



National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

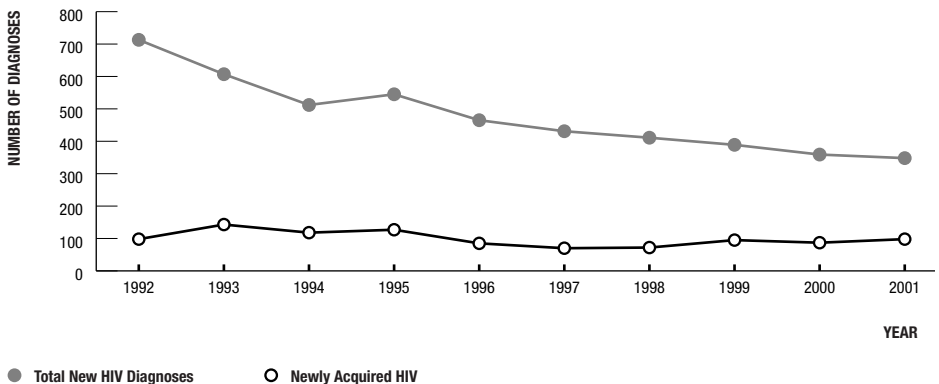
Australian HIV Surveillance Report

Vol 18 No 4 October 2002

Monitoring newly diagnosed HIV infection in New South Wales

New South Wales accounts for almost 60% of HIV and AIDS diagnoses in Australia. While there was a dramatic decline in HIV incidence after the initial peak in the mid 1980s, the number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in NSW has plateaued in the last five years (Figure 1).

Figure 1.1 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, NSW, 1992 – 2001



The HIV surveillance system in NSW has been reviewed over the past two years. Prior to 2000, reference laboratories were responsible for notifying NSW Health of new HIV diagnoses and collecting risk factor information from the treating doctor. Laboratories forwarded data, on spreadsheets in a variety of formats, to NSW Health once every two months. The data received required cleaning and reformatting prior to being forwarded to the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) for national reporting. This process was time consuming, and over a quarter of the notifications had no risk factor information. Public Health Units were responsible for follow up of cases with missing risk factor information, and those cases with risk factors for which more detailed information was required. However, over half of the cases followed up by public health units were lost to follow up. Despite the resources deployed in HIV surveillance in NSW, the system was overall cumbersome and the data of poor quality and timeliness.

The National Centre is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, The University of New South Wales. Its work is overseen by the Australian National Council on AIDS, hepatitis C and related diseases.

Announcements

National meetings

The **10th National Symposium on Hepatitis B and C** will be held at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne on Saturday 23 November 2002. Further information may be obtained from Eleanor Belot.

Telephone: 03 9288 3580
Facsimile: 03 9288 3590
E-mail: belote@svhm.org.au

The **Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference 2003 Global Crisis: Local Action** will be held in Cairns, Queensland, on 22 – 25 October 2003. Further information may be obtained from The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Locked Mail Bag 5057, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 Australia.

Telephone: 61 2 9368 2700
Facsimile: 61 2 9380 9528
E-mail: ashm@ashm.org.au
Website: www.ashm.org.au

International meeting

The **11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease** will be held in Sydney, New South Wales, on 6 – 10 April 2003. Further information may be obtained from ISVHLD 2003, Tour Hosts Pty Limited GPO Box 128 Sydney NSW 2001 Australia.

Telephone: (61) 2 9248 0800
Facsimile: (61) 2 9248 0894
E-mail: isvhld@tourhosts.com.au

The New Millennium

The NSW HIV Database became operational in July 2000, and from July 2001, the Communicable Diseases Branch of NSW Health has directly investigated notifications of all HIV diagnoses for risk information. As a result, completeness of risk information received from doctors has improved from 60% in the years 1990-1999 (prior to follow up) to over 85% in 2000-2002. Improved identification of previously diagnosed cases in the past two years has also reduced the number of duplicate diagnoses compared to previous years. Fifteen percent of all notifications received in 2001 were of people previously diagnosed with HIV infection.

