

# Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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## HIV prevalence and incidence among injecting drug users attending needle and syringe exchanges in Australia, 1995 – 1997

A project monitoring HIV prevalence and incidence, and injecting and sexual behaviours, among people who inject drugs has now completed three annual rounds of data collection at selected needle and syringe exchange programs (NSEP) throughout Australia.

NSEP were selected for having large numbers of clients, geographic diversity, and willingness to participate in the survey. All clients attending the participating NSEPs during the designated week each year were asked to complete a brief, self-administered questionnaire and provide a finger prick blood sample. Information was sought on demographic characteristics, and injecting and sexual behaviour. Finger prick blood samples were tested for HIV antibody (MacDonald *et al* 1997).

The survey was carried out in March 1995 (21 sites), June 1996 (20 sites) and October 1997 (23 sites). Completed questionnaires with blood samples suitable for HIV antibody testing were provided by 979 (41%), 1,453 (54%) and 1,706 (55%) injecting drug users (IDU) in 1995, 1996 and 1997 respectively (Table 1.1).

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **National meetings**

The **10th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine** will be held in Newcastle, New South Wales, on 18 – 21 November 1998.

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The **Australasian Sexual Health Conference** will be held in Cairns, Queensland, on 10 – 13 June 1998.

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### **International meeting**

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

Conference Secretariat

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**Table 1.1**  
**Number of injecting drug users participating in the surveys and HIV prevalence by year of survey and selected demographic characteristics**

Characteristic	1995		1996		1997	
	Number tested	HIV prevalence	Number tested	HIV prevalence	Number tested	HIV prevalence
<b>Total</b>	979	2.0	1453	1.7	1706	1.6
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	639	2.3	972	2.4	1120	2.1
Female	327	1.2	466	0.2	578	0.7
Other/not reported	13	7.7	15	0.0	8	0.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Less than 20	65	0.0	137	0.0	183	0.0
20 – 24	226	2.2	358	0.8	438	0.2
25 – 29	198	2.0	308	1.0	371	1.9
30 – 34	237	2.1	281	2.1	288	2.8
35 or more	246	2.4	362	3.3	407	2.5
Not reported	7	0.0	7	0.0	19	0.5
<b>Sexual preference</b>						
Heterosexual	775	0.9	1133	0.4	1348	0.7
Bisexual	104	1.9	166	1.8	182	1.1
Female homosexual	23	4.4	32	0.0	54	0.0
Male homosexual	42	23.8	60	26.7	51	31.4
Not reported	35	0.0	62	0.0	71	0.0
<b>Jurisdiction of survey</b>						
NSW	412	2.4	496	2.2	529	1.1
QLD	309	1.6	485	1.6	480	1.9
VIC	118	0.8	190	1.6	437	1.1
Other states and territories	140	2.9	282	0.7	260	2.6

In all three surveys approximately 65% of respondents were men. The median age of respondents was 29 years (range 14-54), 28 years (range 14-53) and 27 years (range 15-58) in 1995, 1996 and 1997 respectively. Approximately 80% of respondents described themselves as heterosexual, 11% as bisexual and 6% as homosexual in the three surveys; sexual preference was not reported by 3% of respondents. Self-reported condom use at last intercourse increased slightly from 32% in 1995 and 34% in 1996 to 36% in 1997.

The median duration of injecting drug use was 10 years, 8 years, and 7 years in 1995, 1996 and 1997 (range less than one to 33, 37 and 37 years respectively) (Table 1.2). About half the respondents reported heroin as the most recent drug injected (44%, 53% and 56% in 1995, 1996 and 1997) and 21%, 19% and 18% reported 'speed' as the last drug injected. The proportion of respondents reporting use of a syringe after someone else in the month prior to the survey fell from 31% and 28% in 1995 and 1996 to 20% in 1997 ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Table 1.2**  
**Number of injecting drug users participating in the surveys and selected characteristics of injecting drug use**

