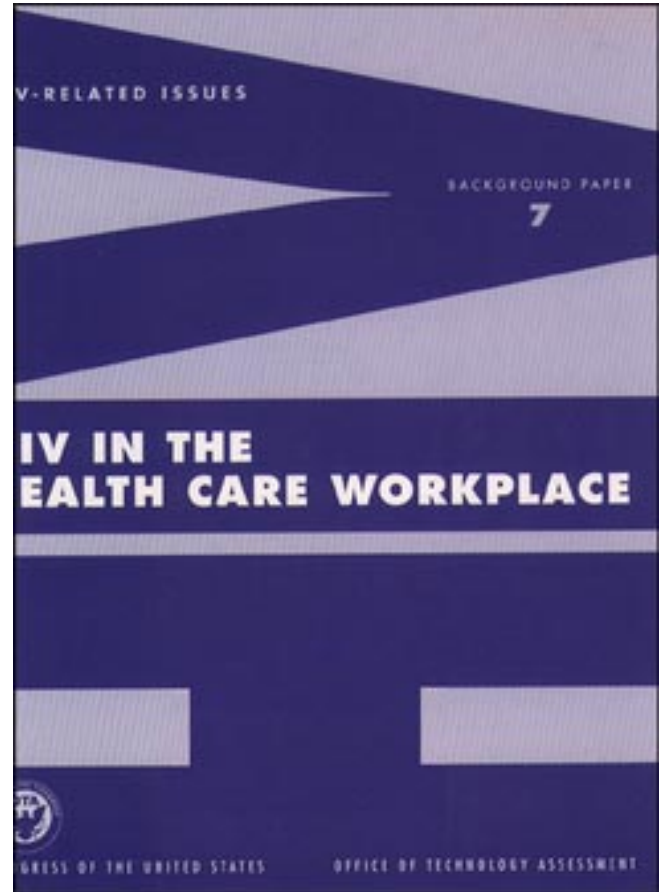


HIV in the Health Care Workplace

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HIV IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKPLACE

Background Paper

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This background paper was prepared as part of OTA's
ongoing HIV-related assessment

November 1991

Foreword

Recent reports of five cases of HIV transmission within a dental practice have raised issues regarding patient safety and received much public attention. The Centers for Disease Control's reports of these cases and CDC's subsequent recommendations for preventing transmission of HIV and the hepatitis B virus to patients during exposure-prone invasive procedures have in turn led Congress to consider several actions directed at HIV in the health care workplace.

This background paper examines evidence of the risk of HIV transmission in the health care workplace and discusses the policy implications of CDC guidelines and congressional actions in response to this risk. The issues discussed in this paper were the subject of a workshop conducted by OTA on July 25-26, 1991.

This background paper was prepared in response to a request by the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, U.S. Senate.

The background paper will be the seventh in the OTA's series of studies on HIV-related issues. The preceding papers in this series were *Do Insects Transmit AIDS?* (September 1987); *AIDS and Health Insurance-an OTA Survey* (February 1988); *How Effective Is AIDS Education?* (June 1988); *The Impact of AIDS on the Kaiser Permanence Medical Care Program (Northern California Region)* (July 1988); *How Has Federal Research on AIDS/HIV Disease Contributed to Other Fields?* (April 1990); and *The Effectiveness of Drug Abuse Treatment: Implications for Controlling AIDS/HIV Infection* (September 1990). Previous OTA reports addressing AIDS-related issues include: 1) *Blood Policy and Technology* (January 1985), 2) *Review of the Public Health Service's Response to AIDS* (technical memorandum, February 1985), 3) *The Costs of AIDS and Other HIV Infections; Review of the Estimates* (staff paper, May 1987), and 4) *Medical Testing and Health Insurance* (August 1988).



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NOTE: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the workshop participants. The workshop participants do not, however, necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse this background paper. OTA assumes full responsibility for the background paper and the accuracy of its contents.