'The Syphilis Scare and Its Long-Lasting Effects'

NOTE: Last week the AFRO investigated the growing problem of gonorrhea in the Baltimore City area. The Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases reports that in 1959 only 6,743 cases of gonorrhea were treated compared to 18,572 cases in 1981.

The disease is also capable of going undetected in men and women and causing sterility, arthritis and heart disease.

In 1939 more than 300 Baltimoreans died from syphilis. In 1981, 307 cases of syphilis were treated by Baltimore's two treatment centers at 1515 W. North Ave. and 629 Caroline St.

Like gonorrhea, syphilis can only be contracted through direct sexual contact.

The first sign of the disease usually appears at the point at which the corkscrew shaped bacteria entered the body—on the genitals, the mouth or the anus.

The second telltale sign that syphilis has been contracted is rashes on the palms of the hands or on the feet or any part of the body.

"A rash can appear after some months or even two years," according to Bill Palm, Principal Health Educator of the Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

"There are only a small number of cases compared to gonorrhea and with the cooperation of patients we could keep the numbers low. Because of Baltimore being a port city, it is hard to wipe out," says Palm.

As with other sexually transmitted diseases, mobility, people moving from place to place, serves to facilitate the increased spread of the disease.

Although Palm says the disease is not serious and can be cured in its initial stages, it has the potential to kill.

Unfaithful husbands or boyfriends may infect wives and girlfriends unwittingly. Left untreated syphilis can cause stillborn and very ill babies. In 1982 two babies were born in Baltimore with syphilis.

"Syphilis always travels in the bloodstream whereas gonorrhea is usually localized. It can be passed on to an unborn baby," Palm says.

"We recommended that any pregnant woman should have two blood tests for syphilis whether their husbands are accountants, preachers, or junkies. We don't want to take chances."

As with measles, smallpox and other germs that challenge the body, the system develops an immune response to the disease.

Blood tests of a person cured of syphilis can determine the person's immune status to that disease.

Syphilis victims also develop a positive blood test for syphilis if a person had syphilis for a few months a blood test will be positive for syphilis.

"A positive blood test for syphilis doesn't mean the person has the disease, but means they had the disease at one time but no longer have it," says Palm.

Even if a person was treated for syphilis 20 years ago they might still have a low level of syphilis in their blood. Unlike gonorrhea, syphilis leaves a permanent record of its presence.

"The most serious aspect to syphilis is in pregnancy, but we don't see it very often anymore."

Some doctors may not do blood tests because they think a woman is from such a nice family and some woman have poor pre-natal care which allows women to enter pregnancies with syphilis infections.

Even if a woman has had syphilis several years prior to giving birth, Palm says doctors should monitor her blood. Former syphilis victims can, however, still donate blood to organizations such as the Red Cross and hospitals.

Baltimore's health center patients treated for gonorrhea and syphilis receive free treatment and although their names are taken, names are not attached to records. Names are handled only by public health workers who are dealing with the patient, according to Palm.

The centers also contact the sexual partners of the infected person so that they can be aware that they may have the disease.

"When we contact a partner we don't even give the name of the person who referred them and we don't even identify ourselves. We contact the people and ask them to come in."

According to Palm the majority of syphilis cases are found in men, "which is to some extent due to gay and bisexual men but is also found in heterosexuals," he says.

Palm feels the number of incidences of syphilis have stabilized at a high level although they "increased like crazy in the late 60's and 70's."

CASES OF SYPHILIS

Treated By Baltimore Public Health Centers 1959-1981

Year	#CASES
1959	196
1962	384
1968	299
1970	300
1975	369
1981	307

As for educating patients concerning gonorrhea and syphilis Palm cites the large number of patients and a limited budget are prohibitive.

"In 1982 we had 43,862 clinic visits. We try to be informative. We have printed literature and various handouts, but it's hard to keep up with the volume of patients we have."

All clinic visitors can talk to clinic staff concerning ways to avoid sexually transmitted diseases.

Even if you are not a promiscuous person, your partner may very well be. In today's sexually permissive society, knowledge of sexual transmitted diseases is a must.

Surplus food distribution in county

The Human Resources Development Agency of Baltimore County, Inc. (H.R.D.A.) has announced surplus food will be distributed at various points in the county during the first two weeks of December.

In order to be eligible to receive the surplus foods, a person must be a Baltimore County resident and participate in one of the following programs: Welfare Program or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program - must show D.S.S. Identification Card; Food Stamp Program - must show Food Stamp Card; Supplemental Social Security Income - must show Award Letter or have income less than 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines effective July 1, 1983, for example, household size of one, $7,290 per year; household size of two, $9,810 per year; household size of three, $12,330 per year, household size of four, $14, 850 per year, etc.