Characteristic	1995		1996		1997	
	Number tested	HIV prevalence	Number tested	HIV prevalence	Number tested	HIV prevalence
<b>Total</b>	979	2.0	1453	1.7	1706	1.6
<b>Years of drug use</b>						
One year or less	72	0.0	124	0.8	171	0.6
2 years	59	1.7	113	2.7	137	0.0
3 to 5	165	1.2	283	1.1	345	0.6
6 to 9	162	2.5	256	0.8	298	2.0
10 or more	503	2.6	628	2.4	703	2.4
Not reported	18	0.0	49	0.0	52	2.0
<b>Last drug injected</b>						
Anabolic steroids	11	0.0	24	0.0	26	0.0
Cocaine	18	11.1	31	0.0	30	0.0
Heroin	431	2.6	777	1.3	951	1.7
Methadone	189	0.0	169	1.2	179	2.2
Polydrugs	85	3.5	126	1.6	109	0.0
Speed	206	1.5	269	3.3	310	1.3
Other drugs	36	2.8	52	1.9	86	3.5
Not reported	3	0.0	5	0.0	15	0.0
<b>Frequency of injection last month</b>						
Not last month	70	1.4	96	1.0	114	4.4
Less than weekly	176	4.5	284	2.1	428	2.8
At least weekly	331	1.2	456	2.3	263	1.9
Daily	399	1.8	606	1.8	853	0.6
Not reported	3	0.0	11	0.0	48	0.0

HIV prevalence was low (2%, 1.7% and 1.6% in 1995, 1996 and 1997) except among males who also reported homosexual contact (24% in 1995, 27% in 1996 and 31% in 1997). In 1996 and 1997, there was a significant association between HIV prevalence and increasing age ( $p < 0.05$ ). In 1997, respondents with HIV infection injected less frequently than respondents without HIV infection ( $p = 0.002$ ).

Respondents who participated in more than one survey were matched by a coded identifier and HIV incidence was estimated for participants in the 1995 and 1996 surveys. Of 101 respondents who tested negative for HIV antibody in 1995 and were retested in 1996, one (1%) male, who reported his sexual orientation as homosexual in both surveys, seroconverted to HIV during the 15 month period. HIV incidence was 0.8 per 100 person years in the sample as a whole (95% CI: 0.02 - 4.46 per 100 person years) and 8 per 100 person years among respondents who described themselves as homosexual (95% CI: 0.2 - 45 per 100 person years).

These data demonstrate a sustained low prevalence and a very low incidence of HIV infection among injecting drug users in Australia except among male IDU who report homosexual contact.

#### **Reported by**

Margaret MacDonald

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

on behalf of the Collaboration of Australian Needle Exchanges

#### **Reference**

MacDonald M, Wodak AD, Ali R, Crofts N, Cunningham PH, Dolan KA, Kelaher M, Loxley WM, van Beek I and Kaldor JM on behalf of the Collaboration of Australian Needle Exchanges. HIV prevalence and risk behaviour in needle exchange attenders: a national study. *Medical Journal of Australia* 1997;166:237-240.

#### **Participating sites:**

**ACT** ACT IV League, Drug Referral and Information Centre

**NSW** Kirketon Road Centre, K2, Nimbin, St George, Western Sydney AIDS Prevention Unit (Harris Park and Blacktown)

**NT** NT AIDS Council, AIDS Council of Central Australia

**QLD** Biala, Cairns, GAIN, QUIVVA, Toowoomba

**SA** Clovelly Park, Noarlunga, SAVIVE, Salisbury

**TAS** Tasmanian AIDS Council

**VIC** Ballarat, Geelong, Melbourne Inner Needle Exchange, SHARPS, St Kilda Needle Exchange, Western Region AIDS and Hepatitis Prevention

**WA** AIDS Council of WA



# 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 September 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.**

