



National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

# Australian HIV Surveillance Report

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## Late diagnosis of HIV infection in 2002: a case report

In 2002, an Australian born woman was newly diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS following investigation of a longstanding illness. In the two years prior to her HIV/AIDS diagnosis, the woman made multiple presentations to her general practitioner. She had a history of persistent lymphadenopathy and episodes of shingles and bacterial pneumonia. In the twelve months prior to her HIV/AIDS diagnosis, she had lost 15 kilograms in weight and had experienced chronic diarrhoea and profound night sweats. She reported being easily fatigued and general malaise.

At HIV diagnosis, the woman was thin and looked generally unwell. She had lymphadenopathy involving the right posterior cervical chain and inguinal region. Full blood examination revealed pancytopenia (Hb 100g/L, a low white cell count (total WCC 2.8/nL, lymphocyte count 0.6/nL) and a low platelet count 137/nL). The baseline CD4 cell count was 48/ $\mu$ L. An oral swab isolated the fungal organism *Candida albicans*.

The woman is married and has two children. Both children had uncomplicated vaginal deliveries and were breast-fed for six months. The woman's husband and her two children have negative HIV-1 serology.

The women reported no history of injecting drug use, blood transfusion or overseas travel. Following her diagnosis, she learned that a male partner, with whom she had begun a sexual relationship twenty years earlier, had died in 1990 as a result of HIV infection and had been bisexual. She believes that she acquired HIV infection during this relationship, which ended in 1985.

Two weeks after HIV/AIDS diagnosis, the woman began antiretroviral therapy. Six months later, she is well. She has gained ten kilograms in weight and the diarrhoea, lymphadenopathy and night sweats have resolved. She has returned to all her usual activities, including gardening. She is sexually active, using barrier precautions. Her most recent CD4 cell count was 216/ $\mu$ L and HIV RNA was less than 400 copies/mL.

In Australia, people whose HIV diagnosis was late in the course of infection have more often been exposed through heterosexual contact (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research 2002). In 2002, 13 women were newly diagnosed with AIDS including 6 (46%) women whose HIV infection was first detected within three months of AIDS diagnosis.

In contrast, 73 (40%) male AIDS cases had a late HIV diagnosis in 2002. Five of the women with late HIV/AIDS diagnosis were aged less than 40 years, indicating the possibility of perinatal exposure to HIV and suggesting the potential value of antenatal HIV antibody testing. If HIV infection is diagnosed antenatally, effective antiretroviral therapies and other interventions can substantially reduce the risks of AIDS in the women and mother-to-child HIV transmission.

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.

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## Announcements

### National meetings

The **20th NRL Workshop on Serology** will be held at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, on 13 – 15 August 2003. Further information may be obtained from Debra Irvine, National Serology Reference Laboratory, Australia, 4th Floor, Healy Building, 41 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Victoria.

Telephone: 61 3 9418 1117

Facsimile: 61 3 9418 1155

E-mail: [debra@nrl.gov.au](mailto:debra@nrl.gov.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](mailto:ashm@ashm.org.au)

Website: [www.ashm.org.au](http://www.ashm.org.au)

The **Eleventh National Symposium on hepatitis B and C** will be held at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, VIC, on Saturday 22 November 2003. Further information may be obtained from Ms Eleanor Belot, Meeting Administrator.

Telephone: 03 9288 3580

Facsimile: 03 9288 3590

E-mail: [belote@svhm.org.au](mailto:belote@svhm.org.au)

The occurrence of undiagnosed HIV infection among people apparently at low risk of infection in Australia highlights the continuing need for detailed clinical and sexual history taking, always keeping in mind the question "Could it be HIV?" (Stewart 1994).

