

Australian HIV Surveillance Update

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Volume 13, Number 2

April 1997

Diagnoses in the fourth quarter

1 October – 31 December 1996

- A total of 193 diagnoses of HIV infection, 76 diagnoses of AIDS and 77 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 1997, to have occurred in the *fourth quarter of 1996*.
- Following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the *fourth quarter of 1996* were 120 and 102, respectively.
- *In comparison*, 180 diagnoses of HIV infection, 174 diagnoses of AIDS and 154 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 1997, to have occurred in the *fourth quarter of 1995*.

Diagnoses in 1996

- 852 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 555 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 448 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 31 March 1997.

Total diagnoses to 31 December 1996

- 20,299 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 16,150 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
 - 7,296 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 5,260 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 31 March 1997.

HIV Testing in Sexual Health Clinics

Five sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,502 people in the period 1 October to 31 December 1996 who were not previously known to have HIV infection.

- Of 2,189 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 7 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 3,153 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 8 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 1,746 people who reported a history of heterosexual contact in Australia only and who were retested for HIV antibody following a previous negative test, 1 (0.06%) was newly diagnosed with HIV infection.

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in 1996 had an average age of 35 years, and 1.9% were in the age group 13 – 19 years. 92% were male, 7% were female and sex was not reported for 1% of cases.

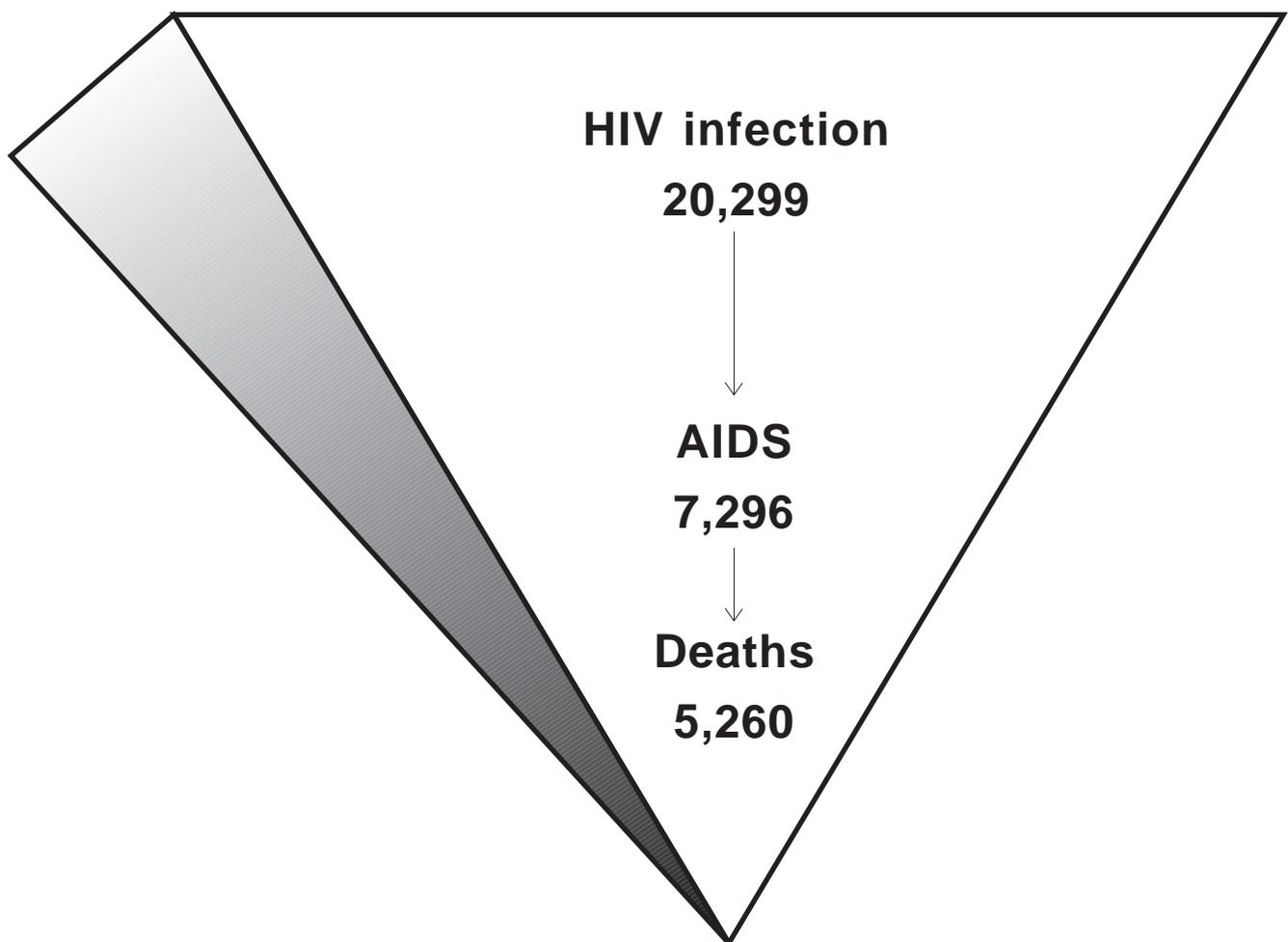
Of the 86% of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in 1996 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, 13% reported a history of heterosexual contact in Australia only.

New HIV infections

During the fourth quarter of 1996, 37 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 heterosexual contact in Australia only in 3% of these cases.

The HIV epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 December 1996



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,150 (range 15,200 to 17,100), cumulative to 31 December 1996.