Items available will include: processed cheese, 7,250 cases; butter, 1,593 cases (36 pounds per case); cornmeal, 517 balers; dry milk, 1,607 cases; and honey, 1,236 cases.

"However, it is expected that some of the items will not be available in sufficient quantities for all in need," Ms. Shaney added. "Items in short supply will be milk, honey, and cornmeal. These items will be depleted before others."

The surplus food comes from the Federal government through the Surplus Farms Subsidies and it is expected that 14,000 will show up for the free food.

According to Ms. Shaney the Essex, Middle River, and Dundalk areas will have the highest turn out of recipients. Each person will receive about $40 worth of free food.

Each family is entitled to one distribution only and, should use the site nearest to them. Persons who are unable to pick up their food due to sickness may have a substitute do so by presenting the person's eligibility card. All distributions will be between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the following sites:

Friday, December 2nd., at the Parkville American Legion, 2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Parkville, Maryland 21234.

Monday, December 5th., at the Middle River Boy's Club, 1413 Fuselage Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21220.

Tuesday, December 6th., at the Merritt Point School-PAL Gym, 7701 Dunmanway, Dundalk, Maryland 21222.

Tuesday, December 6th., at the Greater St. James Baptist Church, 209 Walnut Avenue, Turner Station, Baltimore, Maryland 21222.

Wednesday, December 7th., at St. Clements Hall, Washington & Second Avenue, Lansdowne, Maryland 21227.

Thursday, December 8th., Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, 10911 Reisterstown, Maryland 21136.

Friday, December 9th., at St. James Lutheran Church, Rolling Road & Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21207.

Monday, December 12th., at the Banneker Community Center, Main & Wesley Avenues, Catonsville, Maryland 21228.

For those moments when the right touch means so much, say "Canadian Club"

Canadian Club
"...forget about the rest."

Holiday Special

20% OFF

the regular subscription price

The Perfect Christmas Gift!

With an AFRO-AMERICAN Gift Subscription you can:

- Shop Early
- Shop At Home
- Avoid The Crowds

A fine gift for your family and friends. It will bring many hours of reading enjoyment in the years to come.

Take Advantage of Our Holiday Special

Use the order form below to fill out the names and addresses of relatives and friends on your list.

Enclose Payment and Mail To Us Today!

AFRO Holiday Gift Order Form

Gift Card From_____
Edition_____
For-Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____
Zip_____
For 1 Year ( ) 2 Years ( )

Gift Card From_____
Edition_____
For-Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____
Zip_____
For 1 Year ( ) 2 Years ( )

My Subscription
Edition_____
Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____
Zip_____
For 1 Year ( ) 2 Years ( )

Special Holiday Offer

	U.S. Mail Rates
☐ Baltimore Tuesday ☐ Baltimore Friday ☐ Washington Tuesday ☐ Washington Friday ☐ New Jersey ☐ Richmond ☐ Virginia	☐ 6 Mos. $8.40 ☐ 1 Year $16.00 ☐ 2 Years $28.00 ☐ 3 Years $37.60

	U.S. Mail Rates
☐ New England ☐ Philadelphia ☐ N. Carolina ☐ S. Carolina ☐ National	☐ 6 Mos. $9.60 ☐ 1 Year $18.40 ☐ 2 Years $32.80 ☐ 3 Years $41.60

		U.S. Mail Rates (Includes Postage)	
☐ Baltimore	Tuesday and Friday	☐ 6 Mos. $16.00	☐ 2 Years $55.20
☐ Washington	Tuesday and Friday	☐ 1 Year $30.40	☐ 3 Years $70.40

Please Enclose Your Payment OFFER EXPIRES, JAN. 31st, 1984

Check - Money Order - Visa - Master Card

CHARGE CARD NUMBER_____EXPIRES_____

Send To:

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers
P.O. Box 1857 • Baltimore, MD 21203

Mrs. Santa says: Please help!

The need is even greater this year and the AFRO's Mrs. Santa urges you to dig deep and help feed hungry families again this year. Our goal is $20,000 by December 17.

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa uses money to buy food baskets which are delivered by the Maryland National Guard. We also buy food coupons which are mailed to people referred to us by our readers, AFRO Clean Block Captains, City Agencies and the Police Department.

We are asking businesses, clubs and organizations and individuals to make a generous cash donation. Also, we are asking individuals and groups to sell Mrs. Santa's flowers at $1 each. Senior citizens and volunteers are crocheting 5,000 red and green flowers to be sold at social functions.

