

# National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research Australian HIV Surveillance Report

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#### Diagnoses in the third quarter

#### 1 July - 30 September 2008

a total of 231 diagnoses of HIV infection, 19 diagnoses of AIDS and 6 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 December 2008, to have occurred in the third quarter of 2008

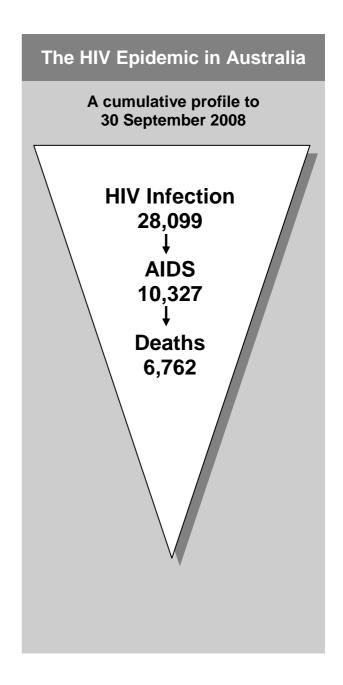
in comparison, 246 diagnoses of HIV infection, 36 diagnoses of AIDS and 13 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 December 2008, to have occurred in the third quarter of 2007

#### **New HIV infection**

During the third quarter of 2008, 47 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 primary HIV infection. A history of homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, was reported in 42 (89.4%) cases.

## Diagnoses in the year to 30 September 2008

1,015 diagnoses of HIV infection120 diagnoses of AIDS34 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 December 2008



The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, The University of New South Wales. The NCHECR Surveillance Program is a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Its work is overseen by the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis.

## **Announcements**

The **21st annual ASHM Conference** will be held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, on 9 – 12 September 2009. Further information may be obtained through the website <a href="http://www.ashm.org.au/conference">http://www.ashm.org.au/conference</a>.

The **Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2009** will also be held in Brisbane, Queensland, on 7 – 9 September 2009. Further information may be obtained through the website <a href="http://www.ashm.org.au/conference">http://www.ashm.org.au/conference</a>

#### **HIV** diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 30 September 2008 had an average age of 37 years and 1.1% was in the age group 13 – 19 years

85.9% were male and 14.1% were female

of 817 cases of HIV infection, newly diagnosed among adult/adolescent males in the year to 30 September 2008 for which an exposure to HIV was reported, 665 (81.4%) were attributed to male homosexual/bisexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use.

## Total diagnoses to 30 September 2008

28,099 diagnoses of HIV infection 10,327 diagnoses of AIDS

6,762 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 December 2008

#### HIV testing in sexual health clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,699 people in the quarter 1 July – 30 September 2008 who were not previously known to have HIV infection

- of 1,143 men reported as having been tested for the first time, 4 (0.3%) was found to have HIV infection
- of 2,625 men, reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 18 (0.7%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 1,520 homosexually active men who were retested following a previous negative test, 16 (1.1%) 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 30 September 2008, and for two previous yearly intervals

#### Cases

	1 Oct 06 –	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 –	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	to 30 Sep 08	
State/Territory	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>†</sup>	%
ACT	0	0	2	0	94	10	104	1.0
NSW	76	8	27	4	5 524	265	5 807	56.2
NT	2	0	1	0	46	4	50	0.5
QLD	19	2	23	1	1 076	74	1 152	11.2
SA	7	0	3	0	414	32	447	4.3
TAS	2	0	0	0	55	4	59	0.6
VIC	44	4	49	6	2 093	119	2 225	21.5
WA	8	0	4	0	439	42	483	4.7
Total	158	14	109	11	9 741	550	10 327	100.0

#### Deaths

ACT NSW	1 Oct 06 –	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 –	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	to 30 Sep 08	}	
State/Territory	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>†</sup>	%	
ACT	0	0	0	0	73	7	80	1.2	
NSW	21	1	7	4	3 602	141	3 754	55.5	
NT	3	0	2	0	31	1	32	0.5	
QLD	10	0	3	0	677	43	722	10.7	
SA	2	0	0	0	280	20	300	4.4	
TAS	0	0	1	0	34	2	36	0.5	
VIC	9	4	15	0	1 436	64	1 509	22.3	
WA	5	4	2	0	299	29	329	4.9	
Total	50	9	30	4	6 432	307	6 762	100.0	

<sup>†</sup> Totals include 36 AIDS cases and 23 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

