

Australian HIV Surveillance Update

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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Diagnoses in the third quarter

1 July – 30 September 1996

- A total of 218 diagnoses of HIV infection, 77 diagnoses of AIDS and 70 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 December 1996, to have occurred in the *third quarter of 1996*.
- Following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the *third quarter of 1996* were 130 and 100, respectively.
- *In comparison*, 198 cases of HIV infection, 173 diagnoses of AIDS and 133 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 December 1996, to have occurred in the *third quarter of 1995*.

HIV Testing in Sexual Health Clinics

Five sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,746 people in the period 1 July to 30 September 1996 who were not previously known to have HIV infection.

- Of 2,281 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 6 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 3,284 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 6 (0.2%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 477 males who reported a history of homosexual/bisexual contact only and who were retested for HIV antibody following a previous negative test, 4 (0.8%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection.

Diagnoses in the year to 30 September 1996

- 829 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 510 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 474 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 31 December 1996.

Total diagnoses to 30 September 1996

- 20,088 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 15,900 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
 - 7,033 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 5,116 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 31 December 1996.

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 30 September 1996 had an average age of 35 years, and 1.8% were in the age group 13 – 19 years. 92% were male and 8% were female.

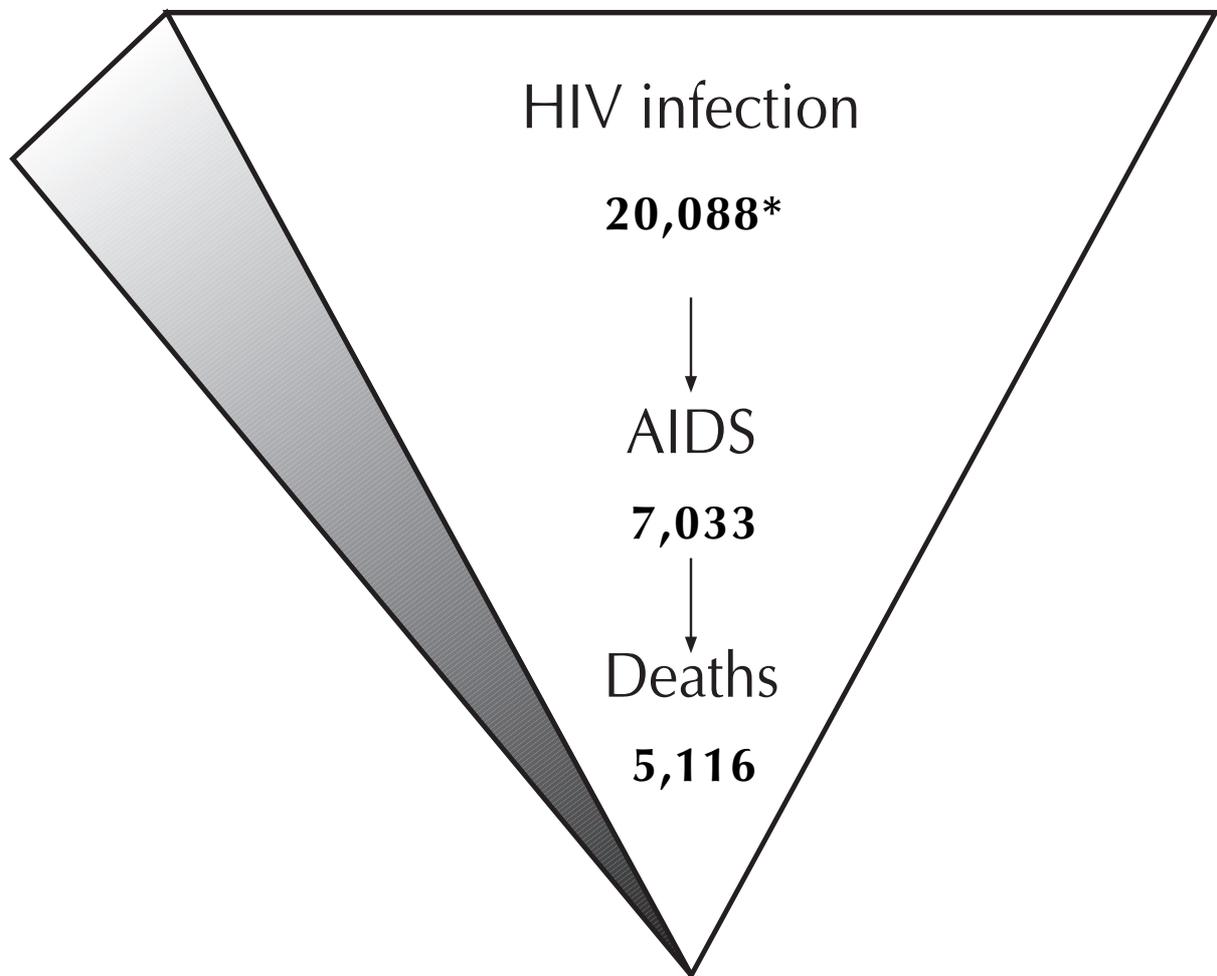
Of the 88% of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in the year to 30 September 1996 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, 79% reported a history of male homosexual/bisexual contact with or without a history of injecting drug use.

New HIV infections

During the third quarter of 1996, 39 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 HIV seroconversion illness. Exposure to HIV was attributed to male homosexual/bisexual contact only in 95% of these cases.

The HIV epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 30 September 1996



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 15,900 (range 14,900 to 16,800), cumulative to 30 September 1996.