Many people are placing them on their counters at their places of business so that giving to help feed hungry families will be easier because people are so hard pressed for cash these days.

Contribute good used toys and clean clothes to Mrs. Santa's Store. When you contribute to the store, we will contact our families so they can select the things they need in their sizes.

SPECIAL NOTE: We'll be glad to arrange a picture with Mrs. Santa for all contributions over $150. When it is published in the AFRO, it will encourage others to give and we desperately need all the help we can get.

Please make checks and money orders payable to Mrs. Santa, AFRO Charities, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. All contributions are tax deductible.

If you know of a needy family...

The AFRO Charities, Mrs. Santa Program provided as a service by the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers is designed to help needy families have a Christmas dinner. If you know of a needy family WRITE AFRO Mrs. Santa, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. Give name, address, telephone number, zip code, number and ages of children and why they need help.

Mrs. Santa's cases:

Case 23- I am writing for help for me and my four children. There are 2 boys and 2 girls. Please help us with clothes, food, and toys. We don't have much and there are a whole lot of children in hard times like us, but any little help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Case 24- I am in need of help this year. I was laid-off in May and I'm finding it impossible to buy things my kids would normally have. I find it hard just paying my rent and essential things such as clothing, shoes, and food. With everything the way it is, I don't see how I will get the money to pay the landlord the back rent I owe, much less buy toys this year. My children ages are 4 and 5, sizes 6 and 7.

Case 25- Please help me and my 3 children to have something for Christmas. I am expecting another baby in Jan. '84. My children and I need food, clothing, and toys. I am on Social Services and I am not married. There are 3 boys ages 3, 5, and 7. Anything you can help me with will be appreciated.

Case 26- I'm fine considering the high cost of living, inflation, depression, having no job, also a single parent. Due to a shortage of money, I'm unable to buy heavy winter coats, hats, gloves, and sweaters and boots, which my children need. I am head of the household, and my monthly bills exceed my monthly money intake.

Case 27- Please send my mother a basket for Xmas She is all alone and gets a small check. Please help her. She will be very happy.

Case 28- I am a single parent, with 2 children, a daughter 8 and son, 1 1/2. I am on social services and after I pay rent, gas and electric, and telephone bills, there's not much left over for clothes, shoes, carfare, personal items and things needed around the house for me to budget. My son's father is in jail and my daughters are out of work. I would appreciate a basket for the holidays. I would also like a pair of boots. I am at my sister's most of the time due to my current situation.

Case 29- I am in need of food for my 8 grandchildren. They are eating with me this Christmas. I have two of my own living at home. I am on social services and I would like to have enough to feed them all.

Case 30- A good lady and mother is in need for the holidays. She has three children and they are in need of clothes She is a church goer and a good tend.

Case 31- We are very poor this Christmas. I need a basket for my daughter and myself. We also need toys, clothes, and anything would would help.

Case 32- We are in great need. I am a single parent with children, with 2 daughters and 1 son. There is a definite need for coats, boots and pants.

Case 33- I am writing for a Christmas basket and some toys. I have two children, 4 and 13 months, both girls. I have nothing left after paying bills, please help me and my children.

Case 34- Please help my mother. She needs help badly She is 61 and raised 9 of us. She has helped us with our children and now she has nothing left for herself. She is now in need of a new washing machine.

Case 35- I am a single person and need help desperately. Due to health problems, I am unemployed and have no source of income.

Case 36- I am a single parent trying to do the job all alone. Please help me and my two daughters, who are in need of food, clothes, and toys. We would appreciate any form of help.

A Widower

Case 37- Thank God for loving people like you. I am writing for a very sick lady. She is a widow, who lives alone, in need of a food basket. This small gesture would be greatly appreciated.

Case 38- My girl friend was in a car accident and cannot work. She really needs help. She has a son in school. She would be happy for any help you could give. Please send her a basket. She needs that most of all.

Case 39- I lost my job and my house. My husband walked out on me. I am in need of your assistance for the holidays. Please help me now and maybe I will be able to help you one year.

Case 40- I am writing this letter because my family is in need. My husband has been sick and unable to work. I am ill also. We would be very thankful for any assistance. Children's clothes, boys shirts 5 and 12, pants 5 and 12, shoes 10 child's and 2 ½

Case 41- My husband passed away and I am in the process of receiving his Social Security, but I have not received any as of yet. The little money I am getting only pays the bills. So I will be thankful for any help. I could use a basket. I cannot work because of health problems and am having a hard time keeping enough food in the house.

Case 42- I have four children I am raising all alone. I need as much help as possible. I would like to receive food, clothes, and shoes. Anything would be appreciated. Children sizes, girl 16 pants, 8 shoes. Sons 14, 14, 10 pants, 9, 6½ and 3 shoes.