### Reported by

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### References

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. *HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2002*. National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2002. [www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchecr](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchecr)

Stewart G (editor). *Could it be HIV? The clinical recognition of HIV infection*. Australasian Medical Publishing Company Limited, 1994



# 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 31 December 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals**

## Cases

State/Territory	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	0	0	2	0	90	9	99	1.1
NSW	72	7	71	2	4 914	212	5 139	57.0
NT	1	0	1	0	38	0	38	0.4
QLD	28	1	40	3	927	54	983	10.9
SA	7	3	13	2	376	30	406	4.5
TAS	1	0	1	1	47	4	51	0.6
VIC	42	6	42	3	1 780	85	1 874	20.8
WA	17	3	11	2	394	32	428	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8 566</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>9 018</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Deaths

State/Territory	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	2	0	0	0	71	4	75	1.2
NSW	38	3	37	2	3 390	124	3 523	56.3
NT	1	0	1	0	26	0	26	0.4
QLD	13	3	13	1	608	37	647	10.3
SA	7	0	8	2	251	18	269	4.3
TAS	0	0	1	0	31	2	33	0.5
VIC	19	6	10	0	1 327	57	1 391	22.2
WA	4	2	3	1	272	21	294	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5 976</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>6 258</b>	<b>100.0</b>

† 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 population<sup>1</sup> by sex and State/Territory of diagnosis for the two most recent yearly intervals**

State/Territory	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01			1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.6	0.0	6.2
NSW	22.1	2.1	12.0	21.5	0.6	11.1
NT	9.7	0.0	5.1	9.6	0.0	5.1
QLD	15.5	0.5	8.0	22.2	1.6	11.9
SA	9.4	3.9	6.6	17.3	2.6	9.9
TAS	4.3	0.0	2.1	4.3	4.2	4.2
VIC	17.7	2.5	10.2	17.5	1.2	9.2
WA	17.9	3.2	10.5	11.4	2.1	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>10.0</b>

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 31 December 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals**

**Cases<sup>1</sup>**

Age group (years)	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	
0–2	0	1	0	0	9	9	18	0.2
2–12	0	1	0	0	20	10	30	0.3
0–12	0	2	0	0	29	19	48	0.5
13–19	0	0	0	0	27	4	31	0.3
20–29	12	2	12	3	1 374	107	1 494	16.6
30–39	65	10	59	7	3 571	159	3 739	41.5
40–49	56	3	74	1	2 431	68	2 501	27.7
50–59	26	2	24	2	850	35	887	9.8
60+	9	1	12	0	284	34	318	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8 566</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>9 018</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Deaths<sup>2</sup>**

Age group (years)	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	
0–2	0	1	0	0	5	6	11	0.2
2–12	1	0	0	0	17	6	23	0.4
0–12	1	1	0	0	22	12	34	0.6
13–19	0	0	0	0	14	3	17	0.3
20–29	3	2	2	1	682	46	739	11.8
30–39	31	5	17	1	2 387	94	2 487	39.7
40–49	26	1	32	2	1 906	46	1 954	31.2
50–59	11	4	16	2	724	30	754	12.0
60+	12	1	6	0	241	32	273	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5 976</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>6 258</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 31 December 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals**

Exposure category	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	124	–	130	–	7 100	–	7 100	81.8
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	5	–	10	–	394	–	394	4.5
Injecting drug use	4	3	7	0	189	91	280	3.2
<i>Heterosexual</i>	3	2	4	0	122	69	191	
<i>Not further specified</i>	1	1	3	0	67	22	89	
Heterosexual contact	23	14	22	10	366	228	594	6.8
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	0	2	7	25	32	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	1	–	1	–	43	43	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	6	8	4	3	70	51	121	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	5	1	4	0	58	15	73	
<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>	3	1	3	1	35	29	64	
<i>Not further specified</i>	9	3	11	3	194	55	249	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	2	0	118	3	121	1.4
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	1	0	1	78	65	143	1.7
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
<b>Total Adults/Adolescents</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8 246</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>8 636</b>	<b>99.4</b>
<b>Children (under 13 years at AIDS diagnosis)</b>								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	2	0	0	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
<b>Total children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8 275</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>8 684</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Other/undetermined <sup>1</sup>	11	0	10	2	291	17	334	
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8 566</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>9 018</b>	

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 31 December 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals**

