

III International Conference on Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

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A THREE YEAR SURVEY OF ANTIBODY RESPONSE TO HIV ANTIGENS
IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

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A three-year survey for HIV 1 antibodies in several population groups of the Central African Republic was conducted between October 1984 and January 1987. This survey included 1,663 persons from randomly selected households in Bangui, or seeking medical care in the Pasteur Institut; two groups of 377 and 930 people, aged 15-34 and one group of 320 children aged 0-14 all randomly selected from the urban population; 830 people selected from the rural population; 234 hospitality girls from low and middle socio-economic status; 100 tuberculosis in-patients; 175 malnourished children along with 101 mothers; and 396 pygmies from two separate pygmy tribes. All sera were screened using ELISA technique, then confirmed by Western Blot, and considered positive only if either GP110 or GP41 or both were present.

Results were as follows: the prevalence of anti HIV 1 antibodies in the general population ranged between 2.1 and 4.04 in separate surveys conducted 18 months apart: an insignificant range (Chi square: 2.4). Among hospitality girls the range was between 20.6 and 12, again separated an 18-month interval. Anti HIV 2 antibodies were found to be present both in the urban and pygmy populations.

The striking feature of these surveys is a lack of increased incidence in HIV 1 antibodies particularly among the prostitutes examined through a 18 month period.

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