



Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Vol 14 No 4
Oct 1998

Uptake of antiretroviral treatment in Australia, 1996 - 1997

There have recently been major improvements in antiretroviral treatments available for people infected with HIV. In this article we review the available data regarding uptake of antiretroviral treatments in Australia.

Drug supply data

In Australia, all antiretroviral treatments are prescribed through the Highly Specialised Drugs Program. Summary data of the numbers of prescriptions filed for each antiretroviral drug are available through this program, based on returns from pharmacies. The returns are thought to be close to complete, although there may be a modest understatement of numbers. In the last quarter of 1997 these data indicate that 5,483 people were receiving either zidovudine (AZT) or stavudine (d4T). The Observational Database Pilot Study (Law *et al* 1998) indicates that in the last quarter of 1997, 90.7% of all people receiving any antiretroviral treatment were receiving AZT or d4T as a component of their therapy. Taken together, these data suggest that around 6,000 people were receiving some antiretroviral treatment in the last quarter of 1997.

continued on page 3...

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Special Report**
Uptake of antiretroviral treatment in Australia, 1996 - 1997
- **Announcements**
■ Contents and List of Tables page 22
- **Regular Reports**
National AIDS Registry
National HIV Database
Sentinel HIV surveillance in sexual health clinics
- **Report from WHO Western Pacific Region**

The National Centre is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services through the Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases (ANCARD), and is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National meetings

Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand conference
“Control of Communicable Diseases in Australia” will be held in Canberra, ACT
on 10 November 1998. Telephone: 02 6289 9245. Facsimile: 02 6289 7791.
E-mail: ccd.conf@health.gov.au

The 10th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
will be held in Newcastle, New South Wales, on 18 – 21 November 1998.
Telephone: 61 2 9241 1478. Facsimile: 61 2 9251 3552.
E-mail: ashm@icmsaust.com.au

... continued from page 1

It is currently estimated that there were around 11,000 people living with HIV at the end of 1997, of whom around 10,000 were diagnosed with HIV infection (NCHECR 1998). Therefore, the drug supply data indicate that at least 55% of all people living with HIV, or 60% of people diagnosed with HIV, are receiving antiretroviral treatment.

Survey data

Survey data on the uptake of antiretroviral treatment in people living with HIV are summarised in Table 1.1. Studies based on survey questionnaires and interviews with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) all show that in the second half of 1997, somewhere around 75% to 80% of those people surveyed reported receiving any antiretroviral treatment, with around 70% receiving three or more drugs in combination. The Observational Database Pilot Study, a cross-sectional survey of people attending general practitioners, was also broadly consistent with these

Table 1.1
Surveys of antiretroviral treatment uptake in Australia, 1996-1997

SURVEY	Time Period	Number of participants	Antiretroviral treatment	
			% on any	% on 3+ drugs
PLWHA Snapshot ¹	Nov 1996	124	67%	-
SMASH ²	Jan - Jun 1996	94	38%	12%
	Jul - Dec 1996	47	68%	40%
	Jan - Jun 1997	68	70%	57%
	Jul - Dec 1997	50	84%	72%
Periodic Survey, Sydney ³	Aug 1997	265	75%	
HIV Futures Survey ⁴	Jul-Sep 1997	925	78%	66%
Observational Database Pilot Study ⁵	1997	1073	71%	60%

1. Participants were people living in Australia (Ezzy *et al* 1997)
2. Participants were homosexually active men enrolled in the SMASH cohort study in Sydney (NCHECR 1998)
3. Participants were people living in Sydney (NCHECR 1998)
4. Participants were people living in Australia (Ezzy *et al* 1998)
5. Participants were people attending general practitioners in Sydney, Melbourne or Perth (Law *et al* 1998)

results, with 71% on any antiretroviral treatment, and 60% on three or more drugs in combination.

All these surveys give higher proportions of people receiving treatment than was estimated from the drug supply data. This is probably because these surveys are, by necessity, based on self-selected samples of all people living with diagnosed HIV infection. Rates of treatment may well be lower in people with HIV either not attending clinics for medical care, or not interviewed in surveys.

Summary

Taken together, these data sources suggest that at least 55% of all people living with HIV, and 60% of those people diagnosed with HIV, were receiving some antiretroviral treatment towards the end of 1997. Of those people receiving antiretroviral treatment, around 85% were receiving combinations of at least three antiretroviral drugs.

