

**Queensland sentinel and
non-sentinel NSP sites: Results from
the Australian NSP survey 2007**



**NATIONAL CENTRE IN HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
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1. Introduction

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) survey is a cross sectional survey conducted annually at sentinel NSP sites across Australia. The survey forms the basis of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C surveillance among injecting drug users (IDUs). Each year, all clients attending selected NSPs during the designated survey week are asked to complete a brief, anonymous questionnaire and to provide a capillary blood sample for HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibody testing.

In Queensland, seven NSP sites participate in the Australian NSP survey on an annual basis. These seven NSP sites were selected as Queensland's "sentinel sites". The sentinel sites are designed to act as an early warning mechanism, so that, in the event of an outbreak of HIV among the Queensland injecting drug user population, this would be identified early. Other criteria used to select Queensland's sentinel sites were the volume of needles/syringes distributed and their willingness to participate in the survey.

In 2007 an additional ten NSP sites took part in the NSP Survey. This was done to determine whether the current seven sentinel sites that participate in the NSP survey are representative of the broader NSP sector. Data from the additional (non-sentinel) NSP sites were not included in the Australian NSP Survey National Data Report, 2003 -2007, but are presented in this report.

All clients attending both the sentinel and non-sentinel NSP sites during a one week period in October 2007 were asked to complete a brief, self-administered questionnaire and to provide a capillary blood sample for HIV and hepatitis C antibody testing. Ethical approval for the survey was obtained from ethics committees associated with the investigators and participating sites, and verbal rather than written informed consent was obtained to assure the anonymity of participants.

Capillary blood was obtained by finger-prick using disposable lancets and cotton-fibre blotting paper. Dried blood samples were kept at room temperature at the survey sites and couriered to a central laboratory every second or third day. HIV antibody was detected using Genetic Systems HIV-1 ELISA tests. Repeatedly reactive specimens were subjected to Western blot confirmatory testing (Bio-Rad New LAV blot 1, France). A modified third generation enzyme immunoassay (Monolisa anti-HCV Plus Version 2 EIA, Biorad, France) was used to test for HCV antibody. A modified cut off value for optical density was calculated to capture greater than 95% of the seronegative population. Specimens were considered positive for HCV antibody if the optical density to cut off ratio was greater than or equal to one on initial and subsequent testing.

Data were analysed using Stata, Version 10 (Stata Corporation, College Station TX). Associations between site type, demographic and behavioural variables and HIV/HCV antibody prevalence were assessed using the χ^2 test or Fisher's exact test where expected frequencies were less than five. Percentage values may not add to 100 due to rounding.

2. Participating sites

The seven Queensland sentinel NSP sites are; Biala Community Alcohol and Drug Services, Cairns Base Hospital NSP (relocating to Cairns ATODS from 2008), Kobi House Toowoomba, West Moreton Sexual Health Service and the Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN) Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast NSPs.

In 2007 the following NSP sites took part in the expanded NSP survey; Bundaberg ATODS, Caboolture NSP Services, Inala Community Health ATODS, Logan Central Community Health Centre NSP, Mackay ATODS, Redcliffe Community Health, Redland Health Service NSP, Sunshine Coast ATODS Harm Reduction, Townsville ATODS and Youth Link NSP Services.

3. Summary of results

There were 417 NSP clients that participated in the NSP survey at the seven sentinel NSP sites and 198 that participated at the ten non-sentinel NSP sites. The response rate at the sentinel sites was 34% and 46% at non-sentinel NSP sites. The overall response rate (all sites combined) was 36%. Data on gender and age was collected for both participants and non participants in the survey. At both sentinel and non sentinel sites participants were slightly older than non participants but this was not statistically significant at either site type. At both sentinel and non-sentinel sites a greater proportion of females agreed to participate (37% and 57% respectively) compared to males (32% and 42% respectively), but once again these differences were not found to be statistically significant.

The male to female ratio of survey participants was approximately 2:1 at both sentinel and non-sentinel NSP sites. The majority of survey participants at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites were heterosexual (84% and 87% respectively). Median age of sentinel site participants was 35 years and 37 years at non-sentinel sites. Age ranges were similar at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites (17-60 and 17-63 respectively). The proportion of injectors aged under 25 years was also similar (12% and 11%) as was the proportion of new injectors (8% and 6%). Median age at first injection was 18 at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites.

The proportion of participants reporting indigenous status was also similar at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites (10% and 12% respectively) as were the proportion born in Australia (90% and 87%) and the proportion where English was spoken at home by parents (95% at both sites).

The sentinel and non-sentinel NSP sites were also found to be comparable in terms of injecting and sexual risk behaviours, although there were some differences in the type of drug last injected. Participants at non-sentinel NSP sites were significantly less likely to report last injecting heroin than those participating in the survey at sentinel NSP sites ($p < 0.01$). No other statistically significant differences in last drug injected were identified between the two groups.

Participants at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites reported similar rates of use of a new (sterile) needle and syringe for every injection (75% and 76% respectively), with 15% of participants at both sites reporting receptive sharing (re-use of someone else's used needle/syringe). Receptive sharing was most commonly reported after a regular sex partner in both groups.

There were some minor differences in the proportion of participants reporting re-use of injecting equipment other than needles and syringes but none of these differences were statistically significant. 83% of participants in both groups had not been injected by someone else in the month prior to completing the survey.

