

Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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Impact of HIV infection on the gay community in Sydney: findings from the SMASH study

The Sydney Men and Sexual Health (SMASH) project is a cohort study of homosexually active men associated with the gay community in Sydney. The impact of HIV on the sexual and social lives of men enrolled in the study and use of treatments and other assessments of disease progression for men with HIV infection, has been monitored from 1993. The project is jointly administered through the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, the National Centre in HIV Social Research at Macquarie University, and the AIDS Council of New South Wales.

Men were recruited primarily from within the gay community. Follow-up interviews were conducted annually and information on clinical assessment was collected through the participants' own doctors. A total of 1,143 men have been enrolled, mainly in 1993 and 1994. At enrolment, 228 men were known to have HIV infection; 25 men

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

National meeting

The 9th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, on 13 – 16 November 1997.

Telephone: 02 9241 1478, Facsimile: 02 9251 3552,

E-mail: reply@icmsaust.com.au

International meetings

The 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will be held in Manila, Philippines, on 25 – 29 October 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Secretariat, 2/F Physicians' Tower, 533 United Nations Avenue, Manila, Philippines.

Telephone: 632 521 4884 and 632 522 1081,

Facsimile: 632 526 8130

The 12th World AIDS Conference will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28 June – 3 July 1998.

seroconverted following enrolment. By late 1997, over 700 men remained under follow up in the last year, representing 69% of the whole cohort including 69% of those recruited during the first year of the study. Fifty men have died, representing almost 20% of men with HIV infection. Most men who have been lost to follow-up have not formally discontinued.

Men participating in SMASH ranged in age from 16 to 72 years at enrolment and around 90% identified as gay (Prestage *et al* 1995a). The majority (more than two thirds) live in inner or eastern Sydney. Three quarters of the men knew someone who had died following AIDS in the past year, and a quarter had cared for someone with AIDS (Prestage *et al* 1995b).

In the interview, questions were asked relating to the man's sexual behaviour in the six months prior to each interview. Approximately 90% reported having had sex with one or more regular or casual male partners; few (3–8%) reported having had sex with women (Prestage *et al* 1995c). Around 80% reported having had anal intercourse. Approximately 20% of men reported never using condoms with their regular partners, and 1–3% reported never using condoms with casual partners. There were few clear changes over time, except for a gradual increase in the proportion of men who reported never using condoms in a regular relationship and a recent sharp increase in the use of multiple drug treatments among men with HIV infection.

Anal intercourse, condom use and HIV status of relationships

Between 54% and 64% of men had a regular partner, and between 75% and 83% of men reported sex with casual partners, during the six months prior to their interviews. Reported sexual behaviour varied little over time.

During the six months prior to each interview, around 80% of the men with regular partners had anal intercourse with those partners, and of those with casual partners, around 70% reported anal intercourse.

Between 4 and 6% of the men in the samples were in regular relationships where both men had HIV infection ('concordant positive', Table 1.1). Approximately 6 to 9% were in sero-discordant regular relationships. The percentage of men in concordant negative regular relationships was between 33 and 37%. Around 8 to 14% of the men in each sample were in regular relationships in which the serostatus of one or both of the partners remained unknown (Table 1.1).

Between 16 and 21% of the men reported '100% protected' anal intercourse with regular partners while around 30% reported any unprotected anal intercourse; around 20% never used condoms for anal intercourse with regular partners. Most of the unprotected intercourse between regular partners can be described as 'negotiated

safety' as it occurred within the context of a seroconcordant relationship, usually including a spoken agreement about condom use both within and outside the relationship (Kippax *et al* 1997).

Table 1.1

Number of men enrolled in SMASH who were interviewed and proportion who reported the HIV status of their regular relationships by six month interval of interview, January 1995 – December 1996

HIV status of regular relationship	Jan–Jun 1995	Jul–Dec 1995	Jan–Jun 1996	Jul–Dec 1996
<i>Number interviewed</i>	464	297	475	231
No regular partner	41.6	34.7	37.9	40.3
Concordant positive	3.7	6.1	4.8	5.2
Concordant negative	32.5	36.7	33.5	36.8
Known discordant	7.8	5.7	8.6	8.2
Concordance not known	10.1	14.1	12.2	8.2
Not reported	4.3	2.7	2.9	1.3

Around 50% of the men reporting sex with casual partners always used condoms for anal intercourse with those partners. The proportion of men having any unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners varied between approximately 15 and 22% (Table 1.2). However, very few men in any of the samples persistently abandoned safety precautions with casual partners: only about 2% had unprotected intercourse with casual partners on most occasions.