Exposure category	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	62	–	57	–	5 067	–	5 067	83.8
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	10	–	3	–	274	–	274	4.5
Injecting drug use	4	1	3	1	113	53	166	2.7
<i>Heterosexual</i>	2	1	0	0	78	43	121	
<i>Not further specified</i>	2	0	3	1	35	10	45	
Heterosexual contact	2	9	6	5	159	127	286	4.7
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	0	0	4	11	15	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	2	–	1	–	30	30	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	1	4	2	0	17	16	33	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	0	0	1	0	19	10	29	
<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	2	0	1	22	17	39	
<i>Not further specified</i>	1	1	3	3	95	36	131	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	1	0	93	3	96	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	3	0	0	68	55	123	2.0
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.1
<b>Total Adults/Adolescents</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5 775</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>6 015</b>	<b>99.4</b>
<b>Children (under 13 years at death following AIDS)</b>								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	1	1	0	0	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
<b>Total children</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5 797</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>6 049</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Other/undetermined <sup>1</sup>	4	0	3	0	179	11	209	
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5 976</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>6 258</b>	

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 sex<sup>1</sup> and State/Territory, cumulative to 31 December 2002, and for two previous years intervals

State/Territory	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate <sup>2</sup>
ACT	6	1	5	0	238	28	266	82.7
NSW <sup>3</sup>	311	31	353	29	11 941	689	12 890	194.1
NT	4	0	4	4	116	14	130	65.7
QLD	87	17	117	13	2 257	193	2 457	66.3
SA	34	9	21	5	750	77	827	54.4
TAS	5	0	3	2	85	7	92	19.5
VIC <sup>4</sup>	183	23	193	23	4 399	272	4 713	96.7
WA	38	11	30	13	1 020	147	1 173	60.9
<b>Total<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>668</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>20 806</b>	<b>1 427</b>	<b>22 548<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>114.7</b>

1 Fifty six people (25 NSW, 7 QLD, 18 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 235 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 259 people whose sex was not reported.

6 Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 19 680 (range 19 220 to 20 140). 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 31 December 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals**

Exposure category	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	466	–	523	–	14 523	–	14 523	77.4
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	36	–	26	–	764	–	764	4.1
Injecting drug use	32	8	14	1	623	189	820	4.4
<i>Heterosexual</i>	22	7	9	1	245	139	385	
<i>Not further specified</i>	10	1	5	0	378	50	435	
Heterosexual contact	78	77	85	82	1 123	937	2 063	11.0
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	2	1	2	5	32	93	125	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	7	–	8	–	126	126	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	27	37	25	30	232	253	486	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	19	13	19	9	194	103	297	
<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	9	6	14	66	138	205	
<i>Not further specified</i>	24	10	33	16	594	207	802	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	0	0	221	4	225	1.2
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	106	102	208	1.1
Health care setting <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	1	3	9	12	0.0
<b>Total Adults/Adolescents<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>613</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>17 363</b>	<b>1 241</b>	<b>18 615</b>	<b>99.2</b>
<b>Children (under 13 years at HIV diagnosis)</b>								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection <sup>3</sup>	0	3	1	1	40	31	71	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	66	0	66	0.3
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	13	8	21	0.1
<b>Total children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>17 482</b>	<b>1 280</b>	<b>18 773</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Other/undetermined <sup>4</sup>	55	4	77	4	3 324	147	3 775	
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>668</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>20 806</b>	<b>1 427</b>	<b>22 548<sup>5</sup></b>	

1 Total column includes people whose sex was not reported.

2 'Health care setting' includes 6 cases of occupationally acquired HIV infection and 4 cases of HIV transmission in surgical rooms.

3 A total of 295 children were notified as having been born to women with HIV infection, cumulative to 31 December 2002.

4 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 3 757 adults/adolescents and 18 children. Fifty six 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 31 December 2002, and for two previous yearly intervals**

Age group (years)	1 Jan 01 – 31 Dec 01		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		Cumulative to 31 Dec 02			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>	%
0–2	0	2	0	0	43	20	64	0.3
3–12	0	1	1	1	91	21	112	0.5
0–12	0	3	1	1	134	41	176	0.8
13–19	13	4	1	5	429	92	530	2.3
20–29	157	39	173	26	6 957	581	7 661	34.0
30–39	273	29	313	39	7 757	411	8 271	36.7
40–49	142	12	150	10	3 680	150	3 873	17.2
50–59	59	3	61	4	1 261	56	1 329	5.9
60+	16	1	25	4	413	64	479	2.1
Not reported	8	1	2	0	175	32	229	1.0
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>668</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>20 806</b>	<b>1 427</b>	<b>22 548</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1 See footnotes Table 2.1

