

Australian HIV Surveillance Update

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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Diagnoses in the fourth quarter

1 October – 31 December 1997

- A total of 178 diagnoses of HIV infection, 56 diagnoses of AIDS and 31 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 1998, to have occurred in the *fourth quarter of 1997*.
- Following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the *fourth quarter of 1997* were 100 and 75, respectively.
- *In comparison*, 211 diagnoses of HIV infection, 116 diagnoses of AIDS and 102 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 1998, to have occurred in the *fourth quarter of 1996*.

Diagnoses in the year to 31 December 1997

- 791 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 311 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 218 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 31 March 1998.

Total diagnoses to 31 December 1997

- 18,674 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 16,030 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
 - 7,731 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 5,540 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 31 March 1998.

HIV Testing in Sexual Health Clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,850 people in the period 1 October to 31 December 1997 who were not previously known to have HIV infection.

- Of 2,286 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 6 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 3,339 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 9 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 2,030 people who reported a history of heterosexual contact only and who were retested for HIV antibody following a negative test, none were newly diagnosed with HIV infection.

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 31 December 1997 had an average age of 36 years, and 0.9% were in the age group 13 – 19 years. 89% were male, 9% were female and sex was not reported for 2% of cases.

Of the 85% of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in the year to 31 December 1997 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, 18.6% reported a history of heterosexual contact only.

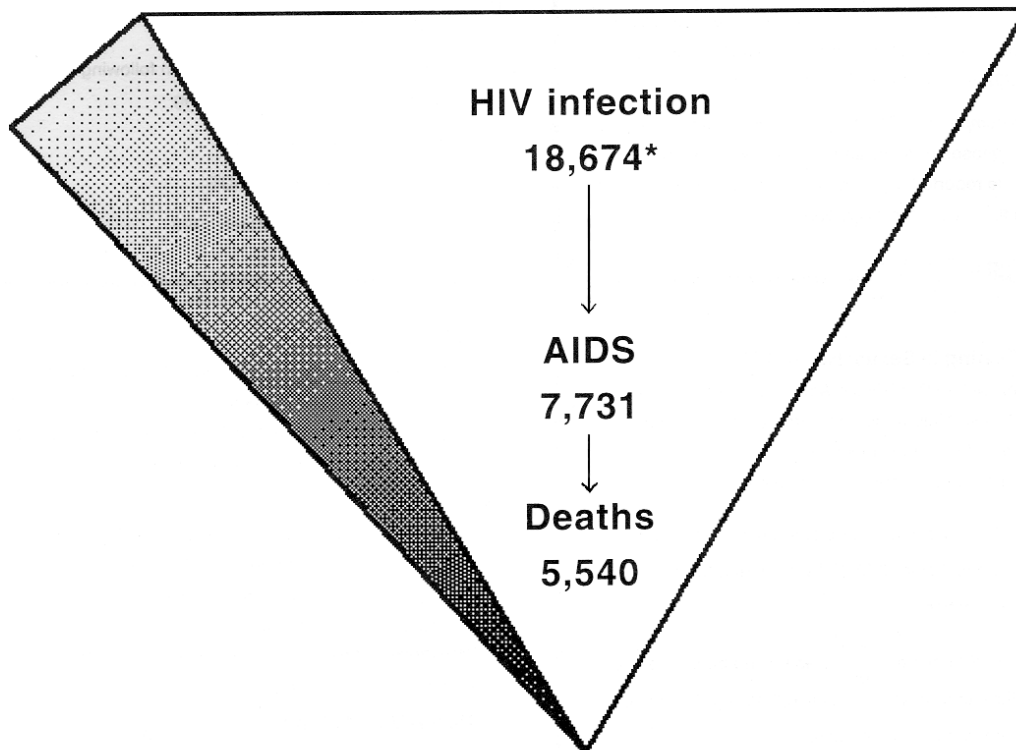
New HIV infections

During the fourth quarter of 1997, 35 cases were reported as having newly acquired HIV infection, identified by a negative test within the 12 months prior to diagnosis or the diagnosis of HIV seroconversion illness. Three (8.6%) cases of newly acquired HIV infection were reported for which exposure to HIV was attributed to heterosexual contact only.

For further information, contact the Epidemiology Unit of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research on (02) 9332 4648
All data in this update are provisional and subject to revision

The HIV epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 December 1997



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,030 (range 15,620 to 16,440), cumulative to 31 December 1997.