The inconsistent nature of unprotected intercourse with casual partners was also evident when the data were examined longitudinally. Of 488 men who were interviewed in four consecutive years and who reported sex with casual partners at every interview, 167 (34.2%) reported ever engaging in unprotected intercourse. However, the majority (103) of these men had done so in one year only, and only a few individuals (11 men or 2.3%) had done so every year. These data indicate that most men maintain a safe sex regimen. To some extent these findings were also reflected in those for other sexual practices: the men in SMASH did not always engage in the same sorts of sexual behaviour over time, and many men engage in a range of sex practices only sporadically.

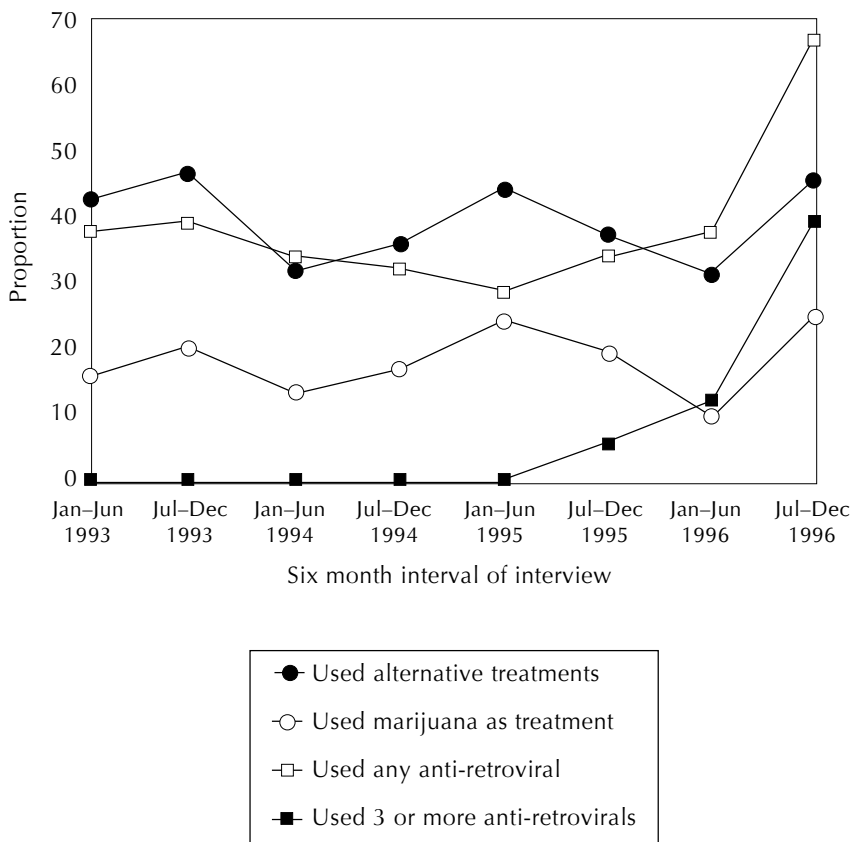
Table 1.2
Number of men enrolled in SMASH who reported sexual contact with casual male partners and proportion who reported safe sex by six month interval of interview, January 1993 – December 1996

	Jan-Jun 1993	Jul-Dec 1993	Jan-Jun 1994	Jul-Dec 1994	Jan-Jun 1995	Jul-Dec 1995	Jan-Jun 1996	Jul-Dec 1996
Number interviewed	431	264	407	206	361	223	371	177
Any unprotected	19.3%	21.6%	19.7%	19.4%	16.9%	20.2%	14.6%	19.2%
100% protected	51.5%	53.8%	51.8%	58.7%	55.4%	50.7%	52.8%	45.8%
No anal intercourse with casual partners	29.2%	24.6%	28.5%	21.8%	27.7%	29.1%	32.6%	35.0%

Use of treatments by men with HIV infection

Fairly consistently, about two thirds of men with HIV infection rated their general health as excellent or good (as opposed to fair or poor). Use of marijuana as a treatment varied over time, with a sudden but temporary drop in the first half of 1996. Even more striking, but to be expected because of recent advances in HIV treatment, was the sharp increase in reported use of antiretroviral therapy including triple combination therapy (Figure 1.1) (NCHSR 1997).