**Table 2.4 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2002 to 31 December 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 Jan 02 – 30 Jun 02		1 Jul 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>
ACT	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
NSW <sup>1</sup>	47	0	68	2	115	2	118
NT	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
QLD	14	1	21	1	35	2	37
SA	1	0	4	0	5	0	5
TAS	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
VIC <sup>1</sup>	42	0	24	0	66	0	67
WA	0	4	4	1	4	5	9
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>105</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>239</b>

1 Totals includes people whose sex was reported as transgender.

**Table 2.5 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2002 to 31 December 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 Jan 02 – 30 Jun 02		1 Jul 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	98	–	110	–	208	–	208
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	3	–	4	–	7	–	7
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heterosexual contact	3	4	5	4	8	8	16
Health care setting	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Other/undetermined <sup>1</sup>	1	0	4	0	5	0	7
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>105</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>239</b>

<sup>1</sup> Totals includes people whose sex was reported as transgender.

**Table 2.6 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2002 to 31 December 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 Jan 02 – 30 Jun 02		1 Jul 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>
13–19	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
20–29	31	1	32	1	63	2	65
30–39 <sup>1</sup>	52	2	56	2	108	4	114
40–49	17	0	26	1	43	1	44
50–59	4	1	8	0	12	1	13
60+	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>105</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>239</b>

<sup>1</sup> Totals include two people 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 October to 31 December 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	1 514	955	674	348	8	1	9
Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Marrickville, NSW	403	380	210	134	0	0	0
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	967	759	318	217	2	0	2
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	396	537	126	205	1	0	1
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	1 029	731	773	470	1	1	2
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	1 746	1 565	913	707	9	1	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 055</b>	<b>4 927</b>	<b>3 014</b>	<b>2 081</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>

**Table 3.2** Number of people seen<sup>1</sup> 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 October to 31 December 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	834	–	60.6	–	5	–	5	2.2
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	91	–	68.1	–	2	–	2	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	131	84	46.6	53.6	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 293	1 238	45.0	37.0	0	2	2	0.1
<i>outside Australia</i>	185	132	57.3	50.8	0	2	2	0.6
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 108	1 106	43.0	35.4	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	–	324	–	58.6	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	34	–	44.1	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	47	56	40.4	44.6	0	0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 396</b>	<b>1 736</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.5</b>

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

**Table 3.3** Number of people seen<sup>1</sup> 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 October to 31 December 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	338	–	55.9	–	4	–	4	2.12
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	26	–	53.8	–	0	–	0	0.00
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	49	26	59.2	61.5	0	0	0	0.00
Heterosexual contact	1 128	1 331	53.4	39.7	1	0	1	0.04
<i>outside Australia</i>	178	133	68.0	55.6	0	0	0	0.00
<i>within Australia only</i>	950	1 198	50.6	37.9	1	0	1	0.05
Sex worker	–	90	–	65.5	–	0	0	0.00
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	10	–	40.0	–	0	0	0.00
Other/undetermined	142	151	26.8	22.5	0	0	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 683</b>	<b>1 608</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.33</b>

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

**Table 3.4** Number of people seen<sup>1</sup>, 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 October to 31 December 2002

