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Institute of Medicine Committee to Study HIV Transmission Through Blood Products

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The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Committee to Study HIV Transmission Through Blood Products held a public meeting in September to gather information on pivotal issues and concerns about events surrounding the transmission of HIV through the blood supply. This study is the result of a congressional request made to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna

Shalala, who asked IOM to conduct an objective review and evaluation of decision-making processes and policies underlying the transmission of HIV through blood and blood products from 1982 to 1986.

The committee is also conducting a dual-purpose study that provides: (1) a comprehensive historical analysis of the critical events that led to the transmission of HIV through the blood supply; and (2) a forward focus on the public policies and decision-making proc-

esses required to ensure the future safety of the blood supply system. The IOM is not conducting any original or epidemiologic studies, will not make recommendations regarding specific individual cases, and is not seeking to determine blame or liability regarding HIV transmission.

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