Figure 1.1
Use of treatments by men with HIV infection enrolled in the SMASH study,
January 1993 – December 1996.



Future directions

SMASH is an ongoing study, although funding arrangements have not been finalised beyond 1997. The study routinely provides comprehensive information on the population primarily affected by HIV in Australia — gay men living in Sydney.

The cohort has retained nearly 70% follow up in 1996 – 1997 of the men originally enrolled in 1993 and has sufficient numbers to provide an indication of patterns of behaviour in gay men at least through 1998. The survey instruments will continue to be revised to account for recent changes in treatment and their possible effects on behaviour.

Reported by

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THE NATIONAL AIDS REGISTRY

Table 2.1

Cases of AIDS and deaths following AIDS by sex and State/Territory in which diagnosis of AIDS was made, cumulative to 30 June 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Cases

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
ACT	6	2	3	0	80	7	87	1.2
NSW	389	14	151	10	4159	152	4322	57.9
NT	1	0	2	0	28	0	28	0.4
QLD	81	4	51	6	718	37	757	10.1
SA	37	0	21	1	308	19	327	4.4
TAS	2	0	6	0	40	2	42	0.6
VIC	128	4	73	7	1478	59	1544	20.7
WA	30	2	24	5	328	23	353	4.7
TOTAL[†]	674	26	331	29	7139	299	7460	100.0

Deaths

ACT	2	0	1	0	52	2	54	1.0
NSW	290	9	130	5	2940	109	3055	56.9
NT	2	0	2	0	22	0	22	0.4
QLD	62	6	36	1	503	27	532	9.9
SA	32	0	13	1	208	14	222	4.1
TAS	2	0	2	0	26	2	28	0.5
VIC	120	12	73	2	1161	40	1207	22.5
WA	16	3	18	1	235	14	250	4.7
TOTAL[†]	526	30	275	10	5147	208	5370	100.0

[†] Total columns in Tables 2.1 – 2.5 and 5.1 include 22 AIDS cases and 15 deaths following AIDS in people whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 2.2
Incidence of AIDS per million current population by sex and State/Territory of diagnosis, from 1 January 1981 to 30 June 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
ACT	39.6	13.0	19.6	0.0	522.2	45.0	282.0
NSW	127.1	4.5	48.7	3.2	1342.4	48.4	692.5
NT	10.5	0.0	20.6	0.0	288.4	0.0	151.4
QLD	48.9	2.4	30.2	3.6	424.7	22.0	224.3
SA	50.8	0.0	28.8	1.3	421.7	25.5	221.4
TAS	8.5	0.0	25.6	0.0	170.8	8.3	88.6
VIC	57.1	1.7	32.3	3.0	653.1	25.4	337.0
WA	34.1	2.3	26.8	5.6	365.9	25.9	198.0
TOTAL[†]	74.5	2.8	37.3	3.1	779.0	32.3	404.8

1. Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar period from *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Table 2.3

Cases of AIDS and deaths following AIDS by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 June 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Cases¹

AGE GROUP (years)	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
<i>0 – 2</i>	0	0	0	1	8	7	15	0.2
<i>3 – 12</i>	0	1	0	0	19	9	28	0.4
0 – 12	0	1	0	1	27	16	43	0.6
13 – 19	1	0	2	0	24	3	27	0.4
20 – 29	103	7	43	7	1225	78	1316	17.7
30 – 39	306	11	137	11	3015	100	3121	41.8
40 – 49	167	5	90	5	1996	48	2046	27.4
50 – 59	72	1	42	3	647	25	673	9.0
60 +	25	1	17	2	205	29	234	3.1
TOTAL[†]	674	26	331	29	7139	299	7460	100.0