Rates of recent imprisonment were also comparable across participants at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites with 10% and 11% of participants reporting imprisonment in the last 12 months. The proportion of participants reporting that they had ever been incarcerated was also similar in both groups (42% and 44%).

It would appear that fewer participants at non-sentinel NSP sites have ever received any form of drug treatment, with 77% of participants at sentinel sites reporting previous drug treatment compared to 67% at non-sentinel sites ($p < 0.01$). There were no differences between the two groups in terms of previous or current Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) with 55% and 48% of participants reporting previous or current MMT. There were however, significant differences between the two groups in terms of previous or current pharmacotherapy treatment other than methadone. This is perhaps not surprising given that significantly fewer participants at the non-sentinel sites reported last injecting heroin or heroin and morphine/other opioids combined.

It would appear that there are slightly higher rates of recent HIV and HCV testing at sentinel sites compared to non-sentinel sites however the differences were not statistically significant. There are low rates of hepatitis C treatment among all participants.

Participants at sentinel and non-sentinel sites were comparable with regard to needle and syringe acquisition. In the month preceding survey completion, 36% of participants at both sentinel and non-sentinel NSP sites reported obtaining needles and syringes from an NSP, 14 and 16% (respectively) reported obtaining needles and syringes from a chemist, and 4% and 3% (respectively) reported obtaining needles and syringes from a vending machine.

HIV antibody was low at 2.4% among participants at sentinel sites and 1.1% at non-sentinel sites. Differences in HIV prevalence at sentinel sites compared to non-sentinel sites were not statistically significant ($p=0.357$). HIV prevalence was consistently higher among homosexual male participants than among bisexual or heterosexual male participants or female participants at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites. At the sentinel sites, 44% of the male participants reporting their sexual preference as homosexual tested antibody positive for HIV and 50% tested positive at non-sentinel sites. Of the male participants that identified as bisexual, 14% tested HIV antibody positive at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites.

HCV antibody prevalence was high at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites (60% and 51% respectively). Differences in HCV prevalence at sentinel sites compared to non-sentinel sites were not statistically significant ($p=0.049$). HCV antibody prevalence was highest among participants aged over 30 years and among those who had been injecting for more than 10 years in both groups.

HCV antibody prevalence was also higher among participants reporting imprisonment in the preceding year compared to those not reporting recent imprisonment, among Indigenous background participants, compared to those from a non-Indigenous background. HCV prevalence was lowest among those participants reporting methamphetamine as last drug injected at both sentinel and non-sentinel sites.

Demographic, drug use, injecting risk and related tables

Table 1 Number (percentage) of respondents by demographic characteristics and site

Demographic characteristics	Sentinel sites	Non-sentinel sites	Combined Qld sites
Number of sites	7	10	17
N° surveyed	N=417	N=198	N=615
Response (%)	34	46	36
Gender (%)			
Male	282 (68)	121 (61)	403 (66)
Female	131 (31)	76 (38)	207 (34)
Transgender	3 (<1)	1 (<1)	4 (<1)
Not reported	1 (<1)	---	1 (<1)
Sexual identity (%)			
Heterosexual	350 (84)	172 (87)	522 (85)
Bisexual	32 (8)	18 (9)	50 (8)
Homosexual	25 (6)	6 (3)	31 (5)
Not reported	10 (2)	2 (1)	12 (2)
Age and duration of injection (years)			
<i>Median age</i>	35	37	35
<i>Age range</i>	17-60	17-63	17-63
<i>Age group (%)</i>			
<25 years	49 (12)	21 (11)	70 (11)
25+ years	367 (88)	177 (89)	544 (88)
Not reported	1 (<1)	---	1 (<1)
<i>Median age 1st IDU</i>	18	18	18
<i>Age range</i>	11-44	10-50	10-50
Not reported	12	7	19
<i>Median years IDU</i>	14	15	14
<i>Range</i>	<1-38	<1-48	<1-48
Duration of drug injection			
<3 years	32 (8)	11 (6)	43 (7)
3+ years	373 (89)	180 (91)	553 (90)
Not reported	12 (3)	7 (4)	19 (3)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (%)			
No	375 (90)	171 (86)	546 (89)
Yes	38 (10)	23 (12)	61 (10)
Not reported	4 (<1)	4 (2)	8 (1)
Region/Country of birth (%)			
Australia	374 (90)	172 (87)	546 (89)
Other Oceania	15 (4)	8 (4)	23 (4)
Asia	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	2 (<1)
UK & Ireland	14 (3)	3 (2)	17 (3)
Other	10 (2)	5 (3)	15 (2)
Not reported	3 (<1)	9 (5)	12 (2)
Main language spoken at home by parents (%)			
English speaking	395 (95)	189 (95)	584 (95)
Non-English speaking	17 (4)	4 (2)	21 (3)
Not reported	5 (1)	5 (3)	10 (2)
Imprisonment last year (%)			
No	363 (87)	167 (84)	530 (86)
Yes	43 (10)	22 (11)	65 (11)
Not reported	11 (3)	9 (5)	20 (3)
Injected in prison (%)	N=43	N=22	N=65
Yes	22 (51)	9 (41)	31 (48)
Frequency of injection last month (%)			
Not last month	32 (8)	20 (10)	52 (8)
Less than weekly	70 (17)	41 (21)	111 (18)
Weekly not daily	119 (29)	37 (19)	156 (25)
Daily or more	188 (45)	96 (48)	284 (46)
Not reported	8 (2)	4 (2)	12 (2)

