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Scourge spreads at an alarming rate

**FROM PAGE I**

Aids, which persisted for a long

time bath at individual and

communal level. Have taken tall

.of whale populations.

Kenyan politicians like their

counterparts in all other nations,

have been a major hindrance in

the free flaw .of information

about the disease.

Last year when medical experts

announced the number .of Aids

carriers, the Ministry .of Health

was pressured to say' the figure

was exaggerated. However, the

denial was 'short-lived and studies

an ,,"8riausaspects .of Aids simply

reveal mare chilling data and

facts.

According to projections by experts

from the long range planning

division of Ministry of Planning and international Development

indicate that by 1995 the number of people killed by Aids virus will

reach 320.000 while up to

2,124,000'people with the carrier of the lethal virus. Analysis of the data, indicates that an average .of 90,000 Kenyans

will be dying from the infection.

Annual far the next three

years. The' incurable disease

killed up ta 42,000 people by the

end .of last year and the figure

will reach 60.000 by the end of

December. -

"Hidden" data from some of

the donor agencies indicate that

by January next year nearly 1.12

million people in the country will

be affected by the HIV. (human immune deficiency virus) which

causes Aids. The country will have at least 300,000 Aids orphans

by 1996, says Dr Sabbie

Mulindi, a leading official in ·the

National Aids Control Committee .

Other surveys indicate that an average of 12 per cent of pregnant

women are HIV positive

while in places like Kisumu the

figure doubles. Early this year

the Ministry of health released

\_data indicating that Mombasa

Nairobi and western sections of

the country have the highest

Aids cases. Statistics from a

special STD clinic in Nairobi reveal

that about 65 per cent of

these tested for HIV on a weekly

basis are positive.

However, the disease has became

so widespread that some

hospitals in the central parts of

the country are regarding some of

the highest Aids cases. In short

the scourge is not sparing~ any

part .of the country. Health officia1fear

that even North-Eastern

and northern areas of the country

where cases of AIDS have remained

minimal face increased

threat linked to influx of refugees

and instability.

The impact of Aids on health

services is already being felt. Up

per cent of the beds in major

hospitals is nowadays occupied

by patients with opportunistic

infections that attack them

because their damaged immune

system clU1not effectively fight·

against germs.

Aids is an additional burden

which the Ministry of Health is

forced to Shoulder.