Deaths²

AGE GROUP (years)	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
<i>0 – 2</i>	0	0	0	0	5	5	10	0.2
<i>3 – 12</i>	0	0	0	0	16	4	20	0.4
0 – 12	0	0	0	0	21	9	30	0.6
13 – 19	0	0	0	0	13	3	16	0.3
20 – 29	51	8	20	2	624	40	673	12.5
30 – 39	222	14	110	6	2078	72	2154	40.1
40 – 49	152	4	97	1	1636	35	1673	31.1
50 – 59	80	3	35	0	589	22	611	11.4
60 +	21	1	13	1	186	27	213	4.0
TOTAL[†]	526	30	275	10	5147	208	5370	100.0

1. Cases are classified by age at diagnosis.

2. Deaths are classified by age at death.

Table 2.4

Cases of AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Adults/adolescents (13 years and older at diagnosis of AIDS)

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	538	-	264	-	6067	-	6067	84.1
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	41	-	18	-	324	-	324	4.5
Injecting drug use	23	5	7	6	127	68	195	2.7
<i>Heterosexual</i>	8	4	2	3	92	56	148	
<i>Not further specified</i>	15	1	5	3	35	12	47	
Heterosexual contact:	25	15	21	18	202	141	343	4.7
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	5	2	2	6	12	18	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	-	3	-	3	-	32	32	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	3	3	3	3	25	21	46	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	6	1	6	1	30	13	43	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	2	0	0	3	8	11	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	1	1	1	2	25	19	44	
<i>Not further specified</i>	14	0	9	7	113	36	149	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	10	0	4	0	105	3	108	1.5
Receipt of blood /tissue	2	4	1	1	76	57	133	1.8
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents[†]	639	24	315	25	6903	272	7175	99.4

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	1	0	1	11	13	24	0.3
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0.1
Receipt of blood /tissue	0	0	0	0	11	3	14	0.2
Total Children	0	1	0	1	27	16	43	0.6
Sub-total	639	25	315	26	6930	288	7218	100.0
Other/undetermined	35	1	16	3	209	11	242	
TOTAL[†]	674	26	331	29	7139	299	7460	

Table 2.5

Deaths following AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Adults/adolescents (13 years and older at diagnosis of AIDS)

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	421	-	223	-	4418	-	4418	84.7
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	32	-	18	-	226	-	226	4.3
Injecting drug use	11	7	10	0	79	45	124	2.4
<i>Heterosexual</i>	10	6	5	0	66	39	105	
<i>Not further specified</i>	1	1	5	0	13	6	19	
Heterosexual contact:	21	22	12	8	121	95	216	4.2
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	4	0	0	1	7	8	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	-	2	-	2	-	24	24	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	2	3	1	0	9	11	20	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	3	1	2	1	13	10	23	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	1	1	1	3	6	9	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	0	1	2	3	21	14	35	
<i>Not further specified</i>	15	10	6	1	74	23	97	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	11	0	3	0	79	3	82	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	3	0	3	1	67	48	115	2.2
Health care setting	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents[†]	500	29	269	9	4991	192	5183	99.4

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	0	0	7	7	14	0.3
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0.0
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	11	3	14	0.3
Total Children	0	0	0	0	23	10	33	0.6
Sub total	500	29	269	9	5014	202	5216	100.0
Other/undetermined	26	1	6	1	133	6	154	
TOTAL[†]	526	30	275	10	5147	208	5370	

THE NATIONAL HIV DATABASE

Table 3.1

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex¹ and State/Territory, cumulative to 30 June 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate ²
ACT	12	0	9	4	180	21	201	65.2
NSW ³	379	30	335	23	10521	491	13081	209.6
NT	4	0	7	2	91	6	97	52.5
QLD	125	7	134	15	1759	110	1874	55.5
SA	29	0	40	3	616	46	662	44.8
TAS	4	0	3	0	78	4	82	17.3
VIC ⁴	168	14	171	12	3586	186	3809	83.1
WA	45	6	35	5	820	77	900	50.5
TOTAL⁵	766	57	734	64	17651	941	20706⁶	112.4

1. Thirty people (13 NSW, 5 QLD, 9 VIC and 3 WA) whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the total columns of Tables 3.1 – 3.3.
2. Rate per one hundred thousand current population. Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar interval from *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics).
3. Cumulative total for NSW includes 2,056 people whose sex was not reported.
4. Cumulative total for VIC includes 28 people whose sex was not reported.
5. Cumulative total for Australia includes 2,084 people whose sex was not reported.
6. Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,500 (range 15,600 to 17,500). Reference: Law MG, McDonald AM and Kaldor JM. Estimation of cumulative HIV incidence in Australia, based on national case reporting. *Aust NZ J Public Health* 1996; 20: 215 – 217.