Table 2 Number (percentage) of respondents by last drug injected, injecting behaviour in the month prior to survey and site

Injecting behaviour	Sentinel sites	Non-sentinel sites	Combined Qld sites
Last drug injected (%)	N=417	N=198	N=615
Anabolic steroids	5 (1)	1 (<1)	6 (1)
Cocaine	1 (<1)	3 (2)	4 (<1)
Heroin	106 (25)	25 (13)	131 (21)
Methadone	19 (5)	8 (4)	27 (4)
Meth/Amphetamine	145 (35)	82 (41)	227 (37)
Morphine/Other Opioids	96 (23)	61 (31)	157 (26)
Subutex/Buprenorphine	28 (7)	5 (3)	33 (5)
More than one	2 (<1)	1 (<1)	3 (<1)
Other	6 (1)	6 (3)	12 (2)
Not reported	9 (2)	6 (3)	15 (2)
N° Injected last month	N=377	N=174	N=551
Places injected last month (%)*			
Own home	328 (88)	157 (92)	485 (90)
Friend's home	159 (43)	58 (34)	217 (40)
Dealer's home	53 (14)	28 (16)	81 (15)
Street, park, beach	65 (17)	22 (13)	87 (16)
Car	134 (36)	39 (23)	173 (32)
Public toilet	73 (20)	21 (12)	94 (17)
Commercial injecting room	3 (<1)	2 (1)	5 (1)
Squat	17 (5)	5 (3)	22 (4)
Use of new sterile needles & syringes last month (%)			
All injections	282 (75)	132 (76)	414 (75)
Most of the time	71 (19)	32 (18)	103 (19)
Half of the time	9 (2)	2 (1)	11 (2)
Some of the time	2 (<1)	4 (2)	6 (1)
Not last month	3 (<1)	---	3 (<1)
Not reported	10 (3)	4 (2)	14 (3)
Re-used another's used needle & syringe last month (%)			
None	316 (84)	146 (84)	462 (84)
One	16 (4)	8 (5)	24 (4)
Twice	12 (3)	3 (2)	15 (3)
3-5 times	16 (4)	5 (3)	21 (4)
>5 times	9 (2)	8 (5)	17 (3)
Not reported	8 (2)	4 (2)	12 (2)
Number of people needle & syringe was re-used after last month (%)			
None	316 (84)	146 (84)	462 (84)
One	28 (7)	11 (6)	39 (7)
Two	5 (1)	1 (1)	6 (1)
Three to five	2 (<1)	1 (1)	3 (<1)
More than five	1 (<1)	3 (2)	4 (<1)
Don't know	8 (2)	7 (4)	15 (3)
Not reported	17 (5)	5 (3)	22 (4)
Relationship to people needle & syringe was re-used after last month (%)*			
Regular sex partner	26 (7)	11 (6)	37 (7)
Casual sex partner	2 (<1)	3 (2)	5 (1)
Close friend	13 (3)	4 (2)	17 (3)
Acquaintance	---	1 (1)	1 (<1)
Other	5 (1)	2 (1)	7 (1)
Equipment used after someone else last month (%)*			
Spoon	80 (23)	28 (17)	108 (21)
Water	50 (15)	24 (15)	74 (15)
Filter	53 (15)	15 (9)	68 (13)
Drug mix	33 (10)	9 (6)	42 (8)
Tourniquet	27 (8)	9 (6)	36 (7)
None	239 (69)	116 (72)	355 (70)
Injected by someone after that person injected themselves or others last month (%)			
No	314 (83)	144 (83)	458 (83)
Yes	52 (14)	23 (13)	75 (14)
Not reported	11 (3)	7 (4)	18 (3)

* More than one option could be selected

Table 3 Number (percentage) of respondents by treatment for drug use and site

Treatment for drug use	Sentinel sites	Non-sentinel sites	Combined Qld sites
N° surveyed	N=417	N=198	N=615
Any treatment/therapy for drug use (%)			
No	86 (21)	60 (30)	146 (24)
Yes	323 (77)	132 (67)	455 (74)
Not reported	8 (2)	6 (3)	14 (2)
History of methadone maintenance treatment (%)			
Currently	94 (23)	47 (24)	141 (23)
Previously	132 (32)	48 (24)	180 (29)
Never	189 (45)	98 (49)	287 (47)
Not reported	2 (<1)	5 (3)	7 (1)
History of other pharmacotherapy treatment (%)			
Currently	81 (19)	15 (8)	96 (16)
Previously	87 (21)	33 (17)	120 (20)
Never	241 (58)	144 (73)	385 (63)
Not reported	8 (2)	6 (3)	14 (2)

Table 4 Number (percentage) of respondents by sexual behaviour in the month prior to survey and site

Sexual behaviour	Sentinel sites	Non-sentinel sites	Combined Qld sites
N° surveyed	N=417	N=198	N=615
Sex with a regular partner last month (%)			
No	178 (43)	80 (40)	258 (42)
Yes	224 (54)	111 (56)	335 (54)
Not reported	15 (4)	7 (4)	22 (4)
Condom used with regular partner last month (%)			
Never	165 (74)	84 (76)	249 (74)
Sometimes	31 (14)	13 (12)	44 (13)
Every time	21 (9)	10 (9)	31 (9)
Not reported	7 (3)	4 (4)	11 (3)
Sex with other partner/s last month (%)			
No	347 (83)	160 (81)	507 (82)
Yes	61 (15)	25 (13)	86 (14)
Not reported	9 (2)	13 (7)	22 (4)
Condom used with other partner/s last month (%)			
Never	20 (33)	15 (60)	35 (41)
Sometimes	22 (36)	2 (8)	24 (38)
Every time	16 (26)	8 (32)	24 (28)
Not reported	3 (5)	---	3 (3)
Sex work last month (%)			
No	387 (93)	180 (91)	567 (92)
Yes	20 (5)	9 (5)	29 (5)
Not reported	10 (2)	9 (5)	19 (3)
Condom used at last sex work last month (%)*			
Yes	11 (65)	5 (71)	16 (67)

