

AIDS Lecture February 13, 1989
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Remarks
By
C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD
Surgeon General
Of the
U.S. Public Health Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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It had been 3 days since I had last spoken before a public audience on the subject of the AIDS epidemic.

The "AIDS Quarterly" was about to be published as a venture supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Nova, Frontline, who produced the Quarterly, and Public Broadcasting and member stations who would be putting it on the air. I acknowledged that there couldn't be a better time for such a thing to start because we had 85,000 cases in the United States, and 50% of those patients had already died. With a brief nod at the epidemiology, I concluded that the list of things that might be included in the AIDS Quarterly was infinite, and it was a natural outcome of the effort of so many in the government, local, public, and private agencies, and a wide supporting range of AIDS rated programs in research services and education had been contributing mightily to the educational effort. I talked about the cost of that to the government, as well as the extent of investment of time and people. For the first time, I reported how our efforts to educate AIDS was not going full-steam, involving television, radio, movie theaters, newspapers, magazines, bus cards, and physician waiting rooms. We also had sent out, in addition to my report which President Reagan requested on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and the mailer which went to 107 million households, and an additional 1 million assorted brochures and other up to date material requested by health professionals and other citizens.

The National AIDS Hotline was handling close to 2 million cases a year, and that huge mailer I spoke about had been translated into 10 other languages and brail.

That led us to conclude that 87 million adults had read the brochure. That's really a long way to have come in the relatively short period since June 1981. I closed with confidence in the thought that thanks to the dedication and hard work of thousands – perhaps millions – of people who helped get the job done, we would have succeeded in our education effort and would count the people associated with the AIDS Quarterly, among that number.

Because of the brief nature of this talk, and what I have said in this introductory page, there is no index included.