristics of the randomly selected respondent were included; all other responses were included.

In late February 1990, a draft Staff Paper was prepared and sent to outside reviewers for comment. These reviewers came from a range of relevant fields including HIV biomedical research, non-HIV biomedical research, public health, medicine, health care organization and delivery, health education and behavior, and consumer advocacy. Based on their comments, the Staff Paper was revised in March 1990.

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<sup>1</sup>Only completed or partially completed questionnaires were included in calculating the response rate. If returned blank questionnaires are included, the response rates are 57 percent, 40 percent, and 32 percent for groups A, B, and C, respectively.