Case 43- I am raising three children and two grandchildren. As my husband and I are no longer together, I am in need of some assistance for the holidays. It is going to be pretty hard on us for Christmas. Children are girls 15, 14, 13; grandchildren boy 10, girl 14.

Case 44- I am a senior citizen. My need is great, due to the small amount I receive each month. My rent is steep and there is nothing left after I pay it. Please consider me for a Christmas basket.

Case 45- I am writing for my children; four daughters 16, 13, 11, 18; two sons 9, and 2 1/2, as we need help. By the time I pay my rent and bills, I am broke. My phone has been cut off from lack of funds. I recently had a terrible fire, which left me lacking.

Widow

Case 46- My husband passed away a year ago. I have been waiting for some assistance for some time, to no avail. I have been babysitting to help make ends meet. I am a senior citizen, with very little income. A basket would be most helpful.

Mother III

Case 47- I am sick, unable to work. I receive a check which barely pays bills. My daughter, 18, is a full-time student in college, and since she has no income coming in, I have to feed and clothe her. Please help us have a better Christmas than last year, as we were homeless. Anything will be acceptable.

Case 48- Right now, I am unemployed with four children, girls 7, 8, 10, 12, to care for. My husband is no longer in the home, so I am handling all the bills. I am not worried about toys, just food for the holidays. Any assistance is appreciated.

Case 49- I am the mother of a girl, 2. My mother is presently out of work and I am giving her my check to help pay the rent, gas and electric. We are a family of six. My two brothers, 13 and 10 need help. After bills are paid, there is nothing left for anything extra. We need food, clothing, and toys.

Case 50- We are a family of nine. My children, girls 5, 8, 9, sizes 7, 14, and 16 pre-teen and boys 2, 6 and 7, and 3 months sizes 10, 12, 3, and 12 months are in need of clothes, beds, and food. My husband is unemployed and has been unable to find work Please help us in any way you can.

Case 51- I am writing to you because there is nowhere else for me to turn for help. I am a divorced mother of six on Social Services, but am willing to take any legal work I can get. My children have not had a tree in two years. My main concern is some food and something nice for us to wear for my kids in school. I have four girls and boys. Ages 1-11.

Case 52—I am an unemployed mother of two girls, 7 and 12. I am in need of food, clothes, a television, and toys. I have been separated for some time, so the little income I do have is used to pay rent and bills. I have been praying for some kind of assistance. I hope to find employment, but until then I need all the help I can get

I'm In Jail

Case 53- I am a mother with five children 6-14. I have been in jail for 16 months and I'm very much in need of help for my children. I'm out on furlough now and I will be out for good in December. I love my children and I just don't have a way to make Christmas a happy occasion. What I did was not their fault, so I am asking for your help to make this holiday a bright one. Please help me.

Case 55- I am a working mother supporting a family of four. My children are 8 and 2. My husband is laid-off and believe me it's not easy to handle the responsibilities. One person is working. I would appreciate any response given to my letter.

Case 55- Due to low income, I cannot forsee any possibility of a good Christmas. I have three girls, 2, 3, and 5, who won't ask for much, just dolls, tea sets, and rocking chairs. Please help me make Christmas possible.

Case 56- I have 3 grandchildren whose mother ran away and left them in my care. I have not been able to get any help for them as of yet. I also have another grandson with me who is out of work with nothing coming in. I am ill with very little income. Could you please help me with anything available.

Case 57- I am asking for a Christmas basket as I am not working. My job closed in May 82. My unemployment money has run out. I have six children, girls 8, 10, 11, 13, and 17; and one boy 16.

Case 58- I am in need of help for my five children. Also my retarded brother, 17. I presently receive DSS, but sometimes it just isn't enough. I recently had a set of twins and I would appreciate any form of help available at this time. I have heard how you helped countless other. I hope you can help me. My children are 2, 4, 7, and 8 month twins.

Case 59- I am the mother of five children. twin boys 13, boys 7, 8; and a girl 11. I have been sick for some time. I have been in and out of the hospital. We would like to have something nice for the holidays, but my husband only receives a small check which only pays the bills. We would like to get a food basket and some clothes. If possible, some toys also. Please find a way to help us.

Case 60- I've just come out of the hospital after having a serious operation. I'm writing to you for a Christmas basket or anything you could help me with. I have six children and I need help desperately.

Case 61- I am the mother of 8 children for which I receive a small check. After paying bills, there is not nearly enough to buy food, much less toys and clothes. Any help given will be appreciated as Social Services is cutting my check.

