



National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Australian HIV Surveillance Report

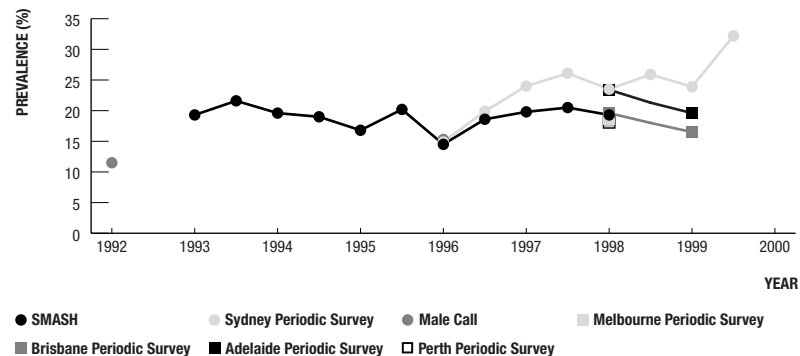
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Surveillance of HIV risk behaviour among gay men in Australia

Reports at the Durban AIDS Conference of increasing HIV incidence among homosexual men in Ontario and in San Francisco, and recent quarterly increases in reports of HIV diagnoses in some Australian jurisdictions, have led to considerable discussion about the possibility of an increase in HIV transmission in Australia. While such an increase has not yet been documented, increases in HIV risk behaviour have been demonstrated and are of continuing concern.

In this article, we review methods and results of Australian systems for surveillance of HIV risk behaviour among gay men.

Figure 1 Prevalence of unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners reported by gay and other homosexually active men by year and survey



Announcements

National meetings

The 12th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine will be held in Melbourne, Victoria, on 12–15 October 2000.

Further information may be obtained from ASHM Conference Secretariat,
GPO Box 2609, Sydney NSW 2001.

Telephone: 02 9241 1478
Facsimile: 02 9251 3552
E-mail: ashm2000@icmsaust.com.au
Website: <http://www.unsw.edu.au/ashm/ashm.html>

The Australasian Sexual Health Conference, 2001: A Sex Odyssey, will be held in Sydney, New South Wales, on 2–5 May 2001.

Further information may be obtained from Dart Associates,
PO Box 781 Lane Cove NSW 2066.

Telephone: 02 9418 9396
Facsimile: 02 9418 9398
E-mail: dartconv@mpx.com.au
Website: <http://www.acshp.org.au>

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What constitutes HIV risk behaviour in gay men?

It has been epidemiologically demonstrated that the dominant behaviour that puts gay men at risk of HIV infection is unprotected anal intercourse (UAI). However, it is insufficient to report uncontextualised data on this behaviour, as much UAI is between partners with no possibility of a new HIV transmission. In particular, it has been shown that a large proportion of gay men in long term relationships do not use condoms for anal intercourse with their regular partner, after determining that they are of the same HIV status. The most commonly used indicator of HIV risk behaviour is UAI with casual partners (UAI-C).

Even though UAI-C is accepted as the main index of behavioural risk, it must be recognised that it is not always risky. For example, HIV positive men may choose to have UAI with casual partners who they know (or believe) are HIV positive. However, for HIV negative men, the practice of UAI-C is under most circumstances likely to be risky. For this reason, results of behavioural surveillance are often reported separately for HIV positive and negative men.

Study designs in HIV risk behaviour surveillance

There are two possible study designs to collect data over time on risk behaviour.

In a cohort study, individuals are followed over time and interviewed at regular intervals. The advantage of such a design is that it allows the behaviour of individuals to be followed, and allows the collection of detailed contextual information. However, cohort studies are expensive, and are limited by the number of individuals who can be followed over time. In addition, individuals who agree to the commitment of a cohort study may not be representative of the population as a whole, and those remaining in a cohort may become increasingly unrepresentative.