* Percentages exclude missing data

Table 5 Number (percentage) of respondents reporting previous testing for HIV, HBV and HCV infection, HBV vaccination, HCV treatment by site

	Sentinel sites	Non-sentinel sites	Combined Qld sites
N° surveyed	N=417	N=198	N=615
Previous HIV test (%)			
Yes, last year	239 (57)	92 (46)	331 (54)
> 1 year ago	135 (32)	73 (37)	208 (34)
Never tested	40 (10)	29 (15)	69 (11)
Not reported	3 (<1)	4 (2)	7 (1)
HBV infection (%)			
No	294 (71)	147 (74)	441 (72)
Yes	75 (18)	25 (13)	100 (16)
Don't know	41 (10)	22 (11)	63 (10)
Not reported	7 (2)	4 (2)	11 (2)
HBV vaccination (%)*			
No	73 (21)	46 (27)	119 (23)
Yes	227 (66)	101 (58)	328 (64)
Don't know	35 (10)	23 (13)	58 (11)
Not reported	7 (2)	3 (2)	10 (2)
Previous HCV test (%)			
Yes, last year	258 (62)	102 (52)	360 (59)
> 1 year ago	123 (30)	66 (33)	189 (31)
Never tested	32 (8)	25 (13)	57 (9)
Not reported	4 (1)	5 (3)	9 (1)
Any treatment for HCV (%)	N=188	N=70	N=258
Interferon	4 (2)	1 (1)	5 (2)
Interferon+Ribarvarin	8 (4)	1 (1)	9 (3)
Other	5 (3)	1 (1)	6 (2)
No treatment	163 (87)	64 (91)	227 (88)
Not reported	8 (4)	3 (4)	11 (4)
Current treatment for HCV	N=4	N=2	N=6
Interferon	---	---	---
Interferon+Ribarvarin	4	2	6
Other	---	---	---

* Number (percentage) among participants not reporting HBV infection

Table 6 Number (percentage) of respondents by source of needle and syringe acquisition in the last week and last month in 2007

	Sentinel sites	Non-sentinel sites	Combined Qld sites
N° surveyed	N=417	N=198	N=615
Needle/syringe acquisition from a NSP in last month (%)			
Daily or almost daily	33 (8)	19 (10)	52 (8)
Weekly	118 (28)	51 (26)	169 (27)
Less than weekly	123 (49)	66 (33)	189 (31)
Not in the last month	49 (12)	21 (11)	70 (11)
Not reported	94 (23)	41 (21)	135 (22)
Needle/syringe acquisition from a chemist in last month (%)			
Daily or almost daily	9 (2)	7 (4)	16 (3)
Weekly	50 (12)	23 (12)	73 (12)
Less than weekly	36 (9)	21 (11)	57 (9)
Not in the last month	229 (55)	109 (55)	338 (55)
Not reported	93 (22)	38 (19)	131 (21)
Needle/syringe acquisition from a vending machine in last month (%)			
Daily or almost daily	2 (<1)	1 (<1)	3 (<1)
Weekly	12 (3)	4 (2)	16 (3)
Less than weekly	23 (5)	4 (2)	27 (4)
Not in the last month	288 (69)	152 (77)	440 (72)
Not reported	92 (22)	37 (19)	129 (21)

HIV antibody prevalence

Table 7 HIV antibody prevalence by gender and site

Site	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites	279	10 (3.6)	130	0 (0.0)	413	10 (2.4)
Non-sentinel sites	114	2 (1.8)	75	0 (0.0)	190	2 (1.1)
Combined Qld sites	381	12 (3.1)	205	0 (0.0)	591	12 (2.0)

* Total for all HIV and HCV tables includes people whose gender was not reported or reported as transgender

Table 8 HIV antibody prevalence by sexual identity, gender and site

Sexual identity	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
Heterosexual	249	1 (0.4)	98	0 (0.0)	347	1 (0.3)
Bisexual	7	1 (14.3)	22	0 (0.0)	31	1 (3.2)
Homosexual	18	8 (44.4)	6	0 (0.0)	25	8 (32.0)
p value		<0.001		---		<0.001
Non-sentinel sites						
Heterosexual	103	0 (0.0)	60	0 (0.0)	164	0 (0.0)
Bisexual	7	1 (14.3)	11	0 (0.0)	18	1 (5.6)
Homosexual	2	1 (50.0)	4	0 (0.0)	6	1 (16.7)
p value		0.002		---		0.007
Combined Qld sites						
Heterosexual	351	1 (0.3)	158	0 (0.0)	510	1 (0.2)
Bisexual	12	2 (14.3)	33	0 (0.0)	47	2 (4.1)
Homosexual	11	9 (45)	10	0 (0.0)	22	9 (29.0)
p value		<0.001		---		<0.001