A new diagnosis of HIV infection is defined as a person resident in NSW for three or more months when diagnosed with HIV infection for the first time. When a case is reported as having been previously diagnosed but cannot be matched to a record on the NSW HIV Database, a new record is created using the reported date of previous HIV diagnosis as the date of first diagnosis. While this method may result in a slight increase in numbers notified in previous years, data in recent years are more likely to represent true new diagnoses.

From December 2002, NSW Health will be operating a combined HIV/AIDS database. One of the challenges of the new integrated system was matching of HIV and AIDS records given that over 40% of HIV notifications had inadequate identifiers (particularly before 1990). The new database will have a single patient record for cases with both an HIV and AIDS diagnosis.

Monitoring of new HIV diagnoses

From 1981 to June 2002, 12,621 new diagnoses of HIV infection were notified among NSW residents. Over 92% of cases were males and 70% were aged between 20 and 39 years at the time of diagnosis. Approximately 60% of males reported sexual contact with men as their main risk factor for HIV infection. Sixty four cases in children under 13 years of age have been notified. Of these, 37 (57%) acquired HIV infection through mother-to-child transmission and the remaining 27 (43%) through the receipt of blood products during the 1980s.

Following a peak in notifications in 1987 (1,637), the number of new HIV diagnoses in NSW rapidly declined in the late 1980s and early 1990s. However, the decline was less than 20% in the five years 1997-2001 compared to 40% in the previous five year period, 1992-1996. There were 362 diagnoses in 2000, 348 in 2001 and 165 to June 2002. The annual incidence of HIV diagnosis for 2001 was 5.3 per 100,000 population. Approximately 10% of cases notified are resident in non-metropolitan NSW, with a rate of HIV diagnosis of 1.6 per 100,000 population, compared to 6.1 in the greater Sydney area.

The biggest decline in the number of notifications since 1997 has been among men who have sex with men, falling from 281 cases in 1997 to 219 in 2001. In contrast, notifications among people with other risks for HIV infection have fluctuated from year to year. In 1997- 2001, 73 (range 9-20) new HIV diagnoses were among people who reported a history of injecting drug use and 329 (range 57-91) were among people who reported a history of heterosexual contact only.

Monitoring of newly acquired infection

A newly acquired infection is defined as a new diagnosis of HIV infection with a reported negative test or seroconversion illness within the twelve months prior to HIV diagnosis. Reporting of previous negative tests and HIV seroconversion illness among new HIV diagnoses began in NSW in 1992. Approximately 21% of new diagnoses notified over the period 1992 to June 2002 had reported evidence of newly acquired HIV infection.

Of 1,079 cases of newly acquired HIV infection, 70% had a negative test and 58% an HIV seroconversion illness in the previous twelve months. There has been little variation in these proportions over the period.

In 1992, 98 diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection were notified, rising to 143 in 1993 followed by a yearly decline to 70 in 1997. The number of diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection has risen slightly in recent years to 98 in 2001. For all years, newly acquired HIV infection was more likely to be reported among men (29% compared to 12% among women, $p < 0.001$) and among men who report sex with men (37% compared to other men 11%, $p < 0.001$). For the period 1997-June 2002, only 14% of people reporting injecting drug use and 7% of those reporting heterosexual contact only, had evidence of newly acquired HIV infection compared to 31% of men who have sex with men ($p < 0.001$).

It is note worthy, however, that the information of the previous negative test and seroconversion illness was provided by the patient or was unknown in 40% of cases of newly acquired HIV infection. The laboratory or doctor was the provider of the information in the remaining 60% for the years 1992- June 2002, increasing to 70% for the years 1997-June 2002.

Discussion

Current trends in HIV notifications in NSW suggest a levelling of new diagnoses with approximately 360 notifications per year. This is in the context of improved data quality, with a reduction in the number of duplicate diagnoses, particularly since 2000. The slight decline in new diagnoses continues to be seen among men who have sex with men and little change in other risk groups.