Table 3.2

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection for which exposure category was reported, by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 1997 and for two previous yearly intervals.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	567	–	503	–	11178	–	11178	79.5
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	33	–	21	–	459	–	459	3.3
Injecting drug use	25	5	18	2	494	152	666	4.7
<i>Heterosexual</i>	11	4	7	1	139	101	243	
<i>Not further specified</i>	14	1	11	1	355	51	423	
Heterosexual contact:	70	49	65	48	672	503	1179	8.4
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	5	1	4	16	64	80	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	6	–	3	–	79	79	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	12	9	9	12	66	77	144	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	25	6	20	10	95	51	146	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	4	14	18	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	7	7	2	8	34	60	94	
<i>Not further specified</i>	25	16	33	11	457	158	618	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	233	4	237	1.7
Receipt of blood/tissue Health care setting²	0	1	1	2	105	96	201	1.4
	0	0	0	0	3	8	11	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents³	695	55	608	52	13144	763	13931	99.0

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of HIV infection)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	3	1	3	4	29	24	53	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	67	0	67	0.5
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	12	6	18	0.1
Total Children	3	1	3	4	108	30	138	1.0
Sub-total	698	56	611	56	13252	793	14069	100.0
Other/undetermined ³	68	1	122	8	4399	148	6637	
TOTAL	766	57	734	64	17651	941	20706⁴	

1. Total column includes people whose sex was not reported.
2. 'Health care setting' includes 5 cases of occupationally acquired HIV infection and 4 cases of HIV transmission in surgical rooms.
3. The 'Other/undetermined' category includes 6619 adults/adolescents and 18 children. Thirty people whose sex was reported as transgender were included in the 'Other/undetermined' category. The 'Other/undetermined' category was excluded from the calculation of the percentage of cases attributed to each exposure category.
4. See footnotes Table 3.1.

Table 3.3

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 June 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

AGE GROUP (YEARS)	1 Jul 95 – 30 Jun 96		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		Cumulative to 30 Jun 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	3	0	3	3	36	16	53	0.3
3 – 12	0	1	0	1	86	17	103	0.5
0 – 12	3	1	3	4	122	33	156	0.8
13 – 19	8	5	5	3	366	63	436	2.1
20 – 29	221	26	186	20	5679	383	6180	29.9
30 – 39	307	16	296	22	5842	247	6203	30.0
40 – 49	141	4	149	9	2625	93	2760	13.3
50 – 59	60	3	61	5	819	45	874	4.2
60 +	22	1	23	1	272	47	320	1.5
Unknown	4	1	11	0	1926	30	3777	18.2
TOTAL¹	766	57	734	64	17651	941	20706	100.0

1. See footnotes Table 3.1.

Table 3.4

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 for which an HIV seroconversion illness was diagnosed or the date of a prior negative test was within one year of diagnosis of HIV infection, by sex and State/Territory and for two six month intervals of HIV diagnosis.

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Jul 96 – 31 Dec 96		1 Jan 97 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
ACT	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
NSW	39	1	33	0	72	1	73
NT	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
QLD	10	0	6	0	16	0	16
SA	3	0	5	1	8	1	9
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	25	1	28	2	53	3	56
WA	5	0	1	0	6	0	6
TOTAL	84	2	74	4	158	6	164

Table 3.5

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 for which an HIV seroconversion illness was diagnosed or the date of a prior negative test was within one year of diagnosis of HIV infection, by sex and exposure category, and for two six month intervals of HIV diagnosis.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Jul 96 – 31 Dec 96		1 Jan 97 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	78	–	61	–	139	–	139
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	2	–	3	–	5	–	5
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	1	0	2	0	3	0	3
Heterosexual contact	2	2	4	2	6	4	10
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined	1	0	4	2	5	2	7
TOTAL	84	2	74	4	158	6	164

Table 3.6

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 for which an HIV seroconversion illness was diagnosed or the date of a prior negative test was within one year of diagnosis of HIV infection, by sex and age group and for two six month intervals of HIV diagnosis.