Table 9 HIV antibody prevalence by age group, gender and site

Age group	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
< 20 years	6	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)	7	0 (0.0)
20 – 24	2	0 (0.0)	14	0 (0.0)	42	0 (0.0)
25 – 29	48	0 (0.0)	19	0 (0.0)	67	0 (0.0)
30 + years	196	10 (5.1)	96	0 (0.0)	296	10 (3.4)
p value		0.397		---		0.365
Non-sentinel sites						
< 20 years	3	0 (0.0)	---	---	3	0 (0.0)
20 – 24	9	0 (0.0)	9	0 (0.0)	18	0 (0.0)
25 – 29	17	0 (0.0)	11	0 (0.0)	28	0 (0.0)
30 + years	85	2 (2.4)	55	0 (0.0)	141	2 (1.4)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
< 20 years	9	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)	10	0 (0.0)
20 – 24	37	0 (0.0)	23	0 (0.0)	60	0 (0.0)
25 – 29	65	0 (0.0)	30	0 (0.0)	95	0 (0.0)
30 + years	281	12 (4.3)	151	0 (0.0)	437	12 (2.8)
p value		0.251		---		0.287

Table 10 HIV antibody prevalence by duration of drug injection, gender and site

Duration of drug injection	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
<3 years	23	1 (4.4)	9	0 (0.0)	32	1 (3.1)
3 to 5 years	15	0 (0.0)	10	0 (0.0)	25	0 (0.0)
6 to 10 years	62	1 (1.6)	24	0 (0.0)	86	1 (1.2)
> 10 years	169	7 (4.1)	85	0 (0.0)	258	7 (2.7)
p value		0.791		---		0.799
Non-sentinel sites						
<3 years	5	0 (0.0)	5	0 (0.0)	10	0 (0.0)
3 to 5 years	11	0 (0.0)	4	0 (0.0)	15	0 (0.0)
6 to 10 years	18	0 (0.0)	17	0 (0.0)	35	0 (0.0)
> 10 years	75	1 (1.3)	47	0 (0.0)	123	1 (0.8)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
<3 years	28	1 (3.6)	14	0 (0.0)	42	1 (2.4)
3 to 5 years	26	0 (0.0)	14	0 (0.0)	40	0 (0.0)
6 to 10 years	80	1 (1.3)	41	0 (0.0)	121	1 (0.8)
> 10 years	244	8 (3.3)	132	0 (0.0)	381	8 (2.1)
p value		0.690		---		0.773

Table 11 HIV antibody prevalence by last drug injected, gender and site

Last drug injected	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with	N° tested	N° with	N° tested	N° with
Sentinel sites						
Heroin	64	0 (0.0)	41	0 (0.0)	106	0 (0.0)
Meth/Amphetamine	97	4 (4.1)	46	0 (0.0)	143	4 (2.8)
Methadone/Bupe/Subutex	33	1 (3.0)	13	0 (0.0)	46	1 (2.2)
Morphine/Other opioids	67	4 (6.0)	25	0 (0.0)	95	4 (4.2)
Other/Not reported	18	1 (5.6)	5	0 (0.0)	23	1 (4.4)
p value		0.276		---		0.182
Non-sentinel sites						
Heroin	8	0 (0.0)	15	0 (0.0)	24	0 (0.0)
Meth/Amphetamine	46	0 (0.0)	33	0 (0.0)	79	0 (0.0)
Methadone/Bupe/Subutex	6	0 (0.0)	7	0 (0.0)	13	0 (0.0)
Morphine/Other opioids	44	0 (0.0)	14	0 (0.0)	58	0 (0.0)
Other/Not reported	10	2 (20.0)	6	0 (0.0)	16	2 (12.5)
p value		0.014		---		<0.001
Combined Qld sites						
Heroin	72	0 (0.0)	56	0 (0.0)	130	0 (0.0)
Meth/Amphetamine	143	4 (2.8)	79	0 (0.0)	222	4 (1.8)
Methadone/Bupe/Subutex	39	1 (2.7)	20	0 (0.0)	59	1 (1.7)
Morphine/Other opioids	111	4 (3.6)	39	0 (0.0)	153	4 (2.6)
Other/Not reported	28	3 (10.7)	11	0 (0.0)	39	3 (7.7)
p value		0.091		---		0.047

Table 12 HIV antibody prevalence by frequency of drug injection last month, gender and site

Frequency of drug injection last month	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
Not last month	24	2 (8.3)	8	0 (0.0)	32	2 (6.3)
Less than weekly	52	4 (7.7)	17	0 (0.0)	70	4 (5.7)
Weekly not daily	73	3 (4.1)	42	0 (0.0)	116	3 (2.6)
Daily or more	123	0 (0.0)	62	0 (0.0)	187	0 (0.0)
p value		0.005		---		0.003
Non-sentinel sites						
Not last month	10	2 (20.0)	8	0 (0.0)	18	2 (11.1)
Less than weekly	24	0 (0.0)	16	0 (0.0)	40	0 (0.0)
Weekly not daily	22	0 (0.0)	14	0 (0.0)	36	0 (0.0)
Daily or more	56	0 (0.0)	35	0 (0.0)	92	0 (0.0)
p value		0.007		---		0.009
Combined Qld sites						
Not last month	34	4 (11.8)	16	0 (0.0)	50	4 (8.0)
Less than weekly	76	4 (5.3)	33	0 (0.0)	110	4 (3.6)
Weekly not daily	95	3 (3.2)	56	0 (0.0)	152	3 (2.0)
Daily or more	179	0 (0.0)	97	0 (0.0)	279	0 (0.0)
p value		<0.001		---		<0.001