In repeated cross sectional studies, samples of the population are surveyed at periodic intervals. Typically, a brief questionnaire is used, to maximise response rates. Cross sectional studies are cheaper than cohort studies and can collect data on a large number of individuals. A disadvantage is that when the study is repeated, a different sample of individuals is taken. Nevertheless, repeatability can be improved by ensuring that data are collected at the same locations at the same time of year at each survey.

Australian HIV risk behaviour surveillance

Behavioural surveillance of HIV risk behaviour in gay men in Australia has been monitored through studies jointly administered by the National Centre in HIV Social Research and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, in collaboration with local AIDS Councils.

SMASH cohort study

The Sydney Men and Sexual Health study interviewed 1,143 gay men annually between 1993 and 1998. Each year 15–20% of men reported UAI–C in the six months prior to their interview, and the level of UAI–C remained stable over time. The SMASH study consistently found that there was little difference in condom use according to age among gay men (Van de Ven *et al* 1997a, Van de Ven *et al* 1997b).

The SMASH study also found that HIV positive men were more likely to engage in UAI–C, but about half of that was confined to sex with other positive men (Grulich *et al* 1998). Even so, positive men were more likely to have UAI–C with men whose HIV status was not known to them. However, they were highly unlikely to engage in UAI–C with men they knew to be HIV negative.

Although the SMASH study has ceased interviewing, a new cohort study of gay men will commence interviewing in Sydney in the near future, and will contribute to behavioural surveillance.

Gay Community Periodic surveys

The Sydney Gay Community Periodic surveys have been carried out every six months, in February and August, since 1996. They are carried out among men recruited at a range of venues and clinics associated with the gay community, and, at the Mardi Gras Fair Day, held in February each year (Prestage *et al* 1999). As much as possible, these venues are kept constant over time with identical recruitment techniques. Between February 1996 and February 2000 the proportion of men reporting UAI–C increased from 15% to over 30% (Van de Ven *et al* 2000). The increases were most evident at first among men surveyed in inner city gay commercial venues but had clearly become more generalised by the February 2000 survey. The Periodic Surveys continue to find no association between age and UAI–C. About 85%–90% of men who respond to the Periodic Surveys have been tested for HIV.

Periodic Surveys have also been conducted in Melbourne (1998, 2000), Brisbane (1998, 1999 and 2000), Adelaide (1998 and 1999) and Perth (1998). Gay men in each of these cities have been found to be less likely to engage in UAI–C than men in Sydney, although the patterns of UAI–C were similar. There is, however, some evidence of increased UAI–C in Melbourne from about 13% in February 1998 to about 17% in February 2000 (Aspin *et al* 2000).

Male Call

A national telephone survey of homosexually active men was conducted in 1992 and again in 1996 by the National Centre in HIV Social Research (Crawford *et al* 1998). This study differed from those above in that it included both gay men and men who had little or no social involvement with other homosexually active men. There was some evidence of increased UAI–C, from 11.5% in 1992 to 15.3% in 1996.

Summary

Data from repeated cross sectional surveys suggest that HIV risk behaviour in gay men, as measured by UAI–C, has been increasing for several years in Sydney, and may now also be increasing in Melbourne. Despite this, there is no consistent evidence for an upturn in HIV transmission.

Social research examining reasons for this upturn has identified that a small minority of gay men are optimistic regarding the effect of antiretroviral therapy on HIV transmission, and that this group are more likely to report UAI–C. Other more culture-wide reasons are likely to be important as the perception of HIV as a health threat has shifted so radically within the gay community within recent years.