## Cases

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
ACT	5	2	3	0	80	7	87	1.1
NSW	364	16	128	6	4213	153	4377	57.8
NT	2	0	3	0	30	0	30	0.4
QLD	75	4	52	8	743	40	785	10.4
SA	35	0	21	1	317	19	336	4.4
TAS	4	0	5	0	41	2	43	0.6
VIC	131	4	57	5	1491	59	1557	20.6
WA	31	2	15	4	331	23	356	4.7
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7246</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>7571</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Deaths

ACT	2	0	0	0	52	2	54	1.0
NSW	268	8	142	5	3015	112	3134	57.1
NT	3	0	2	0	23	0	23	0.4
QLD	72	5	35	1	519	27	548	10.0
SA	33	0	9	1	212	14	226	4.1
TAS	3	0	1	0	26	2	28	0.5
VIC	121	9	61	3	1176	41	1223	22.3
WA	20	2	15	1	239	14	254	4.6
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5262</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>5490</b>	<b>100.0</b>

† Total columns in Tables 2.1 – 2.5 and 5.1 include 22 AIDS cases and 16 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 September 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.**

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
<b>ACT</b>	32.8	12.9	19.5	0.0	520.2	44.8	280.6
<b>NSW</b>	118.5	5.1	41.2	1.9	1355.3	48.5	699.1
<b>NT</b>	21.0	0.0	30.5	0.0	304.9	0.0	160.9
<b>QLD</b>	45.0	2.4	30.6	4.7	437.6	23.7	231.6
<b>SA</b>	48.0	0.0	28.7	1.3	433.7	25.4	227.3
<b>TAS</b>	17.1	0.0	21.4	0.0	175.3	8.3	90.8
<b>VIC</b>	58.3	1.7	25.1	2.1	656.9	25.4	338.8
<b>WA</b>	35.1	2.3	16.7	4.5	367.6	25.8	198.8
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>788.0</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>409.5</b>

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 September 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.**

**Cases<sup>1</sup>**

AGE GROUP (years)	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	0	0	0	1	8	7	15	0.2
3 – 12	0	0	0	0	19	9	28	0.4
0 – 12	0	0	0	1	27	16	43	0.6
13 – 19	1	0	1	0	24	3	27	0.4
20 – 29	88	8	33	7	1235	81	1329	17.5
30 – 39	293	10	115	10	3055	101	3162	41.8
40 – 49	167	7	78	3	2033	48	2083	27.5
50 – 59	69	2	43	2	663	25	689	9.1
60 +	29	1	14	1	209	29	238	3.1
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7246</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>7571</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Deaths<sup>2</sup>**

AGE GROUP (years)	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	0	0	0	0	5	5	10	0.2
3 – 12	0	0	0	0	16	4	20	0.3
0 – 12	0	0	0	0	21	9	30	0.5
13 – 19	0	0	0	0	13	3	16	0.3
20 – 29	51	3	15	2	630	41	681	12.4
30 – 39	222	14	107	8	2122	74	2200	40.1
40 – 49	154	2	93	1	1678	36	1716	31.2
50 – 59	74	3	40	0	608	22	630	11.5
60 +	21	2	10	0	190	27	217	4.0
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5262</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>5490</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 September 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.**

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

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
<b>Male homosexual/bisexual contact</b>	516	–	217	–	6145	–	6145	84.0
<b>Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use</b>	38	–	15	–	329	–	329	4.5
<b>Injecting drug use</b>	19	7	11	5	133	70	203	2.8
<i>Heterosexual</i>	5	4	5	2	95	56	151	
<i>Not further specified</i>	14	3	6	3	38	14	52	
<b>Heterosexual contact:</b>	30	16	21	16	210	144	354	4.8
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	2	3	1	2	6	12	18	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	3	–	3	–	32	32	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	4	3	4	3	28	22	50	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	7	2	5	0	30	13	43	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	1	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>	16	3	10	6	118	38	156	
<b>Haemophilia/coagulation disorder</b>	4	0	5	0	106	3	109	1.5
<b>Receipt of blood /tissue</b>	2	4	0	0	76	57	133	1.8
<b>Health care setting</b>	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
<b>Total Adults/Adolescents†</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>7277</b>	<b>99.4</b>

**Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)**

<b>Mother with/at risk for HIV infection</b>	0	0	0	1	11	13	24	0.3
<b>Haemophilia/coagulation disorder</b>	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0.1
<b>Receipt of blood /tissue</b>	0	0	0	0	11	3	14	0.2
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7027</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>7320</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Other/undetermined	38	1	15	2	219	10	251	
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7246</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>7511</b>	

**Table 2.5**

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

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

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
<b>Male homosexual/bisexual contact</b>	419	–	222	–	4519	–	4519	84.9
<b>Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use</b>	31	–	16	–	230	–	230	4.3
<b>Injecting drug use</b>	13	5	5	3	80	48	128	2.4
<i>Heterosexual</i>	8	4	3	3	66	42	108	
<i>Not further specified</i>	5	1	2	0	14	6	20	
<b>Heterosexual contact:</b>	21	18	11	6	125	95	220	4.1
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	3	1	0	2	7	9	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	2	–	2	–	24	24	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	0	3	1	0	9	11	20	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	4	2	0	0	13	10	23	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	1	2	0	0	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	5	7	1	77	23	100	
<b>Haemophilia/coagulation disorder</b>	11	0	2	0	78	3	81	1.5
<b>Receipt of blood /tissue</b>	4	0	1	1	67	48	115	2.2
<b>Health care setting</b>	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0
<b>Total Adults/Adolescents†</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5100</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>5296</b>	<b>99.4</b>

**Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)**

<b>Mother with/at risk for HIV infection</b>	0	0	0	0	7	7	14	0.3
<b>Haemophilia/coagulation disorder</b>	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0.0
<b>Receipt of blood /tissue</b>	0	0	0	0	11	3	14	0.3
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5123</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>5329</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Other/undetermined	22	1	8	1	139	6	161	
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5262</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>5490</b>	



## THE NATIONAL HIV DATABASE

**Table 3.1**

**Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex<sup>1</sup> and State/Territory, cumulative to 30 September 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.**

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate <sup>2</sup>
<b>ACT</b>	9	0	7	4	180	21	201	64.8
<b>NSW<sup>3</sup></b>	380	35	336	23	10622	500	13197	210.8
<b>NT</b>	4	0	8	2	92	5	97	52.0
<b>QLD<sup>4</sup></b>	148	9	98	15	1772	114	1892	55.8
<b>SA</b>	34	1	33	5	620	49	669	45.3
<b>TAS</b>	5	0	1	0	77	4	81	17.1
<b>VIC<sup>5</sup></b>	168	13	177	14	3627	190	3855	83.9
<b>WA</b>	38	7	31	5	827	80	910	50.8
<b>TOTAL<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>786</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17817</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>20902<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>113.1</b>

1. Thirty one people (13 NSW, 5 QLD, 10 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 2,062 people whose sex was not reported.
4. Cumulative total for QLD includes 1 person whose sex was not reported.
5. Cumulative total for VIC includes 28 people whose sex was not reported.
6. Cumulative total for Australia includes 2,091 people whose sex was not reported.
7. Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,700 (range 15,800 to 17,600). 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 September 1997 and for two previous yearly intervals.**