	1	Oct 06 - 30 Sep 0	7	1	Oct 07 - 30 Sep 0	8
State/Territory	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	0.0	5.8
NSW	22.2	2.3	12.2	7.8	1.1	4.4
NT	18.0	0.0	9.3	8.8	0.0	4.5
QLD	9.1	1.0	5.0	10.7	0.5	5.6
SA	8.9	0.0	4.4	3.8	0.0	1.9
TAS	8.2	0.0	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
VIC	17.0	1.5	9.2	18.6	2.2	10.4
WA	7.5	0.0	3.8	3.6	0.0	1.8
Total	15.1	1.3	8.2	10.2	1.0	5.6

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 September 2008, and for two previous yearly intervals

#### Cases<sup>1</sup>

	1 Oct 06 -	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 -	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	to 30 Sep 08	
Age group (years)	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>†</sup>	%
0-2	0	0	1	1	10	10	20	0.2
2 – 12	0	0	1	0	22	12	34	0.3
0 – 12	0	0	2	1	32	22	54	0.5
13 – 19	0	0	0	0	28	5	33	0.3
20 – 29	10	2	7	1	1 460	127	1 602	15.5
30 – 39	42	3	28	3	3 954	200	4 166	40.3
40 – 49	59	5	39	3	2 832	107	2 944	28.5
50 – 59	28	2	20	2	1 050	48	1 102	10.7
60+	19	2	13	1	385	41	426	4.1
Total	158	14	109	11	9 741	550	10 327	100.0

#### Deaths<sup>2</sup>

	1 Oct 06 –	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 –	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	to 30 Sep 08	1
Age group (years)	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>†</sup>	%
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	0	0	15	3	18	0.3
20 – 29	5	0	0	0	695	50	756	11.2
30 – 39	7	3	7	1	2 487	108	2 604	38.5
40 – 49	10	2	11	1	2 078	61	2 141	31.7
50 – 59	18	2	3	1	822	35	858	12.7
60+	10	2	9	1	313	38	351	5.2
Total	50	9	30	4	6 432	307	6 762	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Cases are classified by age at diagnosis.

<sup>2</sup> Deaths are classified by age at death.

Table 1.4 Cases of AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 September 2008, and for two previous yearly intervals

	1 Oct 06 -	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 -	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	e to 30 Sep (	08
Exposure category	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	94	-	80	_	7 901	_	7 901	79.7
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact and injecting drug use	18	_	3	_	501	_	501	5.1
Injecting drug use	4	0	1	1	236	104	340	3.4
Heterosexual	0	0	1	0	144	78	222	
Not further specified	4	0	0	1	92	26	118	
Heterosexual contact	25	13	16	9	511	329	840	8.5
Sex with injecting drug user	0	0	0	0	9	31	40	
Sex with bisexual male	_	0	_	0	_	50	50	
From a high prevalence country	7	5	7	2	103	94	197	
Sex with person from a high prevalence country	6	1	2	0	86	25	111	
Sex with person with medically acquired HIV	0	0	0	0	2	10	12	
Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified	0	3	1	1	35	37	72	
Not further specified	12	4	6	6	276	82	358	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	1	0	123	3	126	1.3
Receipt of blood/tissue	1	0	0	0	84	66	150	1.5
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
Total Adults/ Adolescents	143	13	101	10	9 357	505	9 862	99.4
Children (under 13 years at AID	S diagnosis)							
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	2	1	17	19	36	0.4
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	2	1	33	22	55	0.6
Sub-total	143	13	103	11	9 390	527	9 917	100.0
Other/undetermined <sup>1</sup>	15	1	6	0	351	23	410	
Total	158	14	109	11	9 741	550	10 327	

The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 36 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 September 2008, and for two previous yearly intervals

	1 Oct 06 -	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 -	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	to 30 Sep 08	}
Exposure category	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	24	_	18	-	5 372	-	5 372	82.3
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact and injecting drug use	5	_	4	_	316	_	316	4.9
Injecting drug use	1	1	2	1	140	64	204	3.1
Heterosexual	0	1	1	1	87	52	139	
Not further specified	1	0	1	0	53	12	65	
Heterosexual contact	11	6	2	3	210	153	363	5.5
Sex with injecting drug user	0	0	0	0	5	14	19	
Sex with bisexual male	_	0	_	0	_	36	36	
From a high prevalence country	1	1	0	0	21	21	42	
Sex with person from a high prevalence country	1	0	0	1	27	12	39	
Sex with person with medically acquired HIV	0	0	0	0	2	7	9	
Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified	0	1	0	1	21	17	38	
Not further specified	9	4	2	1	134	46	180	
Haemophilia/ coagulation disorder	2	0	2	0	100	3	103	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	2	1	0	0	75	58	133	2.0
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0
Total Adults/ Adolescents	45	8	28	4	6 214	280	6 494	99.4
Children (under 13 years	at AIDS diag	gnosis)						
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	0	0	9	10	19	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	0	0	0	25	13	38	0.6
Sub-total	45	8	28	4	6 239	293	6 532	100.0
Other/undetermined <sup>1</sup>	5	1	2	0	193	14	230	
Total	50	9	30	4	6 432	307	6 762	

<sup>1</sup> The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 23 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.

