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VIA

SISTERHOOD

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these practices endanger both partners since in many cases it takes up to three years for the HIV virus to make its presence known. Lesbians, a low risk group, are still susceptible to the disease, if they have engaged in IV-drug use, had sex with men who were at risk during the past seven years, used semen for artificial insemination from an infected donor or had sexual contact it women who are

World Health Organisation (WHO), estimates that more than 225 000 women have contracted AIDS and that 3 000 000 have HIV infections

HIV positive. In fact there are 9 cases of homosexual women who contracted the HIV virus through only lesbian relations.

"AIDS education", Dr. Ian Mackie says, "must now proceed to the second phase; the promotion of changes in behavior that will reduce the risk of transmission. It must move beyond the you-don't-get-it-from-toilet-seats approach". He, and other professionals, advocate the use of frank and graphic discussion.

In 1990 the Canadian Government spent approximately 38.0 million dollars on AIDS research and education.

The topic of women and AIDS is never ending. The accessibility to treatment centers excludes pregnant women with children. The issue of promiscuity and stereotyping of women does not allow the free expression of women's sexuality and their enjoyment of it. AIDS has become, increasingly so, a woman's reality. Therefore, it is important that society begin viewing women, as well as men, as victims; and reacting appropriately.