A slight increase in the number of diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection has been noted in the last three years. This trend, however, must be interpreted with caution given improvements in data completeness. Furthermore, it is apparent that a substantial proportion of diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection are based on patient recall rather than laboratory or doctor documentation of testing and clinical history.

Newly acquired HIV infection is primarily reported among men who have sex with men, reflecting more frequent testing practices in this risk group. Increased testing among injecting drug users and people who report heterosexual contact of high risk is important and being addressed at the Area level.

NSW Health is currently working with the St Vincent's Hospital Centre for Immunology to build and pilot an HIV laboratory information system that will allow for the direct electronic transfer of de-identified data to NSW Health. This will further improve timeliness of notifications and data quality including laboratory reporting of previous negative test dates. The combined HIV/AIDS database will provide for improved tracking of cases. In addition, steps are being taken to further simplify the notification process for HIV infection and AIDS, and in particular, to reduce the number of forms sent to general practitioners.

Reported by

Valerie Delpech and Kerry Todd

Communicable Diseases Surveillance Unit, Communicable Diseases Branch
NSW Health, North Sydney

National AIDS Registry

Table 1.1 Cases of AIDS and deaths following AIDS by sex and State/Territory in which diagnosis of AIDS was made, cumulative to 30 June 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases

State/Territory	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	1	0	0	0	88	9	97	1.1
NSW	69	12	62	2	4 854	208	5 075	57.2
NT	2	0	1	0	38	0	38	0.4
QLD	29	1	27	3	900	53	955	10.8
SA	6	0	15	4	372	29	401	4.5
TAS	0	0	0	0	45	3	48	0.5
VIC	46	1	33	7	1 746	81	1 836	20.7
WA	13	2	15	2	387	31	420	4.8
Total	166	16	153	18	8 430	414	8 870	100.0

Deaths

State/Territory	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	1	0	2	0	71	4	75	1.2
NSW	41	1	36	2	3 356	122	3 487	56.4
NT	0	0	1	0	25	0	25	0.4
QLD	10	2	8	1	596	35	633	10.2
SA	4	1	8	2	244	18	262	4.2
TAS	0	0	0	0	30	2	32	0.5
VIC	24	1	12	5	1 319	57	1 383	22.4
WA	7	0	2	1	267	19	287	4.6
Total	87	5	69	11	5 908	257	6 184	100.0

† Totals include 26 AIDS cases and 19 deaths following AIDS in people whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 1.2 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 2000 – 30 Jun 2001			1 Jul 2001 – 30 Jun 2002		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	6.3	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
NSW	21.2	3.6	12.3	18.8	0.6	9.8
NT	19.3	0.0	10.1	9.6	0.0	5.0
QLD	16.2	0.6	8.3	14.8	1.6	8.2
SA	8.0	0.0	4.0	20.0	5.2	12.5
TAS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VIC	19.5	0.4	10.0	13.8	2.8	8.2
WA	13.7	2.1	7.9	15.6	2.1	8.9
Total	17.3	1.6	9.5	15.7	1.8	8.8

¹ Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar period from *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Table 1.3 Cases of AIDS and deaths following AIDS by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 June 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases¹

Age group (years)	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	%
0–2	0	1	0	1	9	9	18	0.2
2–12	0	0	0	1	20	10	30	0.3
0–12	0	1	0	2	29	19	48	0.5
13–19	0	0	0	0	27	4	31	0.4
20–29	10	3	12	2	1 365	103	1 481	16.7
30–39	60	9	58	8	3 531	153	3 693	41.6
40–49	54	3	51	2	2 374	67	2 443	27.5
50–59	27	0	24	4	829	35	866	9.8
60+	15	0	8	0	275	33	308	3.5
Total	166	16	153	18	8 430	414	8 870	100.0