## **National HIV Registry**

Table 2.1 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex<sup>1</sup> and State/Territory, cumulative to 30 September 2008, and for two previous yearly intervals

_	1 Oct 06 –	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 –	30 Sep 08	•	Cumulative	to 30 Sep 08	3
State/Territory	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate <sup>2</sup>
ACT	5	1	8	1	274	34	308	89.6
NSW <sup>3</sup>	381	49	327	46	14 069	956	15 283	219.5
NT	7	2	7	2	143	25	168	77.0
QLD	164	31	184	28	3 031	322	3 362	78.8
SA	53	12	36	8	1 008	116	1 125	70.3
TAS	4	2	4	1	115	13	128	25.8
VIC <sup>4</sup>	258	32	253	38	5 694	427	6 165	116.5
WA	61	14	53	19	1 316	237	1 560	72.3
Total <sup>5</sup>	933	143	872	143	25 650	2 130	28 099	131.7

<sup>1</sup> Sixty nine people (30 NSW, 9 QLD, 1 SA, 22 VIC and 7 WA) whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the total columns of Tables 2.1 – 2.3

<sup>2</sup> Rate per one hundred thousand current population. Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar interval from *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

<sup>3</sup> Cumulative total for NSW includes 228 people whose sex was not reported.

<sup>4</sup> Cumulative total for VIC includes 22 people whose sex was not reported.

<sup>5</sup> Cumulative total for Australia includes 250 people whose sex was not reported.

Table 2.2 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection for which exposure category was reported, by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 September 2008, and for two previous yearly intervals

	1 Oct 06 –	30 Sep 07 1	Oct 07 -	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	e to 30 Sep (	08
Exposure category	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>	%
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	690	_	637	_	18 300	_	18 300	75.9
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	31	_	28	_	1 033	_	1 033	4.3
Injecting drug use	21	7	22	6	733	235	974	4.0
Heterosexual	10	5	11	5	314	172	486	
Not further specified	11	2	11	1	419	63	488	
Heterosexual contact	130	123	130	123	1 673	1 534	3 210	13.2
Sex with injecting drug user	1	8	4	4	41	122	163	
Sex with bisexual male	_	6	_	8	_	167	167	
From a high prevalence country	31	63	47	60	404	554	959	
Sex with person from a high prevalence country	47	9	30	9	377	158	535	
Sex with person with medically acquired HIV	0	0	0	0	6	21	27	
Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified	8	11	6	6	102	195	298	
Not further specified	43	26	43	36	743	317	1 061	
Haemophilia/ coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	219	4	223	0.9
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	2	109	104	213	0.9
Health care setting <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	3	9	12	0.0
Total Adults/ Adolescents <sup>1</sup>	872	130	817	131	22 070	1 886	23 965	99.2
Children (under 13 years at HIV d	iagnosis)							
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection <sup>3</sup>	3	4	6	4	53	50	103	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 <sup>3</sup>	3	4	6	4	131	59	190	0.8
Sub-total	875	134	823	135	22 201	1 945	24 155	100.0
Other/undetermined <sup>4</sup>	58	9	49	8	3 449	185	3 944	
Total <sup>1</sup>	933	143	872	143	25 650	2 130	28 099	

<sup>1</sup> Total column includes people whose sex was not reported.

<sup>2 &#</sup>x27;Health care setting' includes 5 cases of occupationally acquired HIV infection and 4 cases of HIV transmission in surgical rooms.

A total of 462 children were notified as having been born to women with HIV infection, cumulative to 30 September 2008.

The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 3 919 adults/adolescents and 25 children. Sixty nine 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.