Reported by

Garrett Prestage¹, Andrew Grulich¹ and Paul Van de Ven²

- 1 National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
- 2 National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW

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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 June 2000, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases

State/Territory	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	2	0	1	1	87	9	96	1.1
NSW	106	11	80	11	4 681	188	4 881	58.0
NT	3	0	1	1	36	1	37	0.4
QLD	32	1	26	3	829	49	880	10.4
SA	12	2	5	2	347	25	372	4.4
TAS	1	1	1	0	45	3	48	0.6
VIC	41	2	37	3	1 644	72	1 724	20.5
WA	5	2	10	0	356	26	384	4.6
TOTAL	202	19	161	21	8 025	373	8 422	100.0

Deaths

State/Territory	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	1	1	1	1	66	4	70	1.2
NSW	50	2	46	0	3 189	113	3 310	56.2
NT	1	0	0	0	24	0	24	0.4
QLD	20	2	11	2	570	32	604	10.3
SA	10	0	2	0	231	15	246	4.2
TAS	1	0	1	0	29	2	31	0.5
VIC	39	1	25	2	1 279	49	1 334	22.7
WA	3	0	3	1	248	17	266	4.5
TOTAL	125	6	89	6	5 636	232	5 885	100.0

† Totals include 24 AIDS cases and 17 deaths following AIDS in people whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 1.2 Incidence of AIDS per million current population¹ by sex and State/Territory of diagnosis for the two most recent yearly intervals

State/ Territory	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99			1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	13.0	0.0	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4
NSW	33.6	3.4	18.6	25.0	3.4	14.2
NT	29.8	0.0	15.7	9.8	11.0	10.3
QLD	18.4	0.6	9.5	14.7	1.7	8.2
SA	16.3	2.7	9.4	6.8	2.6	4.7
TAS	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	0.0	2.1
VIC	17.8	0.8	9.2	15.8	1.3	8.7
WA	5.4	2.2	3.8	10.6	0.0	5.4
TOTAL	21.6	2.0	11.8	17.0	2.2	9.6

¹ 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 June 2000, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases ¹								
Age group (years)	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ²	%
0–2	0	0	0	0	9	7	16	0.2
2–12	1	0	0	0	20	9	29	0.3
0–12	1	0	0	0	29	16	45	0.5
13–19	1	0	1	0	27	4	31	0.4
20–29	24	6	13	2	1 329	96	1 438	17.1
30–39	82	9	75	11	3 385	134	3 527	41.9
40–49	55	4	41	3	2 241	60	2 303	27.3
50–59	29	0	25	2	768	30	799	9.5
60+	10	0	6	3	246	33	279	3.3
TOTAL	202	19	161	21	8 025	373	8 422	100.0

Deaths²

Age group (years)	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ²	%
0–2	0	0	0	0	5	5	10	0.1
2–12	0	1	0	0	16	6	22	0.4
0–12	0	1	0	0	21	11	32	0.5
13–19	0	0	0	0	13	3	16	0.3
20–29	14	0	5	1	662	42	714	12.1
30–39	41	1	41	5	2 271	85	2 361	40.1
40–49	40	4	30	0	1 790	42	1 834	31.2
50–59	21	0	10	0	665	22	687	11.7
60+	9	0	3	0	214	27	241	4.1
TOTAL	125	6	89	6	5 636	232	5 885	100.0

¹ Cases are classified by age at diagnosis.

² Deaths are classified by age at death.