Deaths²

Age group (years)	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	%
0–2	0	0	0	1	5	6	11	0.2
2–12	0	0	1	0	17	6	23	0.4
0–12	0	0	1	1	22	12	34	0.5
13–19	0	0	0	0	14	3	17	0.3
20–29	3	1	2	1	680	45	736	11.9
30–39	29	2	21	4	2 366	93	2 465	39.9
40–49	37	0	22	1	1 879	44	1 925	31.1
50–59	11	1	13	4	711	29	740	12.0
60+	7	1	10	0	236	31	267	4.3
Total	87	5	69	11	5 908	257	6 184	100.0

1 Cases are classified by age at diagnosis.

2 Deaths are classified by age at death.

Table 1.4 Cases of AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	113	–	114	–	6 993	–	6 993	81.9
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	9	–	5	–	385	–	385	4.5
Injecting drug use	3	2	6	2	185	90	275	3.2
<i>Heterosexual</i>	2	1	2	1	117	69	186	
<i>Not further specified</i>	1	1	4	1	68	21	89	
Heterosexual contact	25	13	19	12	351	219	570	6.7
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	1	0	1	7	23	30	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	2	–	0	–	41	41	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	6	6	2	5	65	48	113	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	8	1	3	0	55	15	70	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	2	10	12	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	2	3	5	1	35	28	63	
<i>Not further specified</i>	9	0	9	5	187	54	241	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	2	0	117	3	120	1.4
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	78	63	141	1.7
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents	151	15	146	14	8 110	378	8 488	99.4
Children (under 13 years at AIDS diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	1	0	2	13	16	29	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	0	2	29	19	48	0.6
Sub-total	151	16	146	16	8 139	397	8 536	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	15	0	7	2	291	17	334	
Total	166	16	153	18	8 430	414	8 870	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 26 AIDS cases in people whose sex was reported as transgender. The category was excluded from the calculation of the percentage of cases attributed to each exposure category.

Table 1.5 Deaths following AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	61	–	54	–	5 012	–	5 012	83.9
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	5	–	6	–	269	–	269	4.5
Injecting drug use	6	2	5	0	112	52	164	2.7
<i>Heterosexual</i>	4	1	1	0	78	43	121	
<i>Not further specified</i>	2	1	4	0	34	9	43	
Heterosexual contact	4	1	3	9	154	123	277	4.6
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	0	0	4	11	15	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	1	–	1	–	29	29	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	1	0	2	4	15	16	31	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	1	0	0	0	18	10	28	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	2	7	9	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	0	0	0	1	22	15	37	
<i>Not further specified</i>	2	0	1	3	93	35	128	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	4	0	0	0	92	3	95	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	1	0	1	68	54	122	2.0
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents	80	4	68	10	5 708	234	5 942	99.4
Children (under 13 years at death following AIDS)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	1	1	8	10	18	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	1	1	22	12	34	0.6
Sub-total	80	4	69	11	5 730	246	5 976	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	7	1	0	0	178	11	208	
Total	87	5	69	11	5 908	257	6 184	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 19 deaths following AIDS in people whose sex was reported as transgender. The category was excluded from the calculation of the percentage of cases attributed to each exposure category.

The National HIV Database

Table 2.1 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex¹ and State/Territory, cumulative to 30 June 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals

State/Territory	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate ²
ACT	4	0	6	1	233	28	261	80.9
NSW ³	309	37	327	25	11 728	685	12 675	190.8
NT	2	1	3	2	113	12	125	62.5
QLD	87	14	87	13	2 201	185	2 393	65.2
SA	24	5	33	11	739	77	816	53.7
TAS	2	0	4	0	84	5	89	18.8
VIC ⁴	164	18	192	28	4 302	264	4 606	94.9
WA	36	8	28	15	994	142	1 142	59.5
Total⁵	628	83	680	95	20 394	1 398	22 107⁶	112.8

1 Fifty four people (25 NSW, 7 QLD, 16 VIC and 6 WA) whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the total columns of Tables 2.1 – 2.3

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 237 people whose sex was not reported.

4 Cumulative total for VIC includes 24 people whose sex was not reported.

5 Cumulative total for Australia includes 261 people whose sex was not reported.

6 Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 19 200 (range 18 750 to 19 650).