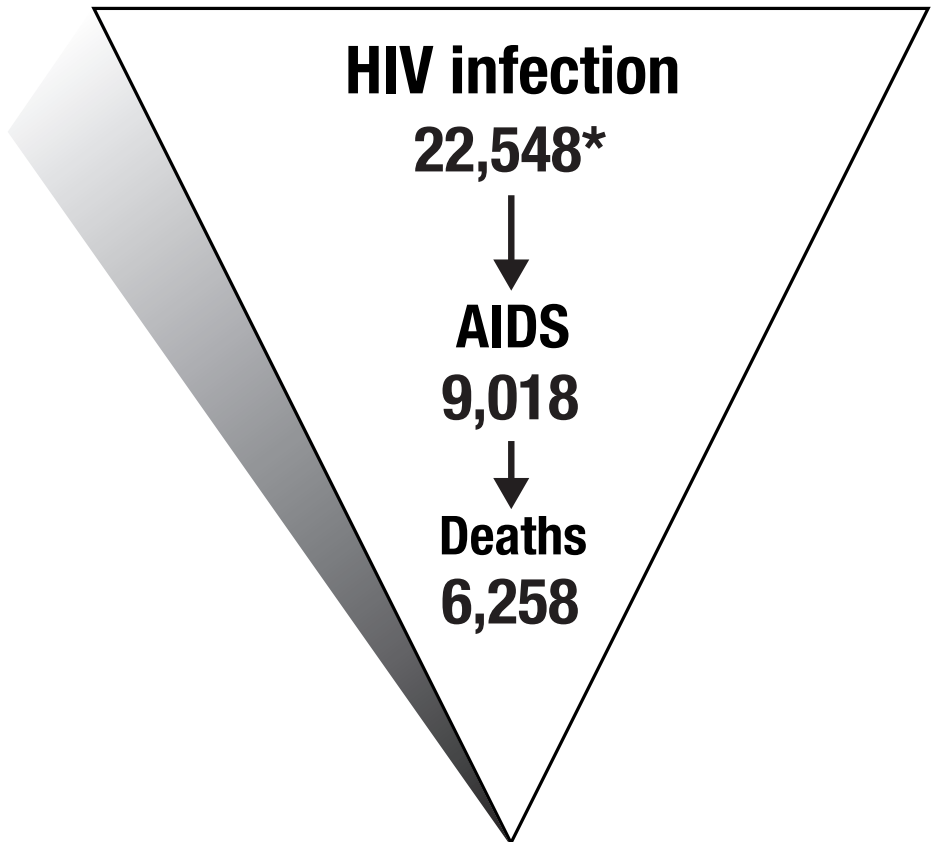
Age group (years)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13–19	161	409	97	148	0	0	0
20–29	1 659	1 709	884	714	6	1	7
30–39	1 339	840	618	346	2	1	3
40–49	697	289	295	122	1	0	1
50–59	315	84	146	33	2	0	2
60+	138	31	61	11	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 309</b>	<b>3 362</b>	<b>2 101</b>	<b>1 374</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>

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

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# The HIV Epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 December 2002



\* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 19,680 (range 19,220 - 20,140).





## Diagnoses in the fourth quarter

### 1 October – 31 December 2002

- a total of 231 diagnoses of HIV infection, 41 diagnoses of AIDS and 25 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 2003, to have occurred in the fourth quarter of 2002
- following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the fourth quarter of 2002 were 62 and 32
- in comparison, 202 diagnoses of HIV infection, 48 diagnoses of AIDS and 22 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 2003, to have occurred in the fourth quarter of 2001

## New HIV infection

During the fourth quarter of 2002, 77 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 heterosexual contact in Australia only was reported in 8 (10.4%) cases.

## Diagnoses in the year to 31 December 2002

- 821 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 195 diagnoses of AIDS
- 79 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2003

## HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 31 December 2002 had an average age of 36 years and 0.7% was in the age group 13 – 19 years

- 88.5% were male, 10.8% were female, sex was reported as transgender in 0.5% and was not reported in 0.2% of cases
- of 738 cases of HIV infection, newly diagnosed in the year to 31 December 2002 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, a history of heterosexual contact in Australia only was reported in 15.2%

## Total diagnoses to 31 December 2002

- 22,548 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 19,680 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
- 9,018 diagnoses of AIDS
- 6,258 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2003

## HIV testing in sexual health clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,095 people in the quarter 1 October – 31 December 2002 who were not previously known to have HIV infection

- of 1,513 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 5 (0.3%) was found to have HIV infection
- of 1,962 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 9 (0.5%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 867 people who reported a history of heterosexual contact in Australia only, who were retested following a previous negative test, none were newly diagnosed with HIV infection

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# Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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

<b>NSW Public Health Bulletin</b>	<a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/phb/phb.html">www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/phb/phb.html</a>
<b>The Northern Territory Disease Control Bulletin</b>	<a href="http://www.nt.gov.au/nths/public/cdc/bulletin.htm">www.nt.gov.au/nths/public/cdc/bulletin.htm</a>
<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases in South Australia</b>	<a href="http://www.stdservices.on.net/publications">www.stdservices.on.net/publications</a>
<b>Victorian Infectious Diseases Bulletin</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/vidb/">www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/vidb/</a>
<b>Disease WATCH</b>	<a href="http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/">www.public.health.wa.gov.au/</a>

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