Table 1.4 Cases of AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 2000, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	139	–	108	–	6 702	–	6 702	82.6
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact and injecting drug use	9	–	5	–	359	–	359	4.4
Injecting drug use	10	3	8	4	172	86	258	3.2
<i>Heterosexual</i>	4	2	5	4	113	67	180	
<i>Not further specified</i>	6	1	3	0	59	19	78	
Heterosexual contact	29	15	19	13	302	189	491	6.1
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	2	0	4	7	21	28	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	1	–	0	–	38	38	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	9	8	7	5	56	37	93	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	3	0	4	0	42	13	55	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	1	2	10	12	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	0	2	0	0	27	23	50	
<i>Not further specified</i>	17	2	8	3	168	47	215	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	2	0	1	0	113	3	116	1.4
Receipt of blood/tissue	1	1	0	2	78	62	140	1.7
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents	190	19	141	19	7 727	343	8 070	99.4
Children (under 13 years at AIDS diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	1	0	0	0	13	13	26	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	1	0	0	0	29	16	45	0.6
Sub-total	191	19	141	19	7 756	359	8 115	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	11	0	20	2	269	14	307	
TOTAL	202	19	161	21	8 025	373	8 422	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 24 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 June 2000, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	95	–	63	–	4 803	–	4 803	84.3
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	6	–	6	–	253	–	253	4.4
Injecting drug use	8	0	3	0	97	49	146	2.6
<i>Heterosexual</i>	3	0	2	0	73	42	115	
<i>Not further specified</i>	5	0	1	0	24	7	31	
Heterosexual contact	7	4	7	6	144	109	253	4.4
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	1	3	3	11	14	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	1	–	0	–	26	26	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	1	2	2	0	13	12	25	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	3	0	0	0	16	10	26	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	1	2	7	9	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	0	0	0	0	22	15	37	
<i>Not further specified</i>	3	1	4	2	88	28	116	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	2	0	87	3	90	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	1	0	0	67	51	118	2.1
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents	117	5	81	6	5 452	214	5 666	99.4
Children (under 13 years at death following AIDS)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	1	0	0	7	9	16	0.3
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0.1
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	11	2	13	0.2
Total children	0	1	0	0	21	11	32	0.6
Sub-total	117	6	81	6	5 473	225	5 698	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	8	0	8	0	163	7	187	
TOTAL	125	6	89	6	5 636	232	5 885	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 17 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.

The National HIV Database

Table 2.1 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex¹ and State/Territory, cumulative to 30 June 2000, and for two previous yearly intervals

State/Territory	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate ²
ACT	4	3	9	3	225	28	253	81.4
NSW ³	340	39	337	31	11 065	613	11 946	185.8
NT	9	2	5	2	112	11	123	63.6
QLD	80	12	114	18	2 023	158	2 188	62.1
SA	18	3	21	3	680	61	741	49.6
TAS	2	1	0	1	78	5	83	17.7
VIC ⁴	133	13	144	16	3 955	221	4 214	89.2
WA	29	14	32	8	928	119	1 051	56.3
TOTAL⁵	615	87	662	82	19 066	1 216	20 599⁶	108.3

1 Forty six people (21 NSW, 7 QLD, 14 VIC and 4 WA) whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the total columns of Tables 2.1 – 2.3

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

3 Cumulative total for NSW includes 247 people whose sex was not reported.

4 Cumulative total for VIC includes 24 people whose sex was not reported.

5 Cumulative total for Australia includes 271 people whose sex was not reported.

6 Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 17 800 (range 17 400 to 18 250). Reference: Law MG, McDonald AM and Kaldor JM. Estimation of cumulative HIV incidence in Australia, based on national case reporting. *Aust NZ J Public Health* 1996; 20: 215 - 217

Table 2.2 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection for which exposure category was reported, by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 June 2000, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	400	–	419	–	13 115	–	13 115	78.1
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	32	–	31	–	647	–	647	3.9
Injecting drug use	22	7	31	6	568	177	752	4.5
<i>Heterosexual</i>	15	5	18	5	207	126	334	
<i>Not further specified</i>	7	2	13	1	361	51	418	
Heterosexual contact	88	72	87	70	925	744	1 673	10.0
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	4	4	2	3	32	84	117	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	6	–	7	–	107	107	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	30	27	27	27	156	162	319	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	19	11	25	12	153	81	234	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	1	0	0	1	5	14	19	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	5	13	5	11	52	114	167	
<i>Not further specified</i>	29	11	28	9	527	182	710	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	3	0	0	0	229	4	233	1.4
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	3	0	0	104	102	206	1.2
Health care setting ²	0	0	0	0	3	8	11	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents¹	545	82	568	76	15 591	1 035	16 637	99.1
Children (under 13 years at HIV diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	1	0	1	1	38	26	64	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	1	0	67	0	67	0.4
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	1	13	8	21	0.1
Total children	1	0	2	2	118	34	152	0.9
Sub-total	546	82	570	78	15 709	1 069	16 789	100.0
Other/undetermined ³	69	5	92	4	3 357	147	3 810	
TOTAL¹	615	87	662	82	19 066	1 216	20 599⁴	