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 2.2 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection for which exposure category was reported, by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	430	–	487	–	14 198	–	14 198	77.5
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	28	–	26	–	727	–	727	4.0
Injecting drug use	26	4	20	6	616	189	813	4.4
<i>Heterosexual</i>	15	4	15	5	240	138	379	
<i>Not further specified</i>	11	0	5	1	376	51	434	
Heterosexual contact	85	71	69	83	1 078	904	1 985	10.8
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	4	3	2	33	93	126	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	6	–	8	–	121	121	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	28	37	23	34	216	242	459	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	23	11	14	13	185	100	285	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	5	17	22	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	6	7	3	13	61	132	194	
<i>Not further specified</i>	27	6	26	13	578	199	778	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	1	0	221	4	225	1.2
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	104	102	206	1.1
Health care setting ²	0	0	0	0	3	8	11	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents¹	569	75	603	89	16 947	1 207	18 165	99.1
Children (under 13 years at HIV diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection ³	1	2	0	3	39	31	70	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	66	0	66	0.4
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	13	8	21	0.1
Total children	1	2	0	3	118	39	157	0.9
Sub-total	570	77	603	92	17 065	1 246	18 322	100.0
Other/undetermined ⁴	58	6	77	3	3 329	152	3 785	
Total¹	628	83	680	95	20 394	1 398	22 107⁵	

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 A total of 267 children were notified as having been born to women with HIV infection, cumulative to 30 June 2002.

4 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 3 767 adults/adolescents and 18 children. Fifty four 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.

5 See footnote Table 2.1

Table 2.3 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 June 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals

Age group (years)	1 Jul 00 – 30 Jun 01		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		Cumulative to 30 Jun 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	%
0–2	1	2	0	1	43	20	64	0.3
3–12	0	0	0	2	90	21	111	0.5
0–12	1	2	0	3	133	41	175	0.8
13–19	6	3	8	5	427	90	526	2.4
20–29	144	39	154	30	6 841	570	7 532	34.1
30–39	265	23	276	41	7 583	399	8 085	36.6
40–49	128	11	153	9	3 606	148	3 798	17.2
50–59	56	0	62	5	1 223	54	1 290	5.8
60+	18	3	21	2	399	62	463	2.1
Not reported	10	2	6	0	182	34	238	1.1
Total¹	628	83	680	95	20 394	1 398	22 107	100.0

1 See footnotes Table 2.2

Table 2.4 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 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 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 30 Jun 02		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
ACT	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
NSW ¹	50	1	42	0	92	1	94
NT	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
QLD	10	2	14	1	24	3	27
SA	6	1	1	0	7	1	8
TAS	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
VIC	22	3	41	0	63	3	66
WA	4	2	0	4	4	6	10
Total¹	96	9	99	5	195	14	210

1 Total includes 1 person whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 2.5 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 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 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 30 Jun 02		1 July 01– 30 Jun 02		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	81	–	93	–	174	–	174
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	7	–	3	–	10	–	10
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	2	2	0	0	2	2	4
Heterosexual contact	4	7	3	4	7	11	18
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined ¹	2	0	0	1	2	1	4
Total¹	96	9	99	5	195	14	210

¹ Total includes one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 2.6 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 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 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 30 Jun 02		1 Jul 01 – 30 Jun 02		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
13–19	3	0	0	1	3	1	4
20–29	23	3	29	1	52	4	56
30–39 ¹	42	4	47	2	89	6	96
40–49	19	1	18	0	37	1	38
50–59	9	1	4	1	13	2	15
60+	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Total¹	96	9	99	5	195	14	210

¹ Totals include one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

Sentinel surveillance of HIV infection in sexual health clinics

Table 3.1 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 to 30 June 2002

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	1 258	941	547	356	5	2	7
Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Marrickville, NSW	325	416	163	159	0	0	0
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	905	790	330	237	1	0	1
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	465	670	148	273	0	0	0
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	997	797	740	522	0	0	0
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	2 332	1 832	885	680	5	1	6
Total	6 282	5 446	2 813	2 227	11	3	14

