

Australian HIV Surveillance Update

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Vol 15 No 2
April 1999

Diagnoses in the fourth quarter

1 October – 31 December 1998

- A total of 174 diagnoses of HIV infection, 45 diagnoses of AIDS and 26 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 1999, to have occurred in the *fourth quarter of 1998*.
- Following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the *fourth quarter of 1998* were 85 and 40, respectively.
- *In comparison*, 196 diagnoses of HIV infection, 80 diagnoses of AIDS and 34 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 1999, to have occurred in the *fourth quarter of 1997*.

Diagnoses in the year to 31 December 1998

- 726 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 265 diagnoses of AIDS
- 123 deaths following AIDS
were reported by 31 March 1999.

Total diagnoses to 31 December 1998

- 19,437 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 16,720 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
- 8,070 diagnoses of AIDS
- 5,682 deaths following AIDS
were reported by 31 March 1999.

HIV Testing in Sexual Health Clinics

Five sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 4,897 people in the period 1 October to 31 December 1998 who were not previously known to have HIV infection.

- Of 2,011 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 9 (0.4%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 2,886 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 4 (0.1%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 1,442 people who reported a history of heterosexual contact only and were tested for the first time, 2 (0.1%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection.

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 31 December 1998 had an average age of 36 years, and 2.2% were in the age group 13 – 19 years. 86% were male, 13% were female and sex was not reported for 1% of cases.

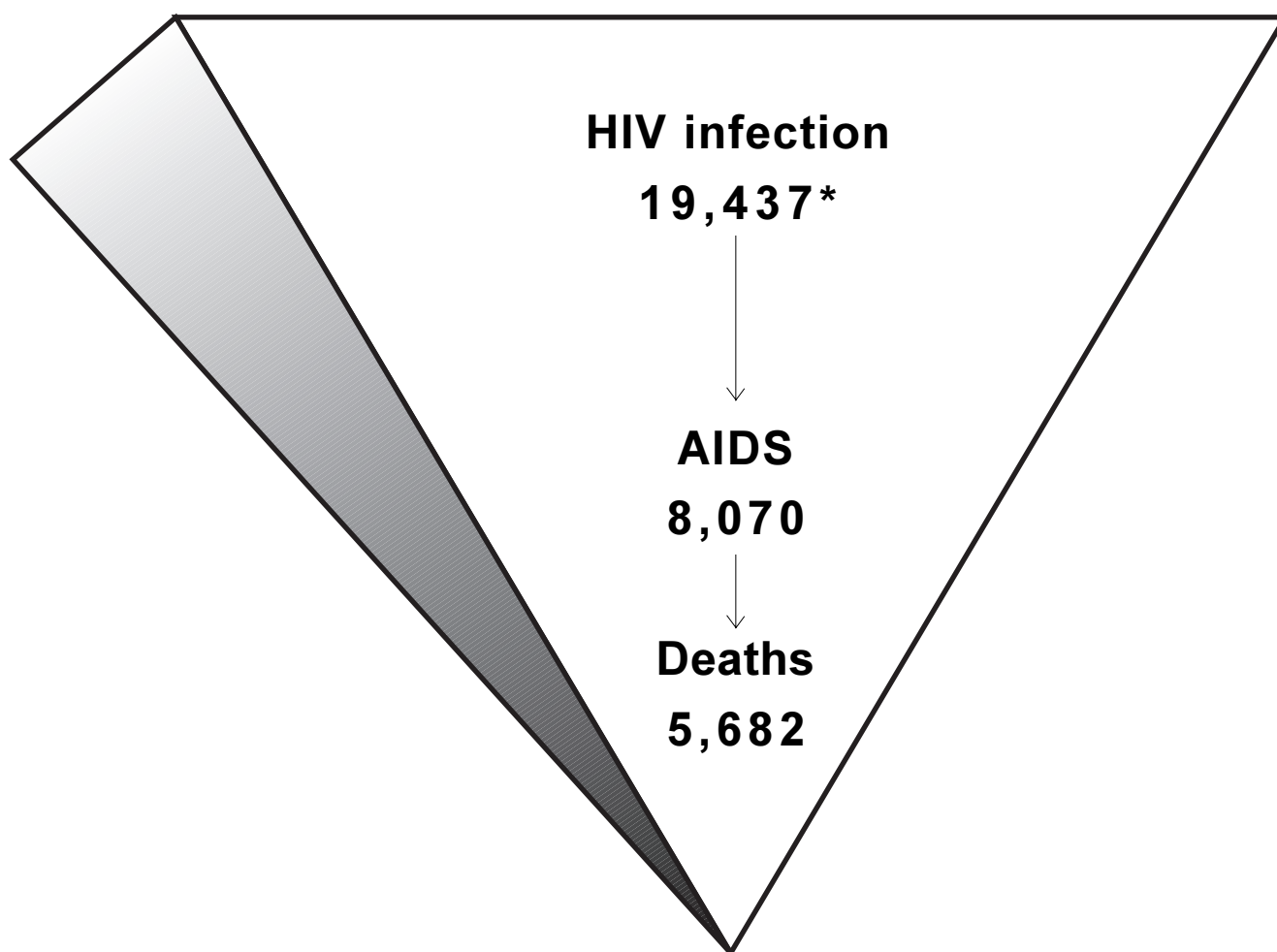
Of 83% of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in the year to 31 December 1998 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, a history of heterosexual contact only was reported in 17% of cases.

New HIV infections

During the fourth quarter of 1998, 30 cases, all 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. A history of heterosexual contact in Australia was reported in 2 cases.

The HIV epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 December 1998



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,720 (range 16,320 to 17,120), cumulative to 31 December 1998.