1 Total column includes people whose sex was not reported.

2 'Health care setting' includes 5 cases of occupationally acquired HIV infection and 4 cases of HIV transmission in surgical rooms.

3 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 3 792 adults/adolescents and 18 children. Forty six 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.

4 See footnote Table 2.1

Table 2.3 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 June 2000, and for two previous yearly intervals

Age group (years)	1 Jul 98 – 30 Jun 99		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		Cumulative to 30 Jun 00			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	%
0–2	1	0	0	1	42	17	60	0.3
3–12	2	0	2	1	91	19	110	0.5
0–12	3	0	2	2	133	36	170	0.8
13–19	9	10	7	4	411	82	502	2.4
20–29	169	33	150	33	6 507	497	7 122	34.6
30–39	222	28	290	29	7 051	335	7 492	36.4
40–49	134	12	124	9	3 317	130	3 494	17.0
50–59	56	1	60	1	1 101	48	1 162	5.6
60+	22	3	23	3	364	57	423	2.1
Not reported	0	0	6	1	182	31	234	1.1
TOTAL¹	615	87	662	82	19 066	1 216	20 599	100.0

1 See footnotes Table 2.2

Table 2.4 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 for which an HIV seroconversion illness 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

State/Territory	1 Jul 99 – 31 Dec 99		1 Jan 00 – 30 Jun 00		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
ACT	1	0	4	0	5	0	5
NSW	50	2	36	1	86	3	89
NT	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
QLD	15	1	8	1	23	2	25
SA	3	0	3	0	6	0	6
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	12	0	31	1	43	1	44
WA	3	0	3	0	6	0	7
TOTAL¹	85	3	85	3	170	6	177

1 Totals include one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 2.5 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 for which an HIV seroconversion illness 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

Exposure category	1 Jul 99 – 31 Dec 99		1 Jan 00 – 30 Jun 00		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	67	–	74	–	141	–	141
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	5	–	3	–	8	–	9
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	5	1	3	1	8	2	10
Heterosexual contact	5	2	3	2	8	4	12
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined	3	0	2	0	5	0	5
TOTAL¹	85	3	85	3	170	6	177

1 Totals include one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 2.6 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 for which an HIV seroconversion illness 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

Age Group (years)	1 Jul 99 – 31 Dec 99		1 Jan 00 – 30 Jun 00		1 Jul 99 – 30 Jun 00		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
13–19	2	0	4	0	6	0	6
20–29	23	1	28	2	51	3	54
30–39	39	2	42	1	81	3	85
40–49	9	0	8	0	17	0	17
50–59	8	0	3	0	11	0	11
60+	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
TOTAL¹	85	3	85	3	170	6	177

1 Totals include one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

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 April to 30 June 2000

Sexual health clinic	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, NSW	1 182	730	451	262	4	1	5
Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Marrickville, NSW	278	338	97	124	0	0	0
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	818	578	273	137	0	0	0
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	370	522	116	227	0	0	0
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	768	529	551	355	0	0	0
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	1 867	1 433	1 239	1 046	0	0	0
TOTAL	5 283	4 130	2 727	2 151	4	1	5

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 April to 30 June 2000

Exposure category	Previous negative HIV antibody test		% retested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	698	—	73.2	—	2	—	2	0.4
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	65	—	63.1	—	0	—	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	162	109	48.8	58.7	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 488	1 498	58.3	58.8	0	0	0	0.0
<i>outside Australia</i>	198	163	55.6	48.5	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 290	1 335	58.7	60.1	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	—	300	—	81.0	—	1	0	0.4
Sex worker and injecting drug use	—	43	—	51.2	—	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	165	110	93.9	78.2	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	2 578	2 060	64.1	62.9	2	1	3	0.1