Table 3.2 Number of people seen¹ 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 to 30 June 2002

Exposure category	Previous negative HIV antibody test		% retested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	688	–	60.0	–	3	–	3	0.7
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	75	–	65.3	–	2	–	2	4.1
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	142	79	54.9	49.4	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 232	1 312	45.2	38.5	0	0	0	0.0
<i>outside Australia</i>	147	107	61.9	55.1	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 085	1 205	42.3	37.0	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	–	249	–	59.8	–	1	1	0.7
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	35	–	62.9	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	14	52	52.0	44.2	0	0	0	0.0
Total	2 151	1 727	51.8	42.7	5	1	6	0.3

¹ Data from the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC, not available for this quarter.

Table 3.3 Number of people seen¹ 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 to 30 June 2002

Exposure category	No previous HIV antibody test		% tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	277	–	52.3	–	1	–	1	0.7
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	15	–	53.3	–	0	–	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	47	43	66.0	41.5	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 084	1 475	56.1	43.5	0	1	1	0.2
<i>outside Australia</i>	120	149	70.0	66.4	0	1	1	1.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	964	1 326	54.4	41.0	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	–	133	–	72.2	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	35	–	45.7	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	156	170	13.5	19.4	0	0	0	0.0
Total	1 579	1 856	51.5	43.6	1	1	2	0.1

¹ Data from the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC, not available for this quarter.

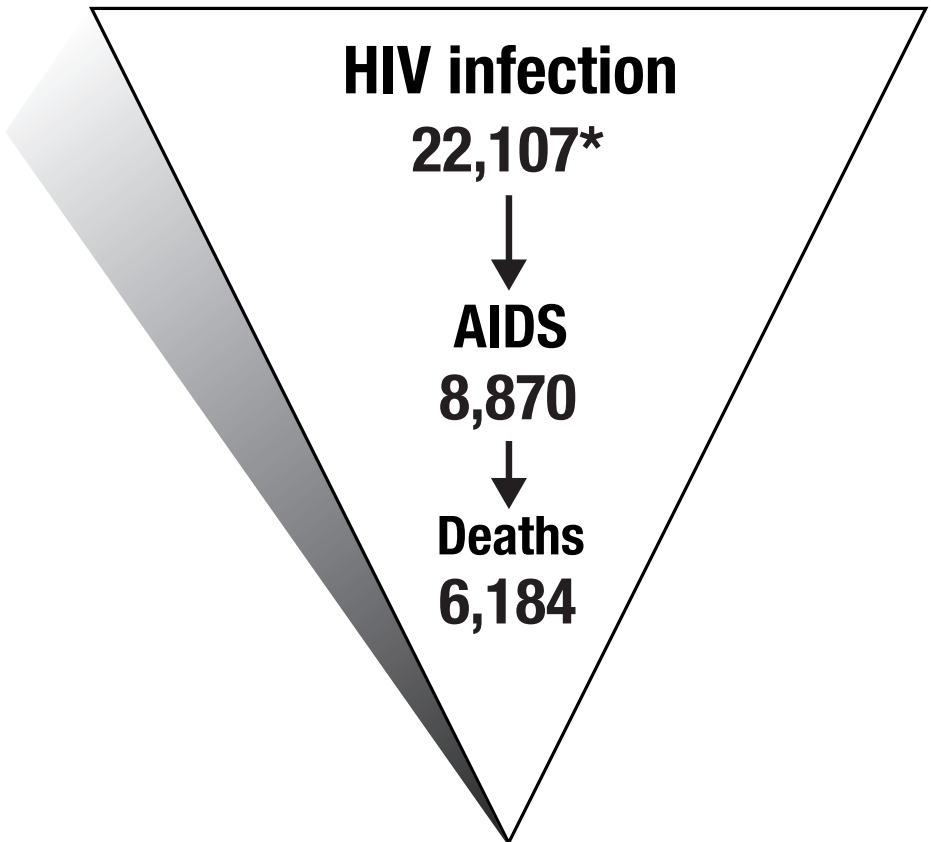
Table 3.4 Number of people seen¹, number of people tested for HIV antibody and number of people newly diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and age group, during the quarter 1 April to 30 June 2002