Table 2.3 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 September 2008, and for two previous yearly intervals

	1 Oct 06 -	30 Sep 07	1 Oct 07 -	30 Sep 08		Cumulative	to 30 Sep 08	1
Age group (years)	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>	%
0-2	2	0	3	2	56	38	95	0.3
3 – 12	2	5	4	2	93	24	117	0.4
0 – 12	4	5	7	4	149	62	212	0.8
13 – 19	5	5	11	4	480	116	604	2.1
20 – 29	190	41	208	47	7 982	823	8 928	31.8
30 – 39	322	53	293	58	9 545	658	10 308	36.7
40 – 49	258	26	225	17	4 908	257	5 210	18.5
50 – 59	106	9	89	11	1 813	101	1 926	6.8
60+	47	4	39	2	635	81	720	2.6
Not reported	1	0	0	0	138	32	191	0.7
Total <sup>1</sup>	933	143	872	143	25 650	2 130	28 099	100.0

See footnotes Table 2.1

Table 2.4 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 for which primary HIV infection 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

	1 Oct 07	– 31 Mar 08	1 Apr 08 -	- 30 Sep 08	1 0	1 Oct 07 to 30 Sep 08		
State/Territory	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
ACT	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	
NSW	61	5	45	2	106	7	113	
NT	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	
QLD	32	2	18	1	50	3	53	
SA	2	1	3	0	5	1	6	
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
VIC	34	1	41	4	75	5	80	
WA	6	1	9	0	15	1	16	
Total	137	10	116	7	253	17	270	

Table 2.5 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 for which primary HIV infection 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

	1 Oct 07 -	31 Mar 08	1 Apr 08 –	30 Sep 08	1 0	ct 07 to 30 S	ep 08
Exposure category	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total <sup>1</sup>
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	122	_	98	_	220	_	220
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	3	_	5	_	8	_	8
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	1	1	0	1	1	2	3
Heterosexual contact	7	9	11	6	18	15	33
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined	4	0	2	0	6	0	6
Total	137	10	116	7	253	17	270

Table 2.6 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 for which primary HIV infection 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

	1 Oct 07 –	1 Oct 07 – 31 Mar 08		1 Apr 08 – 30 Sep 08		1 Oct 07 to 30 Sep 08		
Age Group (years)	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
13 – 19	4	0	2	0	6	0	6	
$20 - 29^1$	40	3	36	4	76	7	83	
30 – 39	48	3	45	2	93	5	98	
40 – 49	33	3	22	1	55	4	59	
50 – 59	8	1	6	0	14	1	15	
60+	4	0	5	0	9	0	9	
Total	137	10	116	7	253	17	270	

## 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 July to 30 September 2008

	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
Sexual health clinic	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, NSW	1 521	876	769	367	3	0	3
RPA Sexual Health Centre, NSW	464	198	209	69	0	0	0
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	1 302	797	457	110	3	0	3
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	755	529	223	138	1	0	1
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	1 221	709	986	536	3	0	3
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	2 101	1 617	1 124	711	12	1	13
Total	7 364	4 726	3 768	1 931	22	1	23

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 July to 30 September 2008

	nega	evious tive HIV ody test		% retested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
Exposure category	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	1 980		76.8		16		16	1.1
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact and injecting drug use	114		70.2		2		2	2.5
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	105	72	61.0	53.2	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	2 050	1 557	60.8	38.2	0	1	1	0.1
outside Australia	551	327	58.3	49.8	0	0	0	0.0
within Australia only	1 499	1 230	41.7	40.1	0	1	1	0.1
Sex worker		826		60.9		0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use		63		69.8		0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	39	89	38.5	51.7	0	0	0	0.0
Total	4 288	2 607	61.2	48.5	18	1	19	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 July to 30 September 2008

	•	vious HIV ody test	% tested for HIV antibody					
Exposure category	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	641		48.2		3		3	1.0
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact and injecting drug use	26		42.3		0		0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	47	31	51.1	45.2	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 783	1 616	44.0	33.2	1	0	1	0.1
outside Australia	489	342	49.5	36.0	0	0	0	0.0
within Australia only	1 294	1 274	41.9	32.5	1	0	1	0.1
Sex worker		257		32.7		0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use		15		40.0		0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	199	165	7.5	15.8	0	0	0	0.0
Total	2 696	2 084	42.4	32.0	4	0	4	0.2

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 July to 30 September 2008

	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
Age group (years)	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 – 19	241	454	137	152	0	0	0
20 – 29	3 281	2 473	1 756	981	8	0	8
30 – 39	2 005	1 187	1 038	544	8	1	9
40 – 49	1 092	453	509	198	3	0	3
50 – 59	487	129	215	46	1	0	1
60+	258	30	113	10	2	0	2
Total	7 364	4 726	3 768	1 931	22	1	23

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### **Notes**

The National AIDS Registry is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee, which consists of representatives from NCHECR, the Health Departments of each State and Territory, the affected communities and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. 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 Registry is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections 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 Registry 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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