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 April to 30 June 2000

Exposure category	No previous HIV antibody test		% tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	373	—	46.1	—	2	—	2	1.2
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	12	—	25.0	—	0	—	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	94	61	69.1	49.2	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 542	1 502	46.6	42.3	0	0	0	0.0
<i>outside Australia</i>	159	104	59.7	45.2	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 383	1 398	45.1	42.1	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	—	77	—	80.5	—	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	—	22	—	63.6	—	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	379	379	31.3	30.1	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	2 400	2 041	44.8	41.9	2	0	2	0.1

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 April to 30 June 2000

Age group (years)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13–19	127	410	69	173	0	0	0
20–29	2 052	2 251	1 114	1 200	2	1	3
30–39	1 729	961	867	507	1	0	1
40–49	832	357	425	190	1	0	1
50–59	367	122	174	71	0	0	0
60+	176	29	78	10	0	0	0
TOTAL	5 283	4 130	2 727	2 151	4	1	5

Table 3.5 Number of people diagnosed with specific sexually transmissible infections¹ other than HIV, by sex, exposure category and whether or not they were tested for HIV antibody² during the quarter 1 April to 30 June 2000

Exposure category	Tested for HIV antibody		Not tested for HIV antibody	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	22	—	54	—
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	2	—	4	—
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	4	0	2	1
Heterosexual contact	34	21	57	30
<i>outside Australia</i>	13	7	8	3
<i>within Australia only</i>	21	14	49	27
Sex worker	—	0	—	3
Sex worker and injecting drug use	—	0	—	0
Other/undetermined	1	1	5	1
TOTAL	63	22	122	35

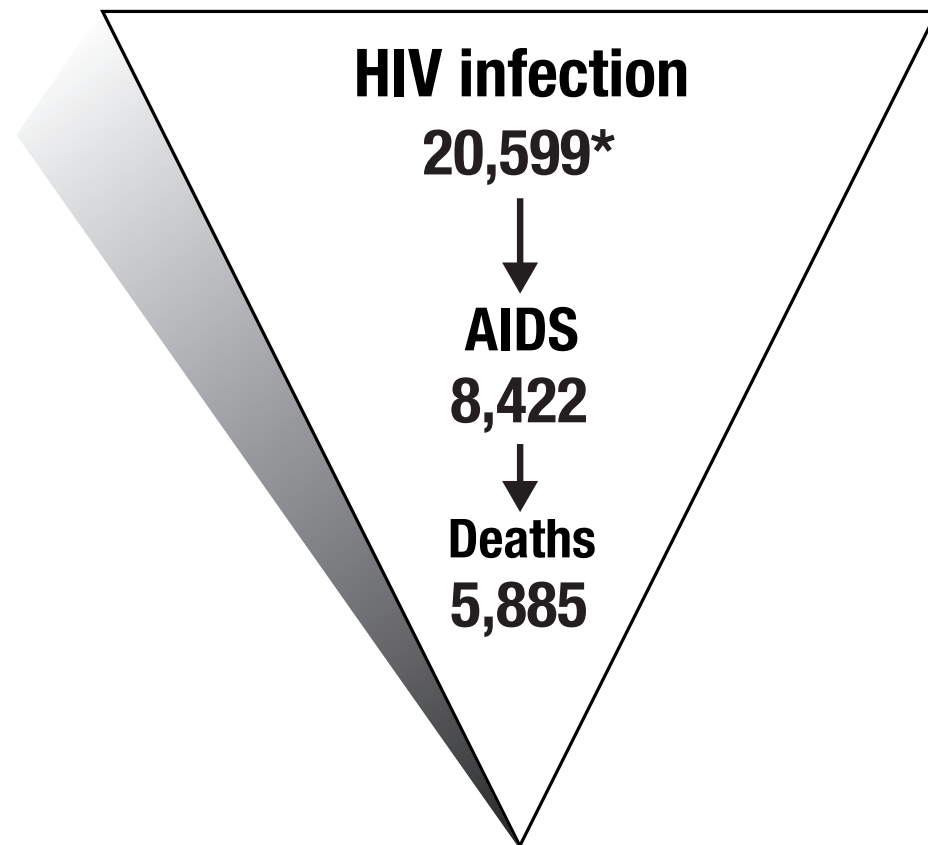
¹ Specific sexually transmissible infections are gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia.

