

2. INTRODUCTION'

The Kaiser Permanence Medical Care Program (K PMCP) is the largest private health care program in the United States, and the majority of its membership resides in areas with large numbers of AIDS cases. The Northern California Region of the program is second only to the county health system as a provider of care to AIDS patients in San Francisco.

In the summer of 1987, the Office of Technology Assessment contracted with the Kaiser Permanence Northern California Region (K PNCR) to report the impact of the AIDS epidemic on its program with a special focus on cost issues.

From 1981 through June 1987, a total of 940 KPNCR patients were diagnosed with AIDS. This paper looks at how these cases were identified, who they were, the services they used, and the cost of their care. In addition, background information is provided on K PNCR'S organization, membership, benefits structure, and ratesetting methods.

1 This report was prepared by the Northern California Region of the Kaiser Permanence Medical Care Program and does not necessarily reflect the views, data or policies of any other region within the Kaiser Permanence Medical Care Program.

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