Table 13 HIV antibody prevalence by re-use of someone else's used needle and syringe last month, gender and site

Re-used someone else's used needle & syringe last month	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	207	7 (3.4)	104	0 (0.0)	314	7 (2.2)
Yes	34	0 (0.0)	16	0 (0.0)	51	0 (0.0)
p value		0.598		---		0.600
Non-sentinel sites						
No	86	0 (0.0)	56	0 (0.0)	143	0 (0.0)
Yes	14	0 (0.0)	8	0 (0.0)	22	0 (0.0)
p value		---		---		---
Combined Qld sites						
No	293	7 (2.4)	160	0 (0.0)	457	7 (1.5)
Yes	48	0 (0.0)	24	0 (0.0)	73	0 (0.0)
p value		0.599		---		0.601

Table 14 HIV antibody prevalence by imprisonment last year, gender and site

Imprisonment last year	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	238	10 (4.2)	118	0 (0.0)	359	10 (2.8)
Yes	32	0 (0.0)	11	0 (0.0)	43	0 (0.0)
p value		0.613		---		0.609
Non-sentinel sites						
No	93	2 (2.2)	67	0 (0.0)	161	2 (1.2)
Yes	16	0 (0.0)	4	0 (0.0)	20	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
No	331	12 (3.6)	185	0 (0.0)	520	12 (2.3)
Yes	48	0 (0.0)	15	0 (0.0)	63	0 (0.0)
p value		0.376		---		0.629

Table 15 HIV antibody prevalence by condom use at last sex, gender and site

Condom use at last sex	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	117	1 (0.9)	75	0 (0.0)	194	1 (0.5)
Yes	14	0 (0.0)	6	0 (0.0)	21	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Non-sentinel sites **						
No	52	2 (3.9)	38	0 (0.0)	90	2 (2.2)
Yes	7	0 (0.0)	3	0 (0.0)	10	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites **						
No	169	3 (1.8)	113	0 (0.0)	284	3 (1.1)
Yes	21	0 (0.0)	9	0 (0.0)	31	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000

Table 16 HIV antibody prevalence by sex work last month, gender and site

Sex work last month	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	263	10 (3.8)	118	0 (0.0)	383	10 (2.6)
Yes	8	0 (0.0)	10	0 (0.0)	20	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Non-sentinel sites						
No	104	2 (1.9)	69	0 (0.0)	174	2 (1.2)
Yes	5	0 (0.0)	4	0 (0.0)	9	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
No	367	12 (3.3)	187	0 (0.0)	557	12 (2.2)
Yes	13	0 (0.0)	14	0 (0.0)	29	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000

Table 17 HIV antibody prevalence by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin status, gender and site

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	250	8 (3.2)	119	0 (0.0)	372	8 (2.2)
Yes	26	2 (7.7)	10	0 (0.0)	37	2 (5.4)
p value		0.240		---		0.226
Non-sentinel sites						
No	97	2 (2.1)	65	0 (0.0)	163	2 (1.2)
Yes	13	0 (0.0)	10	0 (0.0)	23	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
No	347	10 (2.9)	184	0 (0.0)	535	10 (1.9)
Yes	39	2 (5.1)	20	0 (0.0)	60	2 (3.3)
p value		0.346		---		0.345

Table 18 HIV antibody prevalence by region/country of birth, gender and site

Region/Country of birth	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
Australia	248	9 (3.6)	118	0 (0.0)	370	9 (2.4)
Other Oceania	9	0 (0.0)	6	0 (0.0)	15	0 (0.0)
Asia	--	---	1	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)
UK & Ireland	11	1 (9.1)	3	0 (0.0)	14	1 (7.1)
Other	8	0 (0.0)	2	0 (0.0)	10	0 (0.0)
p value		0.663		---		0.499
Non-sentinel sites						
Australia	96	2 (2.1)	68	0 (0.0)	164	2 (1.2)
Other Oceania	5	0 (0.0)	3	0 (0.0)	8	0 (0.0)
Asia	1	0 (0.0)	---	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)
UK & Ireland	2	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)	3	0 (0.0)
Other	3	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)	5	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
Australia	344	11 (3.2)	186	0 (0.0)	534	11 (2.1)
Other Oceania	14	0 (0.0)	9	0 (0.0)	23	0 (0.0)
Asia	1	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)	2	0 (0.0)
UK & Ireland	13	1 (7.7)	4	0 (0.0)	17	1 (5.9)
Other	11	0 (0.0)	3	0 (0.0)	15	0 (0.0)
p value		0.594		---		0.553

Table 19 HIV antibody prevalence by main language spoken at home by parents, gender and site

Main language spoken at home by parents	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)	N° tested	N° with HIV (%)
Sentinel sites						
English speaking	261	9 (3.5)	126	0 (0.0)	391	9 (2.3)
Non-English speaking	13	1 (7.7)	4	0 (0.0)	17	1 (5.9)
p value		0.390		---		0.351
Non-sentinel sites						
English speaking	108	2 (1.9)	73	0 (0.0)	181	2 (1.1)
Non-English speaking	2	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)	4	0 (0.0)
p value		1.000		---		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
English speaking	369	11 (3.0)	199	0 (0.0)	572	11 (1.9)
Non-English speaking	15	1 (6.7)	5	0 (0.0)	21	1 (4.8)
p value		0.384		---		0.354