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>	%
<b>Male homosexual/bisexual contact</b>	586	-	455	-	11288	-	11288	79.3
<b>Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use</b>	26	-	23	-	466	-	466	3.3
<b>Injecting drug use</b>	20	3	14	4	495	154	668	4.7
<i>Heterosexual</i>	7	2	7	2	142	102	246	
<i>Not further specified</i>	13	1	7	2	353	52	422	
<b>Heterosexual contact:</b>	65	57	71	49	691	519	1215	8.5
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	6	1	2	16	64	80	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	-	6	-	2	-	79	79	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	10	9	13	13	72	81	154	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	21	11	20	9	96	55	151	
<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>	5	8	2	9	35	63	98	
<i>Not further specified</i>	28	17	35	14	468	163	635	
<b>Haemophilia/coagulation disorder</b>	0	0	1	0	234	4	238	1.7
<b>Receipt of blood /tissue</b>	1	2	0	2	105	97	202	1.4
<b>Health care setting<sup>2</sup></b>	0	0	0	0	3	8	11	0.1
<b>Total Adults/Adolescents</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>13282</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>14088</b>	<b>99.0</b>

**Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)**

<b>Mother with/at risk for HIV infection</b>	3	2	3	2	29	24	53	0.4
<b>Haemophilia/coagulation disorder</b>	0	0	0	0	66	0	66	0.5
<b>Receipt of blood /tissue</b>	0	0	0	0	13	6	19	0.1
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>13390</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>14226</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Other/undetermined <sup>3</sup>	85	1	124	11	4427	151	6676	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17817</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>20902<sup>4</sup></b>	

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 6658 adults/adolescents and 18 children. Thirty one 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 September 1997, and for two previous yearly intervals.

AGE GROUP (YEARS)	1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		Cumulative to 30 Sep 97			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	3	1	3	2	36	16	53	0.2
3 – 12	0	1	0	0	86	17	103	0.5
0 – 12	3	2	3	2	122	33	156	0.7
13 – 19	9	5	3	4	368	64	439	2.1
20 – 29	217	29	180	23	5728	394	6242	29.9
30 – 39	313	20	268	19	5896	252	6262	30.0
40 – 49	148	3	150	14	2667	97	2809	13.4
50 – 59	68	4	54	4	831	45	887	4.2
60 +	22	1	24	2	276	48	325	1.6
Unknown	6	1	9	0	1929	30	3782	18.1
<b>TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>786</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17817</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>20902</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. See footnotes Table 3.1.

**Table 3.4**

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 1996 to 30 September 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 Oct 96 – 31 Mar 97		1 Apr 97 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	36	0	23	0	59	0	59
NT	1	0	1	1	2	1	3
QLD	6	0	5	0	11	0	11
SA	3	1	4	1	7	2	9
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	34	1	19	1	53	2	55
WA	3	0	2	0	5	0	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>142</b>



**Table 3.5**

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 1996 to 30 September 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 Oct 96 – 31 Mar 97		1 Apr 97 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	71	–	46	–	117	–	117
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	3	–	3	–	6	–	6
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	3	0	0	0	3	0	3
Heterosexual contact	4	1	5	2	9	3	12
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined	2	1	0	1	2	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>142</b>

**Table 3.6**

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 1996 to 30 September 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 Oct 96 – 31 Mar 97		1 Apr 97 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 – 19	0	1	1	1	1	2	3
20 – 29	30	0	18	0	48	0	48
30 – 39	36	1	20	0	56	1	57
40 – 49	12	0	10	1	22	1	23
50 – 59	3	0	3	1	6	1	7
60 +	2	0	2	0	4	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>142</b>



## 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 July 1997 to 30 September 1997.

Sexual Health Clinic	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
<b>Sydney Sexual Health Centre, NSW</b>	1615	1231	589	483	5	0	5
<b>Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD</b>	1024	609	377	161	2	0	2
<b>Clinic 34, Darwin, NT</b>	255	192	132	99	0	0	0
<b>Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD</b>	441	509	298	366	1	0	1
<b>Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA</b>	1089	679	770	455	0	0	0
<b>Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC</b>	2346	1666	1478	1357	6	1	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6770</b>	<b>4886</b>	<b>3644</b>	<b>2921</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 4.2**

