



National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Australian HIV Surveillance Report

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Diagnoses in the first quarter

1 January – 31 March 2006

- a total of 259 diagnoses of HIV infection, 36 diagnoses of AIDS and 13 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 June 2006, to have occurred in the first quarter of 2006
- following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the first quarter of 2006 were 78 and 20
- in comparison, 230 diagnoses of HIV infection, 51 diagnoses of AIDS and 16 deaths following AIDS were reported by 30 June 2006, to have occurred in the first quarter of 2005

New HIV infection

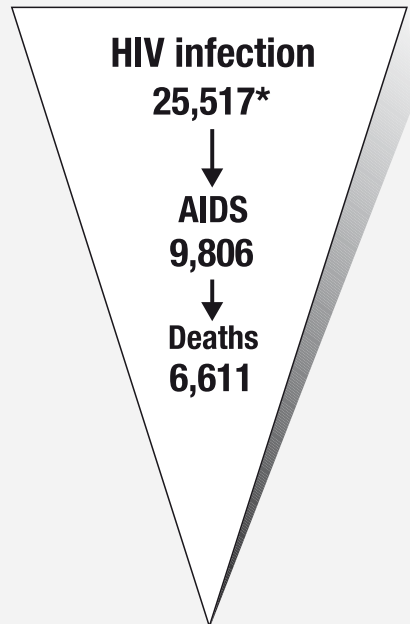
During the first quarter of 2006, 69 cases were reported as having newly acquired HIV infection identified by a negative test within the 12 months prior to diagnosis or the diagnosis of HIV seroconversion illness. A history of heterosexual contact with a partner from a high HIV prevalence country was reported in 4 (5.8%) cases.

Diagnoses in the year to 31 March 2006

- 986 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 186 diagnoses of AIDS
- 63 deaths following AIDS were reported by 30 June 2006

The HIV Epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 March 2006



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 22,615 (range 22,095 to 23,135).

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Announcements

The **4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment** will be held in Sydney on 22 – 25 July 2007. Further information may be obtained through the website www.ias2007.org

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 31 March 2006 had an average age of 37 years and 1.4% was in the age group 13 – 19 years

- 89.2% were male, 10.5% were female and gender was reported as transsexual in 0.2%
- of 891 cases of HIV infection, newly diagnosed in the year to 31 March 2006 for which an exposure to HIV was reported, 35 (3.9%) were attributed to heterosexual contact with a partner from a high HIV prevalence country.

Total diagnoses to 31 March 2006

- 25,517 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 22,615 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
- 9,806 diagnoses of AIDS
- 6,611 deaths following AIDS were reported by 30 June 2006

HIV testing in sexual health clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,263 people in the quarter 1 January – 31 March 2006 who were not previously known to have HIV infection

- of 1,022 men and women with a history of heterosexual contact in Australia, reported as having been tested for the first time, none were found to have HIV infection
- of 1,184 men and women with a history of heterosexual contact in Australia, reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 3 (0.2%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 605 men with a history of heterosexual contact in Australia who were retested following a previous negative test, 3 (0.5%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection

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 March 2006, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases

State/Territory	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	0	1	1	0	93	10	103	1.1
NSW	81	10	77	10	5 324	245	5 586	57.0
NT	1	1	1	1	42	3	45	0.5
QLD	21	6	24	1	1 011	68	1 081	11.0
SA	6	1	7	0	394	31	426	4.3
TAS	2	0	1	0	50	4	54	0.6
VIC	37	6	51	6	1 939	105	2 054	20.9
WA	8	0	4	2	418	37	457	4.7
Total	156	25	166	20	9 271	503	9 806	100.0

Deaths

State/Territory	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	0	0	2	1	73	7	80	1.2
NSW	45	3	26	3	3 561	136	3 707	56.1
NT	0	1	0	0	26	1	27	0.4
QLD	10	1	12	0	654	41	697	10.5
SA	9	0	3	0	274	20	294	4.4
TAS	0	0	0	0	32	2	34	0.5
VIC	11	1	13	1	1 388	60	1 456	22.0
WA	6	1	2	0	291	24	316	4.8
Total	81	7	58	5	6 299	291	6 611	100.0

† Totals include 32 AIDS cases and 21 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 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05			1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	0.0	6.1	3.1	6.2	0.0	3.1
NSW	24.2	3.0	13.5	22.9	2.9	12.8
NT	9.5	10.6	10.0	9.4	10.4	9.9
QLD	10.8	3.1	6.9	11.6	0.5	6.1
SA	7.9	1.3	4.6	9.2	0.0	4.5
TAS	8.4	0.0	4.1	4.2	0.0	2.1
VIC	15.1	2.4	8.7	21.0	2.4	11.5
WA	8.1	0.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	3.0
Total	15.6	2.5	9.0	16.4	2.0	9.1

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 March 2006, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases¹