HCV antibody prevalence

Table 20 HCV antibody prevalence by gender and site

Site	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites	278	158 (57)	129	85 (66)	411	247 (60)
Non-sentinel sites	109	53 (49)	75	42 (56)	185	95 (51)
Combined Qld sites	387	211 (55)	204	127 (62)	596	342 (57)

Table 21 HCV antibody prevalence by sexual identity, gender and site

Sexual identity	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
Heterosexual	248	140 (56)	97	62 (64)	345	202 (59)
Bisexual	7	4 (57)	22	16 (73)	31	22 (71)
Homosexual	18	11 (61)	6	3 (50)	25	15 (60)
p value		0.943		0.553		0.414
Non-sentinel sites						
Heterosexual	98	52 (53)	60	36 (60)	159	88 (55)
Bisexual	7	0 (0)	11	6 (55)	18	6 (33)
Homosexual	2	1 (50)	4	0 (0)	6	1 (17)
p value		0.013		0.055		0.050
Combined Qld sites						
Heterosexual	346	192 (55)	157	98 (62)	504	290 (58)
Bisexual	14	4 (29)	33	22 (67)	49	28 (57)
Homosexual	20	12 (60)	10	3 (30)	31	16 (52)
p value		0.130		0.097		0.808

Table 22 HCV antibody prevalence by age group, gender and site

Age group	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
< 20 years	6	2 (33)	1	0 (0)	7	2 (29)
20 – 24	28	7 (25)	13	6 (46)	41	13 (32)
25 – 29	48	26 (54)	19	11 (58)	67	37 (55)
30 + years	195	122 (63)	96	68 (71)	295	194 (66)
p value		<0.001		0.091		<0.001
Non-sentinel sites						
< 20 years	3	1 (33)	---	---	3	1 (33)
20 – 24	9	2 (22)	9	4 (44)	18	6 (33)
25 – 29	16	2 (13)	11	3 (27)	27	5 (19)
30 + years	81	48 (59)	55	35 (64)	137	83 (61)
p value		<0.001		0.055		<0.001
Combined Qld sites						
< 20 years	9	3 (33)	1	0 (0.0)	10	3 (30)
20 – 24	37	9 (24)	22	10 (45)	59	19 (32)
25 – 29	64	28 (44)	30	14 (47)	94	42 (45)
30 + years	276	170 (62)	151	103 (68)	432	277 (64)
p value		<0.001		0.014		<0.001

Table 23 HCV antibody prevalence by duration of drug injection, gender and site

Duration of drug injection	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
<3 years	23	4 (17)	9	2 (22)	32	6 (19)
3 to 5 years	15	4 (27)	10	5 (50)	25	9 (36)
6 to 10 years	62	26 (42)	23	11 (48)	85	37 (44)
> 10 years	168	117 (70)	85	66 (78)	257	187 (73)
p value		<0.001		<0.001		<0.001
Non-sentinel sites						
<3 years	5	1 (20)	5	1 (20)	10	2 (20)
3 to 5 years	11	4 (36)	4	1 (25)	15	5 (33)
6 to 10 years	17	3 (18)	17	11 (65)	34	14 (41)
> 10 years	71	43 (61)	47	27 (57)	119	70 (59)
p value		0.003		0.229		0.019
Combined Qld sites						
<3 years	28	5 (18)	14	3 (21)	42	8 (19)
3 to 5 years	26	8 (31)	14	6 (43)	40	14 (35)
6 to 10 years	79	29 (37)	40	22 (55)	119	51 (43)
> 10 years	239	160 (67)	132	93 (70)	376	257 (68)
p value		<0.001		0.001		<0.001

Table 24 HCV antibody prevalence by last drug injected, duration of drug injection and site

Last drug injected	<3 years IDU		3+ years IDU		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
Heroin	4	0 (0)	100	66 (66)	106	67 (63)
Meth/Amphetamine	24	5 (21)	119	63 (53)	143	68 (48)
Methadone/Bupe/Subutex	2	1 (50)	41	31 (76)	45	34 (76)
Morphine/Other opioids	---	---	88	64 (73)	94	68 (72)
Other/Not reported	2	0 (0)	19	9 (47)	23	10 (43)
p value		0.664		0.008		<0.001
Non-sentinel sites						
Heroin	1	0 (0)	22	14 (64)	23	14 (61)
Meth/Amphetamine	5	0 (0)	72	32 (44)	79	33 (42)
Methadone/Bupe/Subutex	2	1 (50)	9	7 (78)	11	8 (73)
Morphine/Other opioids	4	1 (50)	53	28 (53)	57	31 (54)
Other/Not reported	---	---	12	8 (67)	15	9 (60)
p value		0.222		0.193		0.176
Combined Qld sites						
Heroin	5	0 (0)	122	80 (66)	129	81 (63)
Meth/Amphetamine	29	5 (17)	191	95 (50)	222	101 (46)
Methadone/Bupe/Subutex	4	2 (50)	50	38 (76)	56	42 (75)
Morphine/Other opioids	2	1 (50)	141	92 (65)	151	99 (66)
Other/Not reported	2	0 (0.0)	31	17 (55)	38	19 (50)
p value		0.210		0.002		<0.001

Table 25 HCV antibody prevalence by frequency of injection last month, duration of drug injection and site