Reported by

Matthew G Law¹, Michael Bartos², Martyn Goddard³

1. National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW, Sydney
2. National Centre in HIV Social Research, La Trobe University, Melbourne
3. Clinical Trials and Treatments Advisory Committee, Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases, Sydney

References

Ezzy D, de Visser R, Bartos M, McDonald K, O'Donnell D, Rosenthal D. HIV futures community report: health, relationships, community and employment. La Trobe University, Melbourne, and National Centre in HIV Social Research, Macquarie University, Sydney, 1998

Ezzy D, Grubb I, de Visser R, McConachy D. PLWHA Snapshots: treatment, accommodation and employment, a community report. La Trobe University, Melbourne, and National Centre in HIV Social Research, Macquarie University, Sydney, 1997

Law MG, Cui J, Duncombe C, Mallal S, Roth N, Anderson J. Observational Database Pilot Study: summary report. Report to CTTAC, Sydney, 1998

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (Editor). *HIV/AIDS and Related Diseases in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 1998*. National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 1998

National Centre in HIV Social Research. Sydney Gay Community Surveillance Report: update to December 1997. National Centre in HIV Social Research, Macquarie University, Sydney, 1998

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 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Cases

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
ACT	3	0	2	1	82	8	90	1.1
NSW	221	13	116	3	4382	159	4552	58.0
NT	3	0	3	0	32	0	32	0.4
QLD	61	7	38	7	766	45	813	10.4
SA	23	1	13	1	324	20	344	4.4
TAS	7	0	0	0	41	2	43	0.5
VIC	84	8	51	3	1543	64	1614	20.6
WA	25	5	8	0	337	23	362	4.6
TOTAL†	427	34	231	15	7507	321	7850	100.0

Deaths

ACT	2	0	0	0	62	2	64	1.2
NSW	183	6	54	1	3053	112	3172	56.6
NT	3	0	0	0	23	0	23	0.4
QLD	45	1	18	1	533	28	563	10.1
SA	13	1	9	1	220	15	235	4.2
TAS	2	0	1	0	27	2	29	0.5
VIC	81	3	40	5	1209	46	1261	22.5
WA	20	1	4	2	241	16	258	4.6
TOTAL†	349	12	126	10	5368	221	5605	100.0

† 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 population¹ by sex and State/Territory of diagnosis for the two most recent yearly intervals.**

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97			1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	19.6	0.0	9.7	13.1	6.4	9.7
NSW	71.3	4.1	37.5	37.0	0.9	18.9
NT	30.7	0.0	16.2	30.0	0.0	15.9
QLD	36.1	4.2	20.2	22.1	4.1	13.1
SA	31.5	1.3	16.3	17.7	1.3	9.4
TAS	29.9	0.0	14.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
VIC	37.1	3.5	20.1	22.3	1.3	11.7
WA	27.9	5.6	16.8	8.8	0.0	4.4
TOTAL	46.6	3.7	25.0	24.9	1.6	13.2

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 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Cases¹

AGEGROUP (years)	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	0	1	1	0	9	7	16	0.2
3 – 12	0	0	0	0	19	9	28	0.4
0 – 12	0	1	1	0	28	16	44	0.6
13 – 19	2	0	0	0	25	4	29	0.4
20 – 29	55	8	26	5	1272	84	1369	17.4
30 – 39	185	14	92	5	3167	109	3282	41.8
40 – 49	112	5	69	4	2104	52	2158	27.5
50 – 59	53	4	30	0	690	26	717	9.1
60 +	20	2	13	1	221	30	251	3.2
TOTAL†	427	34	231	15	7507	321	7850	100.0

Deaths²

AGEGROUP (years)	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	0	0	0	0	5	5	10	0.2
3 – 12	0	0	0	1	16	5	21	0.4
0 – 12	0	0	0	1	21	10	31	0.6
13 – 19	0	0	0	0	13	3	16	0.3
20 – 29	23	2	12	1	639	41	690	12.3
30 – 39	142	8	51	5	2169	79	2252	40.2
40 – 49	124	1	29	3	1698	39	1739	31.0
50 – 59	45	0	25	0	629	22	651	11.6
60 +	15	1	9	0	199	27	226	4.0
TOTAL†	349	12	126	10	5368	221	5605	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 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

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

EXPOSURECATEGORY	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	330	–	171	–	6343	–	6343	83.6
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	20	–	9	–	338	–	338	4.5
Injecting drug use	11	7	12	3	143	73	216	2.8
<i>Heterosexual</i>	4	3	7	2	100	58	158	
<i>Not further specified</i>	7	4	5	1	43	15	58	
Heterosexual contact:	33	22	25	10	239	156	395	5.2
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	2	4	0	0	7	15	22	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	4	–	1	–	35	35	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	4	3	8	4	35	23	58	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	7	1	4	1	33	13	46	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	1	2	9	11	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	2	3	1	1	27	20	47	
<i>Not further specified</i>	18	7	12	2	135	41	176	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	5	0	1	0	108	3	111	1.5
Receipt of blood /tissue	2	2	1	1	78	59	137	1.8
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents†	401	31	219	14	7250	294	7544	99.4