Age group (years)	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	%
0–2	0	0	0	0	9	9	18	0.2
2–12	0	0	0	0	21	11	32	0.3
0–12	0	0	0	0	30	20	50	0.5
13–19	0	0	1	0	28	5	33	0.3
20–29	8	2	11	4	1 424	119	1 557	15.9
30–39	45	8	49	7	3 811	185	4 006	40.9
40–49	57	7	65	7	2 663	93	2 760	28.1
50–59	32	5	24	2	975	44	1 023	10.4
60+	14	3	16	0	340	37	377	3.8
Total	156	25	166	20	9 271	503	9 806	100.0

Deaths²

Age group (years)	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	%
0–2	0	0	0	0	5	6	11	0.2
2–12	0	0	0	0	17	6	23	0.3
0–12	0	0	0	0	22	12	34	0.5
13–19	0	0	1	0	15	3	18	0.3
20–29	0	0	1	0	689	49	749	11.3
30–39	18	4	14	0	2 468	104	2 580	39.0
40–49	29	2	22	3	2 027	56	2 085	31.5
50–59	21	1	11	0	793	32	825	12.5
60+	13	0	9	2	285	35	320	4.8
Total	81	7	58	5	6 299	291	6 611	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 31 March 2006, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	97	–	115	–	7 599	–	7 599	80.5
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	20	–	10	–	464	–	464	4.9
Injecting drug use	7	2	10	4	221	102	323	3.4
<i>Heterosexual</i>	4	2	4	3	138	76	214	
<i>Not further specified</i>	3	0	6	1	83	26	109	
Heterosexual contact	22	21	17	16	442	289	731	7.7
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	1	0	2	9	29	38	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	3	–	0	–	50	50	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	4	11	7	9	85	80	165	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	5	1	3	1	74	22	96	
<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>	1	2	0	2	39	36	75	
<i>Not further specified</i>	12	3	7	2	233	62	295	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	0	0	121	3	124	1.3
Receipt of blood/tissue	1	1	1	0	82	66	148	1.6
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents	148	24	153	20	8 930	463	9 393	99.5
Children (under 13 years at AIDS diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	0	0	15	17	32	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	0.1
Total children	0	0	0	0	31	20	51	0.5
Sub-total	148	24	153	20	8 961	483	9 444	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	8	1	13	0	310	20	362	
Total	156	25	166	20	9 271	503	9 806	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 32 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 March 2006, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	52	–	37	–	5 292	–	5 292	82.8
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	6	–	6	–	304	–	304	4.8
Injecting drug use	7	0	4	3	134	62	196	3.1
<i>Heterosexual</i>	2	0	1	2	84	50	134	
<i>Not further specified</i>	5	0	3	1	50	12	62	
Heterosexual contact	9	6	4	2	191	142	333	5.2
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	1	0	0	5	13	18	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	1	–	2	–	35	35	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	1	0	0	0	20	20	40	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	2	1	0	0	25	11	36	
<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	1	1	0	26	17	43	
<i>Not further specified</i>	6	2	3	0	113	39	152	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	2	0	97	3	100	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	2	1	1	0	72	58	130	2.0
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents	76	7	54	5	6 091	267	6 358	99.5
Children (under 13 years at death following AIDS)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	1	0	9	10	19	0.3
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0.0
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	11	2	13	0.2
Total children	0	0	1	0	23	12	35	0.5
Sub-total	76	7	55	5	6 114	279	6 393	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	5	0	3	0	185	12	218	
Total	81	7	58	5	6 299	291	6 611	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 21 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 31 March 2006, and for two previous yearly intervals

State/Territory	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate ²
ACT	2	0	8	2	258	32	290	88.8
NSW ³	358	43	362	40	13 198	834	14 292	210.7
NT	3	1	4	0	128	18	146	71.4
QLD	135	23	153	11	2 627	250	2 886	72.2
SA	44	6	48	7	896	94	991	64.1
TAS	6	1	4	0	96	8	104	21.4
VIC ⁴	180	27	253	27	5 058	344	5 444	108.0
WA	36	11	48	17	1 168	189	1 364	67.5
Total⁵	764	112	880	104	23 429	1 769	25 517⁶	125.1

- 1 Sixty six people (29 NSW, 9 QLD, 1 SA, 20 VIC and 7 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 231 people whose sex was not reported.
- 4 Cumulative total for VIC includes 22 people whose sex was not reported.
- 5 Cumulative total for Australia includes 253 people whose sex was not reported.
- 6 Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 22 615 (range 22 095 to 23 135). 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 March 2006, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	567	–	638	–	16 626	–	16 626	76.7
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	23	–	40	–	941	–	941	4.3
Injecting drug use	22	9	25	5	678	214	898	4.1
<i>Heterosexual</i>	13	5	13	3	286	157	443	
<i>Not further specified</i>	9	4	12	2	392	57	455	
Heterosexual contact	90	96	86	87	1 362	1 225	2 593	12.0
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	6	3	6	35	108	143	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	12	–	5	–	150	150	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	26	47	27	43	311	394	708	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	31	10	26	9	289	136	425	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	1	0	5	18	23	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	7	6	2	9	83	173	257	
<i>Not further specified</i>	26	15	27	15	639	246	887	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	218	4	222	1.0
Receipt of blood/tissue	1	0	0	1	109	102	211	1.0
Health care setting ²	0	0	0	0	3	9	12	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents¹	703	105	789	93	19 937	1 554	21 503	99.2
Children (under 13 years at HIV diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection ³	0	1	3	3	43	39	82	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	65	0	65	0.3
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	13	9	22	0.1
Total children	0	1	3	3	121	48	169	0.8
Sub-total	703	106	792	96	20 058	1 602	21 672	100.0
Other/undetermined ⁴	61	6	88	8	3 371	167	3 845	
Total¹	764	112	880	104	23 429	1 769	25 517⁵	