Age group (years)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13–19	147	456	86	168	0	0	0
20–29	1 626	1 874	869	829	2	2	4
30–39	1 207	851	575	365	3	0	3
40–49	587	314	232	138	1	0	1
50–59	272	99	123	41	0	0	0
60+	111	20	43	6	0	0	0
Total	3 950	3 614	1 928	1 547	6	2	8

¹ Data from the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC, not available for this quarter.

The HIV Epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 30 June 2002



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 19,200 (range 18,750 to 19,650)



Diagnoses in the second quarter

1 April – 30 June

- a total of 163 diagnoses of HIV infection, 26 diagnoses of AIDS and 12 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 September 2002, to have occurred in the second quarter of 2002
- following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the second quarter of 2002 were 56 and 27
- in comparison, 178 diagnoses of HIV infection, 39 diagnoses of AIDS and 16 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 September 2002, to have occurred in the second quarter of 2001

New HIV infection

During the second quarter of 2002, 54 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. A history of male homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, was reported in 52 (96.3%) of cases.

Diagnoses in the year to 30 June 2002

- 780 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 172 diagnoses of AIDS
- 80 deaths following AIDS were reported by 30 September 2002

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 30 June 2002 had an average age of 36 years and 1.7% was in the age group 13 – 19 years

- 87.3% were male, 12.3% were female and sex was reported as transgender for 0.4% of cases.
- of 605 cases of HIV infection, newly diagnosed among males in the year to 30 June 2002 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, a history of male homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, was reported in 84.8%.

Total diagnoses to 30 June 2002

- 22,107 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 19,200 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
- 8,870 diagnoses of AIDS
- 6,184 deaths following AIDS were reported by 30 September 2002

HIV testing in sexual health clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,040 people in the quarter 1 April – 30 June 2002 who were not previously known to have HIV infection

- of 1,622 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 2 (0.1%) was found to have HIV infection
- of 1,853 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 6 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 462 men who reported a history of homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, who were retested following a previous negative test, 5 (1.1%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection

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Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Editor

Ann McDonald

Editorial Advisory Panel

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Nick Crofts, Basil Donovan,
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Linda Selvey, Russell Waddell,
Ashley Watson

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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.

Abbreviations: HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus, and unless otherwise specified, refers to HIV-1 only. AIDS is the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and STI stands for sexually transmissible infection. High prevalence countries are those of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and specific countries in South East Asia (Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand), where HIV prevalence is above 1% and transmission 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.

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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)
Email: recept@nchechr.unsw.edu.au
Internet: www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechr

State/Territory publications of surveillance data, available through the Internet, are listed below:

NSW Public Health Bulletin	www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/phb/phb.html
The Northern Territory Disease Control Bulletin	www.nt.gov.au/nths/public/cdc/bulletin.htm
Sexually Transmitted Diseases in South Australia	www.stdservices.on.net/publications
Victorian Infectious Diseases Bulletin	www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/vidb/
Disease WAatch	www.public.health.wa.gov.au/

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

ACT	Ms Irene Passaris, ACT Health	(02) 6205 0960
NSW	Dr Valerie Delpech, NSW Department of Health	(02) 9391 9192
NT	Dr Jan Savage, Department of Health and Community Services	(08) 8228 8874
QLD	Dr Hugo Réé, Queensland Department of Health	(07) 3224 5526
SA	Ms Therese Davey, SA Health Commission	(08) 8226 6025
TAS	Mr David Coleman, Department of Health	(03) 6233 3203
VIC	Ms Cathy Keenan, Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research	(03) 9282 2290
WA	Ms Carolien Giele, WA Department of Health	(08) 9388 4817