Number of people seen<sup>1</sup> 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 July 1997 to 30 September 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	841	–	64.9	–	6	–	6	1.1
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	75	–	56.0	–	0	–	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	226	194	58.8	57.2	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	2209	1784	58.0	59.8	2	0	2	0.1
<i>outside Australia</i> <sup>2</sup>	241	165	56.7	41.8	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1968	1619	58.6	61.6	2	0	2	0.1
Sex worker	–	445	–	74.8	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	35	–	62.9	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	107	139	90.7	71.2	0	0	0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3458</b>	<b>2597</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.2</b>

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 seen<sup>1</sup> 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 July 1997 to 30 September 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	379	–	57.8	–	3	–	3	1.4
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	19	–	94.7	–	0	–	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	95	69	74.7	70.5	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1709	1489	54.3	58.8	1	0	1	0.01
<i>outside Australia</i> <sup>2</sup>	108	101	63.9	44.6	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1601	1388	53.7	59.9	1	0	1	0.01
Sex worker	–	73	–	80.8	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	2	–	100.0	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	600	442	29.5	42.3	2	1	3	0.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2802</b>	<b>2075</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.3</b>

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 seen<sup>1</sup>, 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 July 1997 to 30 September 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	231	488	150	259	0	0	0
20 – 29	2749	2634	1649	1628	9	1	10
30 – 39	2059	1044	1014	611	3	0	3
40 – 49	942	389	456	250	1	0	1
50 – 59	366	118	171	65	1	0	1
60 +	167	20	72	9	0	0	0
Unknown	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6515</b>	<b>4694</b>	<b>3512</b>	<b>2822</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>

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

**Table 4.5**

Number of people diagnosed with specific STD<sup>1</sup>, other than HIV, by sex, exposure category and whether or not they were tested for HIV antibody<sup>2</sup> during the quarter 1 July 1997 to 30 September 1997.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	Tested for HIV antibody		Not tested for HIV antibody	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Homosexual/bisexual contact	21	–	15	–
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	2	–	0	–
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	6	2	2	2
Heterosexual contact	51	21	46	17
<i>outside Australia</i> <sup>3</sup>	10	3	16	3
<i>within Australia only</i>	41	18	30	14
Sex worker	–	9	–	0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	0	0	1
Other/undetermined	5	1	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>23</b>

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 Pomeroy, 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 September 1997.

COUNTRY/ AREA	CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES				AIDS Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cumulative Diagnoses HIV
	Male	Female	Children <13 Years	Total		
American Samoa	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Australia†	7246	303	43	7571	40.9	20902
Brunei	9	1	0	10	3.1	422
Cambodia	104	23	122	617	4.2	9051
China <sup>2</sup>	145	10	0	155	0.0	5990
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	36
French Polynesia	7	2	0	54	24.9	164
Guam	43	4	0	47	29.6	106
Hong Kong	249	25	5	274	4.2	855
Japan	700	106	10	1447	1.2	3324
Kiribati	4	0	0	4	2.6	16
Laos	34	24	2	69	0.7	243
Macao	9	2	0	11	2.2	151
Malaysia	1047	63	19	1110	3.0	21561
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	45	10	1	55	26.9	145
New Zealand	593	28	4	621	16.9	1197
Niue	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
N. Mariana Islands	3	1	0	7	10.4	12
Palau	1	0	0	1	5.8	1
Papua New Guinea	73	74	9	306	5.4	784
Philippines	200	110	7	310	0.5	922
Rep. of Korea	74	9	0	83	0.1	679
Samoa	4	2	2	6	3.7	9
Singapore	295	19	1	314	9.2	631
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0	0.0	1
Tokelau	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Tonga	1	0	0	7	6.1	11
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0	0.0	1
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Vietnam	802	106	4	1020	1.0	6723
Wallis and Futuna	1	0	0	1	7.1	2
<b>TOTAL†</b>	<b>11694</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>14112</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>73952</b>

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

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**National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research**

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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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