Frequency of drug injection last month	<3 years IDU		3+ years IDU		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
Less than daily	20	3 (15)	163	92 (56)	168	98 (53)
Daily or more	10	2 (20)	170	124 (73)	185	130 (70)
p value		1.000		0.002		0.001
Non-sentinel sites						
Less than daily	4	1 (25)	69	35 (51)	76	39 (51)
Daily or more	6	1 (17)	80	46 (58)	88	48 (55)
p value		1.000		0.416		0.754
Combined Qld sites						
Less than daily	24	4 (17)	232	127 (5)	262	137 (52)
Daily or more	16	3 (19)	250	170 (68)	273	178 (65)
p value		1.000		0.004		0.003

Table 26 HCV antibody prevalence by re-use of someone else's used needle and syringe last month, duration of drug injection and site

Re-used someone else's used needle & syringe last month	<3 years IDU		3+ years IDU		Total	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	27	4 (15)	280	175 (63)	313	184 (59)
Yes	3	1 (33)	46	37 (80)	50	39 (78)
p value		0.433		0.019		0.012
Non-sentinel sites						
No	10	2 (20)	127	69 (54)	140	73 (52)
Yes	---	---	19	10 (53)	21	12 (57)
p value		---		1.000		0.815
Combined Qld sites						
No	37	6 (16)	407	244 (60)	453	257 (67)
Yes	3	1 (33)	65	47 (72)	71	51 (72)
p value		0.448		0.074		0.019

Table 27 HCV antibody prevalence by imprisonment last year, duration of drug injection and site

Imprisonment last year	<3 years IDU		3+ years IDU		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	31	5 (16)	317	188 (59)	358	199 (56)
Yes	1	1 (100)	39	34 (87)	42	37 (88)
p value		0.188		<0.001		<0.001
Non-sentinel sites						
No	6	1 (17)	146	76 (52)	158	81 (51)
Yes	3	1 (33)	16	11 (69)	19	12 (63)
p value		1.000		0.292		0.345
Combined Qld sites						
No	37	6 (16)	463	264 (57)	516	280 (54)
Yes	4	2 (50)	55	45 (82)	61	49 (80)
p value		0.165		<0.001		<0.001

Table 28 HCV antibody prevalence by sex work last month, duration of drug injection and site

Sex work last month	<3 years IDU		3+ years IDU		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	29	6 (21)	341	211 (62)	381	224 (59)
Yes	1	0 (0)	18	16 (89)	20	17 (85)
p value		1.000		0.023		0.020
Non-sentinel sites						
No	10	2 (20)	152	81 (53)	169	87 (51)
Yes	---	---	9	4 (44)	9	4 (44)
p value		---		0.736		0.743
Combined Qld sites						
No	39	8 (21)	493	292 (59)	550	311 (57)
Yes	1	0 (0)	27	20 (74)	29	21 (72)
p value		1.000		0.158		0.122

Table 29 HCV antibody prevalence by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander origin status, gender and site

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
No	249	142 (57)	118	76 (64)	370	221 (60)
Yes	26	14 (54)	10	8 (80)	37	23 (62)
p value		0.836		0.492		0.861
Non-sentinel sites						
No	93	45 (48)	65	37 (57)	159	82 (52)
Yes	12	6 (50)	10	5 (50)	22	11 (50)
p value		1.000		0.741		1.000
Combined Qld sites						
No	342	187 (55)	183	113 (62)	529	303 (57)
Yes	38	20 (53)	20	13 (65)	59	34 (58)
p value		0.864		1.000		1.000

Table 30 HCV antibody prevalence by region/country of birth, gender and site

Region/Country of birth	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
Australia	247	141 (57)	117	77 (66)	368	222 (60)
Other Oceania	9	4 (44)	6	3 (50)	15	7 (47)
Asia	---	---	1	1 (100)	1	1 (100)
UK & Ireland	11	7 (64)	3	2 (67)	14	9 (64)
Other	8	4 (50)	2	2 (100)	10	6 (60)
p value		0.818		0.816		0.821
Non-sentinel sites						
Australia	91	45 (49)	68	40 (59)	159	85 (53)
Other Oceania	5	1 (20)	3	0 (0)	8	1 (13)
Asia	1	1 (100)	---	---	1	1 (100)
UK & Ireland	2	0 (0)	1	1 (100)	3	1 (33)
Other	3	2 (67)	1	0 (0)	5	2 (40)
p value		0.331		0.053		0.100
Combined Qld sites						
Australia	338	186 (55)	185	117 (63)	527	307 (58)
Other Oceania	14	5 (36)	9	3 (33)	23	8 (35)
Asia	1	1 (100)	1	1 (100)	2	2 (100)
UK & Ireland	13	7 (54)	4	3 (75)	17	10 (59)
Other	11	6 (55)	3	2 (67)	15	8 (53)
p value		0.606		0.365		0.163

Table 31 HCV antibody prevalence by main language spoken at home by parents, gender and site

Main language spoken at home by parents	Male		Female		Total *	
	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)	N° tested	N° with HCV (%)
Sentinel sites						
English speaking	260	150 (58)	125	83 (66)	389	237 (61)
Non-English speaking	13	6 (46)	4	2 (50)	17	8 (47)
p value		0.567		0.605		0.313
Non-sentinel sites						
English speaking	103	49 (48)	73	41 (56)	176	90 (51)
Non-English speaking	2	2 (100)	1	1 (100)	4	3 (75)
p value		0.234		1.000		0.622
Combined Qld sites						
English speaking	363	199 (55)	198	124 (63)	565	327 (58)
Non-English speaking	15	8 (53)	5	3 (60)	21	11 (52)
p value		1.000		1.000		0.657