

VICTIMS OF INFECTED RAPIST MAY BE AT RISK

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, January 24, 1992
Author: ROBERT MUSIAL Free Press Staff Writer

Would all the **victims of** an HIV- **infected** serial **rapist** acquire the virus?

Probably not, disease experts say.

"You certainly can become **infected** after one contact, but generally, it takes repeated exposures with an **infected** partner," said Terry Ryan, a program administrator **of** the Wellness Networks, which runs Michigan's AIDS Hotline.

On Thursday, Ryan said all the **victims** are **at risk** and should **be** tested for the AIDS virus for up to a year following their rapes.

Immediate medical treatment after a rape would not lessen the chances **of** becoming **infected**, he said.

Rapes **may** present slightly less **risk of** infection than normal intercourse because **rapists** often don't ejaculate, although their pre-seminal fluid can carry the virus in reduced amounts, Ryan said.

The chances **of** infection also **may be** slightly reduced, he said, because women often contract their vaginal muscles during rape, reducing the chance **of** small vaginal tears, which allow the virus to enter the bloodstream.

A 1991 study by the Association **of** Reproductive Health Professionals in Washington, D.C., estimated that a woman had a 1 percent chance **of** becoming **infected** with the AIDS virus after one act **of** unprotected intercourse with an **infected** man.

As **of** December, the Michigan Department **of** Public Health had recorded 2,586 cases **of** AIDS in Michigan. But the AIDS virus can remain dormant in the body for 10 years or more before developing into AIDS.

The department found that heterosexual intercourse was identified as the source **of** the virus in only 4 percent **of** those cases. In another 4 percent, the source was unknown.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 2A

Index Terms: AIDS ; SEX ; ASSAULT ; WOMAN

Record Number: 9201030908

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