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LONDON

Poor men with AIDS have almost a two-thirds greater risk of dying within 10 years than wealthier men who also have the disease, a Canadian study says.

The research team, led by Prof. Martin Schechter of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, studied 364 gay men for 10 years beginning in November 1982.

At the start of the study, 234 were HIV positive and 130 became infected later with the virus thought to cause AIDS.

Poor AIDS victims die sooner than wealthy ones, study says

"The researchers found that men on low incomes at enrolment had a worse survival than those on higher incomes," said the study published in today's edition of the *Lancet* medical journal.

"Men on low incomes had a 63 per cent greater chance of death from AIDS by December 1993 (the end of the study) than those on higher incomes." The researchers

defined a low income as less than \$10,000 Cdn a year. They said that at the beginning of the study, the poverty level for a single man living alone in metropolitan areas of Canada was below \$9,400.

Of the study group, 169 men developed full-blown AIDS and 135 men died during the 10-year study.

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REFERENCE: Hogg, R.S., Strathdee, S.A., Craib, K.J.P., O'Shaughnessy, M.V., Montaner, J.S.G. and M.T. Schechter: Lower socioeconomic status and shorter survival following HIV infection. *The Lancet* **344**(#8930): 1120-1124 (1994); see also the editorial on pages 1100-1101. [DC Library call number: PER R31.L3]

The article EM9418 reprinted above is used in Chapter 11 of the STAT 231 Course Materials.