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	1	1	0	12	13	25	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	1	0	28	16	44	0.6
Sub-total	401	32	220	14	7278	310	7588	100.0
Other/undetermined	26	2	11	1	229	11	262	
TOTAL†	427	34	231	15	7507	321	7850	

Table 2.5

Deaths following AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

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

EXPOSURECATEGORY	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	286	–	97	–	4596	–	4596	84.6
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	20	–	10	–	240	–	240	4.4
Injecting drug use	12	2	3	2	85	49	134	2.5
<i>Heterosexual</i>	5	2	1	1	67	42	109	
<i>Not further specified</i>	7	0	2	1	18	7	25	
Heterosexual contact:	15	8	4	5	127	100	227	4.2
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	1	1	2	8	10	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	2	–	1	–	25	25	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	1	0	0	1	9	11	20	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	1	1	1	1	12	10	22	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	1	1	0	0	2	6	8	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	2	3	1	0	22	15	37	
<i>Not further specified</i>	10	1	1	1	80	25	105	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	3	0	3	0	84	3	87	1.6
Receipt of blood /tissue	3	1	0	1	67	50	117	2.1
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents†	339	11	117	8	5200	204	5404	99.4

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	0	1	7	8	15	0.3
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0.1
Receipt of blood /tissue	0	0	0	0	11	2	13	0.2
Total Children	0	0	0	0	21	10	31	0.6
Sub-total	339	11	117	9	5221	214	5435	100.0
Other/undetermined	10	1	9	1	147	7	170	
TOTAL†	349	12	126	10	5368	221	5605	

THE NATIONAL HIV DATABASE

Table 3.1

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex¹ and State/Territory, cumulative to 30 June 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate ²
ACT	8	4	6	2	183	22	205	66.3
NSW³	396	24	350	30	10343	553	11177	177.2
NT	7	2	7	2	98	7	105	55.5
QLD	121	16	103	17	1828	128	1962	57.2
SA	40	5	28	7	635	54	689	46.5
TAS	3	0	2	0	77	4	81	17.2
VIC⁴	171	11	142	9	3706	194	3938	85.1
WA	37	7	32	10	860	89	952	52.6
TOTAL⁵	783	69	670	77	17730	1051	19109⁶	102.6

- Forty one people (19 NSW, 6 QLD, 13 VIC and 3 WA) whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the total columns of Tables 3.1 - 3.3.
- Rate per one hundred thousand current population. Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar interval from *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics).
- Cumulative total for NSW includes 262 people whose sex was not reported.
- Cumulative total for VIC includes 25 people whose sex was not reported.
- Cumulative total for Australia includes 287 people whose sex was not reported.
- Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,390 (range 16,000 to 16,780). 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 1998 and for two previous yearly intervals.

EXPOSURECATEGORY	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	563	-	460	-	12167	-	12167	79.4
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	26	-	21	-	542	-	542	3.5
Injecting drug use	20	2	14	7	515	167	689	4.5
<i>Heterosexual</i>	12	1	9	6	166	113	280	
<i>Not further specified</i>	8	1	5	1	349	54	409	
Heterosexual contact:	71	57	70	63	756	589	1348	8.8
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	5	3	6	20	71	91	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	-	4	-	1	-	89	89	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	11	14	13	18	78	93	172	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	21	11	20	13	115	64	179	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	1	0	0	0	5	13	18	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	3	12	4	11	41	77	119	
<i>Not further specified</i>	34	11	30	14	497	182	680	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	225	4	229	1.5
Receipt of blood /tissue	1	2	1	2	105	101	206	1.3
Health care setting²	0	0	0	0	3	8	11	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents	681	61	566	72	14313	869	15192	99.1

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of HIV infection)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	2	5	5	0	35	25	60	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	66	0	66	0.4
Receipt of blood /tissue	0	0	0	0	13	7	20	0.1
Total Children	2	5	5	0	114	32	146	0.9
Sub-total	683	66	571	72	14427	901	15338	100.0
Other/undetermined ³	100	3	99	5	3303	150	3771	
TOTAL	783	69	670	77	17730	1051	19109⁴	

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 3754 adults/adolescents and 17 children. Forty 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 June 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