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 358 children were notified as having been born to women with HIV infection, cumulative to 31 March 2006.

4 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 3 823 adults/adolescents and 22 children. Sixty 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 March 2006, and for two previous yearly intervals

Age group (years)	1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 05		Cumulative to 31 Mar 06			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	
0–2	0	0	0	2	44	25	70	0.3
3–12	1	1	2	2	93	27	120	0.5
0–12	1	1	2	4	137	52	190	0.8
13–19	9	2	10	4	460	104	572	2.2
20–29	151	41	186	33	7 511	697	8 330	32.6
30–39	316	35	300	42	8 767	528	9 402	36.8
40–49	179	19	232	15	4 310	203	4 558	17.9
50–59	76	11	105	5	1 572	79	1 663	6.5
60+	32	3	44	1	531	74	608	2.4
Not reported	0	0	1	0	141	32	194	0.8
Total¹	764	112	880	104	23 429	1 769	25 517	100.0

1 See footnotes Table 2.1

Table 2.4 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 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 Apr 05 – 30 Sep 05		1 Oct 05 – 31 Mar 06		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
ACT	1	0	2	1	3	1	4
NSW	65	3	56	1	121	4	125
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	20	0	22	0	42	0	42
SA	10	0	5	0	15	0	15
TAS	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
VIC	44	2	28	2	72	4	76
WA	8	0	2	1	10	1	11
Total	149	5	115	5	264	10	274

Table 2.5 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 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 Apr 05 – 30 Sep 05		1 Oct 05 – 31 Mar 06		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	126	–	97	–	223	–	223
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	10	–	5	–	15	–	15
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
Heterosexual contact	5	5	5	5	10	10	20
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined	7	0	7	0	14	0	14
Total	149	5	115	5	264	10	274

Table 2.6 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 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 Apr 05 – 30 Sep 05		1 Oct 05 – 31 Mar 06		1 Apr 05 – 31 Mar 06		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13–19	1	1	3	0	4	1	5
20–29	38	3	33	1	71	4	75
30–39	57	1	42	1	99	2	101
40–49	30	0	26	2	56	2	58
50–59	16	0	8	1	24	1	25
60+	7	0	3	0	10	0	10
Total	149	5	115	5	264	10	274

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 January to 31 March 2006

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	1 654	816	831	330	8	0	8
Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Marrickville, NSW	431	269	60	27	0	0	0
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	1 033	862	380	198	3	0	3
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	577	515	154	164	0	0	0
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	1 306	777	1 003	555	2	0	2
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	1 750	1 527	878	683	5	0	5
Total	6 751	4 766	3 306	1 957	18	0	18

Table 3.2 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 January to 31 March 2006

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	1 777	–	66.0	–	10	–	10	1.0
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	92	–	81.5	–	3	–	3	5.3
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	165	88	54.5	50.0	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 966	1 717	43.3	42.9	3	0	3	0.2
<i>outside Australia</i>	461	307	53.4	51.1	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 505	1 410	40.2	41.1	3	0	3	0.3
Sex worker	–	800	–	57.9	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	80	–	53.7	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	29	75	34.5	42.7	0	0	0	0.0
Total	4 029	2 760	54.5	47.7	16	0	16	0.5

Table 3.3 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 January to 31 March 2006

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	495	–	50.1	–	0	–	0	0.0
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	15	–	53.3	–	0	–	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	58	17	57.0	23.5	1	0	1	0.4
Heterosexual contact	1 611	1 675	48.3	34.3	1	0	1	0.1
<i>outside Australia</i>	384	323	53.1	41.5	1	0	1	0.1
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 227	1 352	46.9	32.5	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	–	80	–	41.2	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	9	–	44.4	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	232	196	12.3	12.2	0	0	0	0.0
Total	2 411	1 977	46.0	32.3	2	0	2	0.1

Table 3.4 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 January to 31 March 2006

Age group (years)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13–19	202	448	106	137	2	0	2
20–29	2 845	2 511	1 496	1 031	4	0	4
30–39	1 943	1 184	946	521	5	0	5
40–49	1 072	480	462	210	5	0	5
50–59	481	128	212	53	1	0	1
60+	208	15	84	5	1	0	1
Total	6 751	4 766	3 306	1 957	18	0	18

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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:

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

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