STATE/ (YEARS)	1 Jul 96 – 31 Dec 96		1 Jan 97 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 – 19	1	1	0	1	1	2	3
20 – 29	32	1	24	0	56	1	57
30 – 39	34	0	32	1	66	1	67
40 – 49	15	0	10	1	25	1	26
50 – 59	1	0	5	1	6	1	7
60 +	1	0	3	0	4	0	4
TOTAL	84	2	74	4	158	6	164

SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE OF HIV INFECTION IN SEXUAL HEALTH CLINICS

Table 4.1

Number of people seen, number of people tested for HIV antibody and number of people newly diagnosed with HIV infection by sex and sexual health clinic, during the quarter 1 April 1997 to 30 June 1997.

Sexual Health Clinic	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, NSW	1630	1193	651	480	5	2	7
Clinic 34, Darwin, NT	361	253	93	73	0	1	1
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	440	468	182	175	0	0	0
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	1022	689	781	495	1	0	1
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	2156	1635	1451	1369	6	2	8
TOTAL	5609	4238	3158	2592	12	5	17

Table 4.2

Number of people seen¹ who had a *previous negative HIV antibody test*, percent retested for HIV antibody, and number (percent) newly diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and exposure category, during the quarter 1 April 1997 to 30 June 1997.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	Previous negative HIV antibody test		% Retested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Homosexual/bisexual contact	730	–	66.8	–	3	–	3	0.6
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	59	–	54.2	–	0	–	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	192	137	63.5	48.2	0	1	1	0.5
Heterosexual contact	1717	1582	61.8	57.3	0	0	0	0.0
<i>outside Australia</i> ²	205	135	50.2	40.0	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1512	1447	63.4	58.9	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	–	439	–	79.5	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	31	–	74.2	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	96	130	93.8	80.0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	2794	2319	64.2	62.4	3	1	4	0.1

1. At clinics other than Clinic 34, Darwin, NT.

2. Within 3 months for Clinic 275, SA, and one year for other clinics.

Table 4.3

Number of people seen¹ with *no previous HIV antibody test*, percent tested for HIV antibody for the first time, and number (percent) newly diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and exposure category, during the quarter 1 April 1997 to 30 June 1997.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	No previous HIV antibody test		% Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Homosexual/bisexual contact	315	-	58.7	-	6	-	6	3.2
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	22	-	59.1	-	1	-	1	7.7
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	65	55	70.8	90.1	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1412	1219	64.0	67.6	2	2	4	0.2
<i>outside Australia</i> ²	109	79	64.2	46.8	0	1	1	0.9
<i>within Australia only</i>	1303	1140	64.0	69.0	2	1	3	0.2
Sex worker	-	60	-	88.3	-	1	1	1.9
Sex worker and injecting drug use	-	3	-	100.0	-	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	446	314	27.8	44.9	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	2260	1651	56.3	64.9	9	3	12	0.5

1. At clinics other than Clinic 34, Darwin, NT.

2. Within 3 months for Clinic 275 and one year for other clinics.

Table 4.4

Number of people seen¹, number of people tested for HIV antibody and number of people newly diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and age group, during the quarter 1 April 1997 to 30 June 1997.

AGE GROUP (YEARS)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 – 19	165	401	109	245	0	0	0
20 – 29	2179	2200	1400	1394	3	3	6
30 – 39	1711	925	954	567	3	0	3
40 – 49	767	344	400	237	2	1	3
50 – 59	303	95	146	65	4	0	4
60 +	123	18	56	11	0	0	0
Unknown	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5248	3985	3065	2519	12	4	16

1. At clinics other than Clinic 34, Darwin, NT.

Table 4.5

Number of people diagnosed with specific STD¹, other than HIV, by sex, exposure category and whether or not they were tested for HIV antibody² during the quarter 1 April 1997 to 30 June 1997.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	Tested for HIV antibody		Not tested for HIV antibody	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Homosexual/bisexual contact	28	–	22	–
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	1	–	2	–
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	6	2	1	1
Heterosexual contact	53	34	54	13
<i>outside Australia³</i>	11	3	15	2
<i>within Australia only</i>	42	31	39	11
Sex worker	–	12	–	1
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	2	–	0
Other/undetermined	1	2	4	1
TOTAL	89	52	83	16

1. Specific STD are gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia.
2. Includes people who may have been previously tested for HIV antibody and excludes people previously known to have HIV infection.
3. Within three months for Clinic 275 and one year for other clinics.