AGEGROUP (YEARS)	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 97		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		Cumulative to 30 Jun 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	2	3	4	0	40	16	57	0.3
3 – 12	0	2	1	0	87	19	106	0.6
0 – 12	2	5	5	0	127	35	163	0.9
13 – 19	7	3	4	6	396	69	473	2.5
20 – 29	198	20	187	35	6182	435	6738	35.3
30 – 39	322	23	243	26	6495	276	6885	36.0
40 – 49	156	11	148	9	3043	107	3197	16.7
50 – 59	66	5	63	0	983	47	1043	5.5
60 +	23	2	18	1	316	52	370	1.9
Unknown	9	0	2	0	188	30	240	1.2
TOTAL¹	783	69	670	77	17730	1051	19109	100.0

1. See footnotes Table 3.1.

Table 3.4

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 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 97 – 31 Dec 97		1 Jan 98 – 30 Jun 98		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
ACT	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
NSW	21	2	30	0	51	2	53
NT	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
QLD	8	0	7	0	15	0	15
SA	4	1	5	0	9	1	10
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	19	1	15	0	34	1	35
WA	4	0	5	0	9	0	9
TOTAL	57	4	65	0	122	4	126

Table 3.5

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 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 97 – 31 Dec 97		1 Jan 98 – 30 Jun 98		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	52	-	51	-	103	-	103
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	3	-	1	-	4	-	4
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Heterosexual contact	2	4	4	0	6	4	10
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined	0	0	8	0	8	0	8
TOTAL	57	4	65	0	122	4	126

Table 3.6

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 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.

AGE GROUP (YEARS)	1 Jul 97 – 31 Dec 97		1 Jan 98 – 30 Jun 98		1 Jul 97 – 30 Jun 98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 – 19	1	1	0	0	1	1	2
20 – 29	27	1	28	0	55	1	56
30 – 39	20	2	26	0	46	2	48
40 – 49	7	0	3	0	10	0	10
50 – 59	2	0	6	0	8	0	8
60 +	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
TOTAL	57	4	65	0	122	4	126

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 1998 to 30 June 1998.

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	1537	1055	515	382	3	0	3
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	820	545	270	156	0	0	0
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	413	532	186	300	0	0	0
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	1056	703	793	512	1	0	1
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	2072	1641	1230	1128	2	1	3
TOTAL	5898	4476	2994	2478	6	1	7

Table 4.2

Number of people seen 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 1998 to 30 June 1998.

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	789	-	60.5	-	1	-	1	0.2
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	74	-	48.6	-	1	-	1	2.8
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	220	170	53.6	51.8	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1898	1846	54.7	55.9	1	0	1	0.05
<i>outside Australia¹</i>	233	207	43.3	43.0	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1665	1639	56.3	57.5	1	0	1	0.05
Sex worker	-	278	-	76.6	-	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	-	23	-	56.5	-	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	99	165	85.8	80.0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	3080	2482	56.9	59.5	3	0	3	0.1

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

Table 4.3

Number of people seen 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 1998 to 30 June 1998.

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	380	-	48.4	-	2	-	2	1.1
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	34	-	67.6	-	0	-	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	87	70	82.8	98.6	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1546	1408	54.8	53.7	1	0	1	0.06
<i>outside Australia¹</i>	132	109	61.4	45.0	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1414	1299	52.1	54.4	1	0	1	0.07
Sex worker	-	48	-	70.8	-	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	-	2	-	50.0	-	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	490	444	29.4	31.5	0	1	1	0.4
TOTAL	2537	1972	48.9	50.7	3	1	4	0.2

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

Table 4.4

Number of people seen, 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 1998 to 30 June 1998.

AGEGROUP (YEARS)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 – 19	203	528	122	271	0	0	0
20 – 29	2540	2499	1456	1386	2	1	3
30 – 39	1878	949	860	534	2	0	2
40 – 49	776	377	343	215	1	0	1
50 – 59	355	100	151	62	0	0	0
60 +	145	22	61	9	1	0	1
Not reported	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	5898	4476	2994	2478	6	1	7

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 1998 to 30 June 1998.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	Tested for HIV antibody		Not tested for HIV antibody	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Homosexual/bisexual contact	26	-	31	-
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	3	-	1	-
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	8	3	1	0
Heterosexual contact	58	52	51	27
<i>outside Australia³</i>	10	10	13	2
<i>within Australia only</i>	48	42	38	25
Sex worker	-	4	-	0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	-	0	-	1
Other/undetermined	4	4	7	6
TOTAL	99	63	91	34

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 June 1998.