² Includes people who may have been previously tested for HIV antibody and excludes people previously known to have HIV infection.



The HIV epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 30 June 2000



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 17,800 (range 17,400 to 18,250), cumulative to 30 June 2000.

Diagnoses in the second quarter

1 April – 30 June

- a total of 157 diagnoses of HIV infection, 35 diagnoses of AIDS and 23 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 September 2000, to have occurred in the second quarter of 2000
- following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the second quarter of 2000 were 65 and 35
- in comparison, 161 diagnoses of HIV infection, 38 diagnoses of AIDS and 18 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 30 September 2000, to have occurred in the second quarter of 1999

New HIV infection

During the second quarter of 2000, 41 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. A history of male homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, was reported in 35 (85.4%) cases.

Diagnoses in the year to 30 June 2000

- 748 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 183 diagnoses of AIDS
- 95 deaths following AIDS were reported by 30 September 2000

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 30 June 2000 had an average age of 36 years and 1.5% were in the age group 13 – 19 years

- 88.5% were male, 11.0% were female and sex was reported as transgender for 0.5% of cases
- of 87.2% of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in the year to 30 June 2000 for which exposure to HIV was recorded, a history of male homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, was reported in 69.0%

Total diagnoses to 30 June 2000

- 20,599 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 17,800 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
- 8,422 diagnoses of AIDS
- 5,885 deaths following AIDS were reported by 30 September 2000

HIV testing in sexual health clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 4,878 people in the quarter 1 April – 30 June 2000 who were not previously known to have HIV infection

- of 1,929 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 2 (0.1%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 2,949 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 3 (0.1%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 511 men who reported a history of homosexual contact, and who were retested following a previous negative test, 3 (0.4%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection

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Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Editor	Ann McDonald
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NOTES

The National AIDS Registry is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National HIV Surveillance Committee, which consists of representatives from NCHECR, and the Health Departments of each State and Territory and the Commonwealth of Australia. 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 Database is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National HIV 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 Database 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. Specified countries are those of sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, where transmission of HIV 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.

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Australian HIV Surveillance Report
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
376 Victoria Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Australia

Tel: (02) 9332 4648
Fax: (02) 9332 1837 International prefix: (612)
Email: recept@nchechr.unsw.edu.au
Internet: www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechr

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/nths/public/bulletin.htm
Sexually Transmitted Diseases in South Australia	www.stdservices.on.net/publications
Victorian Infectious Diseases Bulletin	www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/vidb/
Disease WAatch	www.public.health.wa.gov.au/

For further information at a State/Territory level, contact:

ACT	Ms Irene Passaris, ACT Health	(02) 6205 0960
NSW	Mr Robert Menzies, NSW Department of Health	(02) 9391 9279
NT	Dr Jan Savage, Department of Health and Community Services	(08) 8228 8874
QLD	Dr Hugo Rée, Queensland Department of Health	(07) 3224 5526
SA	Ms Therese Davey, SA Health Commission	(08) 8226 6025
TAS	Mr Neil Cremasco, Department of Health	(03) 6233 3203
VIC	Ms Cathy Keenan, Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research	(03) 9282 2290
WA	Dr Gary Dowse, WA Department of Health	(08) 9388 4849

