

Australian HIV Surveillance Update

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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Diagnoses in the first quarter

1 January – 31 March 1997

- A total of 204 diagnoses of HIV infection, 60 diagnoses of AIDS and 55 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 June 1997, to have occurred in the *first quarter of 1997*.
- Following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the *first quarter of 1997* were 124 and 90, respectively.
- *In comparison*, 226 diagnoses of HIV infection, 188 diagnoses of AIDS and 151 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 June 1997, to have occurred in the *first quarter of 1996*.

Diagnoses in the year to 31 March 1997

- 835 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 445 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 360 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 30 June 1997.

Total diagnoses to 31 March 1997

- 20,513 diagnoses of HIV infection
 - 16,400 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
 - 7,383 diagnoses of AIDS
 - 5,325 deaths following AIDS
- were reported by 30 June 1997.

HIV Testing in Sexual Health Clinics

Five sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney tested 5,989 people in the period 1 January to 31 March 1997 who were not previously known to have HIV infection.

- Of 2,116 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 6 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 3,117 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 6 (0.2%) were found to have HIV infection.
- Of 497 men who reported a history of homosexual contact only in Australia and who were retested for HIV antibody following a previous negative test, 5 (1.0%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection.

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 31 March 1997 had an average age of 35 years, and 1.3% were in the age group 13 – 19 years. 91% were male, 7% were female and sex was not reported for 2% of cases.

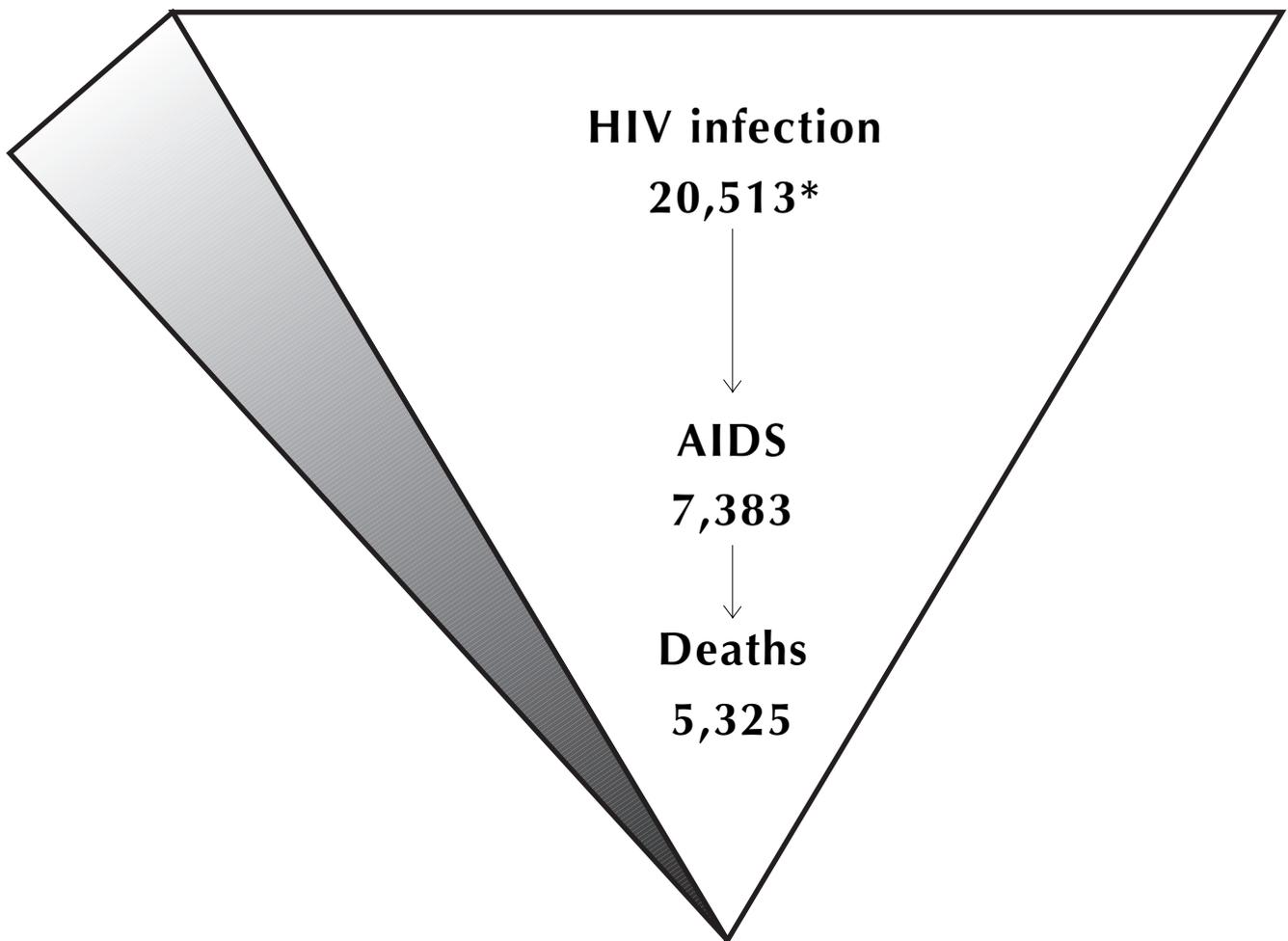
Of the 84% of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in the year to 31 March 1997 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, 78% reported a history of male homosexual contact only.

New HIV infections

During the first quarter of 1997, 36 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. Exposure to HIV was attributed to homosexual contact only in 79% of cases in males.

The HIV epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 March 1997



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,400 (range 15,500 to 17,300), cumulative to 31 March 1997.