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
Australia†	7507	321	44	7850	42.1	19109
Brunei	11	1	0	12	3.1	475
Cambodia	108	23	122	1379	4.2	14670
China ²	269	18	0	301	0	10676
Cook Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fed. S. Micronesia	2	0	0	2	1.8	2
Fiji	2	1	0	8	1	43
French Polynesia	4	0	0	54	24.9	174
Guam	45	4	0	49	29.6	108
Hong Kong	314	35	5	349	4.2	1066
Japan	1007	162	10	1897	1.2	5388
Kiribati	3	1	0	4	2.6	20
Laos	42	29	2	91	0.7	288
Macao	11	2	0	13	2.2	173
Malaysia	1696	108	19	1804	3	26549
Marshall Islands	1	1	0	2	3.8	9
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0	3
Nauru	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Caledonia	52	14	1	66	26.9	169
New Zealand	626	30	4	656	18.9	1285
Niue	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Mariana Islands	5	1	0	8	10.4	15
Palau	1	0	0	1	5.8	1
Papua New Guinea	215	196	9	417	5.4	1213
Philippines	219	123	7	343	0.5	1099
Rep. of Korea	104	11	0	115	0.1	811
Samoa	4	2	2	6	3.7	9
Singapore	389	30	1	419	9.2	831
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tokelau	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tonga	10	2	0	14	6.1	19
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	1008	157	4	1819	1	10118
Wallis and Futuna	1	0	0	1	7.1	2
TOTAL†	13656	1272	230	17680	0.8	94328

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

CONTENTS

Uptake of antiretroviral treatment in Australia, 1996 - 1997	1
Announcements	2
The National AIDS Registry	11
The National HIV Database	17
Sentinel surveillance of HIV infection in sexual health clinics	23
Report from WHO Western Pacific Region	29
Notes	32

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.1	Surveys of antiretroviral treatment uptake in Australia, 1996 - 1997	3
Table 2.1	AIDS cases and deaths by sex and State/Territory	5
Table 2.2	Incidence of AIDS by sex and State/Territory	6
Table 2.3	AIDS cases and deaths by sex and age at diagnosis	7
Table 2.4	AIDS cases by sex and exposure category	8
Table 2.5	AIDS deaths by sex and exposure category	9
Table 3.1	New diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and State/Territory	11
Table 3.2	New diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and exposure category	12
Table 3.3	New diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group	14
Table 3.4	Cases of recent HIV infection by sex and State/Territory	14
Table 3.5	Cases of recent HIV infection by sex and exposure category	15
Table 3.6	Cases of recent HIV infection by sex and age group	15
Table 4.1	People seen, tested for HIV antibody and diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and sexual health clinic	16
Table 4.2	People seen, retested for HIV antibody and diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and exposure category	17
Table 4.3	People seen, tested for HIV antibody for the first time and diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and exposure category	18
Table 4.4	People seen, tested for HIV antibody and diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and age group	19
Table 4.5	People diagnosed with specific STD, other than HIV, by sex, exposure category and whether or not they were tested for HIV antibody	20
Table 5.1	AIDS and HIV in the WHO Western Pacific Region by country	21

The Australian HIV Surveillance Report is printed on
100% recycled paper

Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Editor John Kaldor

Assistant Editor Ann McDonald

Editorial Advisory Panel Frank Bowden, David Cooper,
Nick Crofts, Ken Donald,
Basil Donovan, Helen
Longbottom, Aileen Plant,
Linda Selvey, Charles Watson

Desktop publishing Diane Bradley

ISSN 1035-221X

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.

All data in this report are provisional and subject to future revision.

The Australian HIV Surveillance Report is produced by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research on a quarterly basis, issued in January, April, July and October. Subscription is free, and can be obtained by writing to the Editor or by calling the Epidemiology Section of the NCHECR:

Australian HIV Surveillance Report
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
376 Victoria Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Australia

Tel: (02) 9332 4648

Fax: (02) 9332 1837 International prefix: (612)

For further information at a State/Territory level, contact:

ACT	Ms Irene Passaris, ACT Health	(02)6205 0960
NSW	Mr Robert Menzies, NSW Department of Health	(02)9391 9279
NT	Dr Jan Savage, Department of Health and Community Services	(08)8922 8874
QLD	Dr Hugo Rée, Queensland Department of Health	(07)3224 5526
SA	Ms Therese Davey, SA Health Commission	(08)8226 6025
TAS	Mr Neil Cremasco, Department of Health	(03)6233 3203
VIC	Ms Jane Hocking, Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research	(03)9282 2290
WA	Dr Gary Dowse, WA Department of Health	(08)9388 4849