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Many States extend social and medical benefits to only people with CDC-defined AIDS or ARC, excluding people with other HIV-related illnesses. Clinical drug trials, disability and insurance benefits, and locally-subsidized housing all require a CDC definition of AIDS or ARC for eligibility.

While CDC says there are 100,000 people with AIDS, in New York and Washington DC, 35 percent of people hospitalized with HIV-related disease did not fit into the CDC's definitions.

Experts estimate that 1 to 2 million people suffer from "HIV disease," which manifests in a variety of ways among different groups. Gay men, for instance, seem to be the only group to suffer from Kaposi's Sarcoma, a form of skin cancer which typified early AIDS cases. Women with HIV illness suffer a variety of chronic vaginal infections and other gynecological problems.

CDC officials will be presented with adetailed list of demands for expanding its epidemiological definitions, which now merely records AIDS cases. "Because people with AIDS must fight a variety of opportunistic infections, the CDC is woefully negligent in not tracking what these infections are and how often they occur," said Maxine Wolfe, action coordinator for the CDC demonstration.

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) in Atlanta is coordinating both actions. They will be joined by ACT UP members and other AIDS activists from around the country.

For more information contact Chip Rowan, ACT UP/Atlanta, 685 Argonne St., Atlanta, GA 30308, (404) 873-1097.

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