Case 62- I am the mother of three small children, 8, 6, and 8 months, who keep asking me what Santa will bring them for Christmas. I know in my heart it won't be much without your help. We are in need of food, clothes, and toys. Please help me and my children have a happy holiday.

Case 63- For many years, I have read about your services. While being an only child, you might say I really never went without. This year I lost both of my parents, so there's no one for me to depend on except myself. I have two girls and two boys, 7, 5, 3, and 1. My neighbor referred me to this address. I can only ask that you'll accept this letter and place us on your Christmas list.

Mrs. Santa fund

$7,100.00

Softball Marathon	$1,750.87
S.A.T. Foods	500.00
Pearl Records	300.00
Myra Grand Chapter, O.E.S.	250.00
Naomi Grand Chapter, O.E.S.	200.00
M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge	200.00
Sophisticated Few Charity Club	200.00
Neighborhood Club of 1100 Carrollton Ave.	200.00
Able Building Service	150.00
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Myers	125.00
Ernest L. Nash	125.00
In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. M.L. Barksdale	
Dr. Roland Barksdale Williams	100.00
Continentals Society of Baltimore	100.00
Bland Gatewood	100.00
Mrs. Lillian McLee	100.00
Anthony Gatewood	100.00
James Burley	100.00
Ms. Bernice H. Shorter	100.00
Ms. Gertie Hudson	100.00
United Nurses of Various Churches	100.00
The V.A.G.'s	100.00
Arena Players	
Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan	100.00
Les Modties	100.00
Avalon Social Club	100.00
Herbert Alston, Jr.	75.00
In Memory of Rev. N.B. Carrington	
Mrs. Agnes A. Carrington	75.00
Mrs. Jeanette Johnson	75.00
Town & Country Club	75.00
Arena Players	70.00
Rev. St. George I.B. Crosse & Daughter	53.00
The Pierians	50.00
We-Be-Co	50.00
Mrs. Inez Cox	50.00
Trinity Presbyterian Church	50.00
The Chit-Chats	42.00
Jerusalem Court-Daughters of Isis, PHA	40.00
Mrs. Edith Coleman	35.00
Lake Ashburton Neighborhood Assoc.	35.00
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond A.C. Young	30.00
Chi Wives	30.00
Frank Johnson, Jr.	30.00
Druid Heights Action Assoc.	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Patterson	25.00
William & Nellie Bowie	15.00
The New Jockey Club	25.00
Ms. Nadine Huntley	25.00
Miss Ruth Fegley	25.00
Mrs. Louise Kerr Hines	25.00
The Pals	25.00
Ms. Arnetta Rosemond	25.00
Mrs. Llewellyn H. Walker	25.00
Mrs. Marie E. Murphy	25.00
Mrs. Roy Adams	25.00
Women Emerging	25.00
Jimmie & Louise Bulluck	20.00
Ms. Gertrude E. Winston	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Handy, Sr.	20.00
A. Harrison Vessells	20.00
Ms. Ernestine Clinton	15.00
Redman O. Harris	15.00
Bernie Johnson	10.00
In Memory of Mrs. Gladys C. Jackson	
John T. Jackson	10.00
Ms. Marie W. Lewis	10.00
Old Aqueduct Inn Club	10.00
Mrs. Peggy Hagood	10.00
Dr. Thurman B. O'Daniel	10.00
Hazel & Mildred West	5.00
Rufus Thomas	5.00
Edward Woodford	5.00

Support The AFRO'S Mrs. Santa Fund

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

THE SOPHISTICATED FEW Social Club donated $200 to AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Seated from (L) Henryn Clark, Bascomi Mason, Johnnie Murcheson, Samuel Mason. Rear from (L) Bobby Tucker, Leroy Taylor, president; Mrs. Santa, Ida Peters; John Ashby, Tyrone Conaway and George Reed.

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

THE BROWN SUGARS Social Club donated three baskets to AFRO's Mrs. Santa families at Thanksgiving. Officers are Nina R. Harper, president; Eleanor Richardson, secretary and Theresa McCrimmon, business manager; Mae Moore, chaplain; Laura Clark sergeant-at-arms; and Judy Peters, member.

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

Nursing Students Association of the Helene Fuld School of Nursing at Coppin State College donated foods for Mrs. Santa's families. Above, Deborah Lucas, president. Crystal Black is president-elect; Ruthie Hall, advisor; Alice Cornelison, advisor.

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

LORI TOWNES and Diane Lewis of the Missionary Board of New Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 1907 Poplar Grove St. where the Rev. eerrol Gilliard is pastor adopted 25 of the AFRO's Mrs. Santa families for Christmas.