REPORT FROM WHO WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

Dr G Pomerol, Regional Advisor, WHO Regional Office, Manila.

Table 5.1

AIDS and HIV in the WHO Western Pacific Region by country; based on reports available at 30 June 1997.

COUNTRY/ AREA	CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES				AIDS Rate ¹	Cumulative Diagnoses HIV
	Male	Female	Children <13 Years	Total		
American Samoa	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Australia [†]	7139	299	43	7460	40.2	20706
Brunei	9	0	0	9	3.1	387
Cambodia	28	14	27	406	4.2	7699
China ²	109	8	0	117	0.0	3341
Cook Islands	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Fed. S. Micronesia	2	0	0	2	1.8	2
Fiji	2	1	0	8	1.0	35
French Polynesia	7	2	0	54	24.9	164
Guam	39	3	0	42	29.6	97
Hong Kong	225	20	5	245	4.2	776
Japan	1332	115	0	1447	1.2	4200
Kiribati	2	0	0	2	2.6	12
Laos	22	10	1	33	0.7	157
Macao	7	2	0	9	2.2	143
Malaysia	543	37	7	580	3.0	19208
Marshall Islands	1	1	0	2	3.8	9
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0.0	1
Nauru	0	0	0	0	0.0	1
New Caledonia	40	10	2	50	26.9	137
New Zealand	572	28	4	600	16.9	1167
Niue	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
N. Mariana Islands	2	0	0	6	10.4	10
Palau	1	0	0	1	5.8	1
Papua New Guinea	113	108	5	221	5.4	563
Philippines	187	108	7	295	0.5	861
Rep. of Korea	56	7	0	63	0.1	623
Samoa	4	2	1	6	3.7	9
Singapore	253	16	1	269	9.2	558
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0	0.0	2
Tokelau	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Tonga	6	0	0	6	6.1	11
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Vietnam	587	66	1	701	1.0	4915
Wallis and Futuna	1	0	0	1	7.1	2
TOTAL[†]	11289	857	104	12635	0.8	65797

1. AIDS cases per 100,000 total current population.

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NOTES

The National AIDS Registry is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National HIV Surveillance Committee, which consists of representatives from NCHECR, and the Health Departments of each State and Territory and the Commonwealth of Australia. The Registry is based on reports from doctors who diagnose AIDS, made to the Health Department in the State/Territory of diagnosis. Date of birth and a name code (first two letters of first and last name) are used to minimise duplicate registration, while maintaining confidentiality.

The National HIV Database is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National HIV Surveillance Committee. It is based on reports of new diagnoses of HIV infection from HIV Reference Laboratories (ACT, NSW, TAS, VIC), or from a combination of Reference Laboratory and diagnosing doctors (NT, QLD, SA, WA). In order to avoid counting the same case more than once, only diagnoses which are determined to be new by the diagnosing laboratory or doctor are reported for the purposes of national surveillance.

Sentinel surveillance is carried out by six sexual health clinics in five Australian cities, which send quarterly reports on HIV antibody testing to NCHECR. Tabulations from the National AIDS Registry, the National HIV Database and Sentinel HIV Surveillance in sexual health clinics are based on data available three months after the end of the reporting interval indicated, to allow for reporting delay and to incorporate newly available information.

HIV antibody testing is carried out at Public Health Laboratories and Blood Transfusion Services, and summary information on testing is sent on a four-weekly basis to the National Serology Reference Laboratory Australia, which produces quarterly tabulations for publication in the Australian HIV Surveillance Report.

Abbreviations: HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus, and unless otherwise specified, refers to HIV-1 only. AIDS is the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and STD stands for sexually transmissible disease. Specified countries are those of sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, where transmission of HIV is believed to be predominantly heterosexual. The Australian States and Territories are: Australian Capital Territory (ACT), New South Wales (NSW), Northern Territory (NT), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA), Tasmania (TAS), Victoria (VIC) and Western Australia (WA). NCHECR is the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research.

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