



Australian HIV Surveillance Update

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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Diagnoses in the first quarter

1 January – 31 March 1998

- A total of 199 diagnoses of HIV infection, 33 diagnoses of AIDS and 22 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 June 1998, to have occurred in the *first quarter of 1998*.
- Following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the *first quarter of 1998* were 80 and 60, respectively.
- *In comparison*, 227 diagnoses of HIV infection, 97 diagnoses of AIDS and 80 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 June 1998, to have occurred in the *first quarter of 1997*.

Diagnoses in the year to 31 March 1998

- 769 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 250 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 161 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 30 June 1998.

Total diagnoses to 31 March 1998

- 18,946 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 16,240 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
 - 7,766 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 5,575 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 30 June 1998.

HIV Testing in Sexual Health Clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 6,085 people in the period 1 January to 31 March 1998 who were not previously known to have HIV infection.

- Of 2,339 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 4 (0.2%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 3,535 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 8 (0.2%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 2,216 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 March 1998 had an average age of 36 years, and 1.2% were in the age group 13 – 19 years. 89% were male, 9% were female and sex was not reported for 2% of cases.

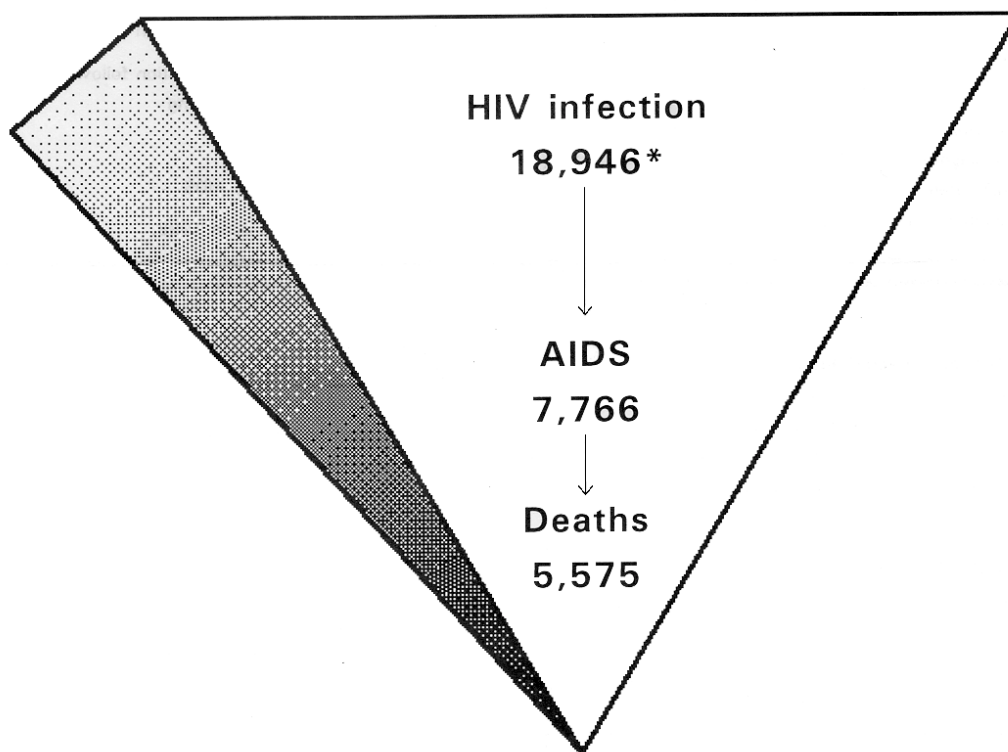
Of the 84% of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in the year to 31 March 1998 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, 19.5% reported a history of heterosexual contact only.

New HIV infections

During the first quarter of 1998, 32 males 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. Two (6.3%) cases of newly acquired HIV infection in males were reported for which exposure to HIV was attributed to heterosexual contact only.

The HIV epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 March 1998



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,240 (range 15,850 to 16,640), cumulative to 31 March 1998.