



National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Australian HIV Surveillance Report

Vol 20 No 2 April 2004

Improved completeness of identifiers among cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection in Australia

Since the establishment of national AIDS surveillance in Australia in 1982, the namecode of each person with AIDS, based on the first two letters of the family name and the first two letters of the given name, together with their sex and date of birth, has been used to uniquely identify the case. Namecode was introduced for notification of AIDS to maintain confidentiality of people living with AIDS while minimising duplicate notifications.

When national surveillance for newly diagnosed HIV infection was established in 1990, cases were reported nationally with information on sex and date of birth but without namecode. The lack of namecode limited our ability to identify duplicate diagnoses of individual cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection across State/Territory borders and to reliably describe trends in new HIV diagnoses. In 1993, reporting of namecode at HIV diagnosis was established following agreement through the Epidemiology Advisory Committee and endorsement by the Intergovernmental Committee on AIDS and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations. State and Territory health authorities have gradually implemented national reporting of cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection with namecode (Law *et al* 1998). However, counts of new HIV diagnoses reported to the National HIV Database remain affected by multiple reporting (Law *et al* 1996), and adjustments for multiple reporting have been routinely published in surveillance reports (NCHECR 2003).

In Victoria, a purpose designed HIV antibody test request form was introduced in 1985. The HIV antibody test request form sought information on the namecode of each person being tested for HIV antibody, their sex and date of birth and the date of specimen collection for HIV diagnosis (Gertig *et al* 1993). Newly diagnosed HIV infection was made laboratory notifiable in Victoria in 1988 in a non-identifiable format. The State HIV Reference Laboratory notified cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection, including cases reported as previously diagnosed elsewhere in Australia or overseas, to the Victorian Department of Human Services with information on the sex and date of birth of each case but without namecode. The notifiable information on cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection in Victoria was forwarded to the National HIV Database under national HIV surveillance procedures.

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, The University of New South Wales. Its work is overseen by the Australian National Council on HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis C (Hepatides) and Sexual Health (ANCHAHS).

Announcements

National meetings

The **4th Australasian Hepatitis C Conference** will be held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, on 31 August – 3 September 2004. Further information may be obtained from 4th Australasian Hepatitis C Conference,

Locked Mail Bag 5057, Darlinghurst NSW 1300.

Telephone: +61 2 9368 2714

Facsimile: +61 2 9380 9528

E-mail: conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au

Website: www.ashm.org.au/conference2004

The **16th Annual Conference of Australasian Society for HIV Medicine** will be held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, on 2 – 4 September 2004. Further information may be obtained from ASHM Conference 2004,

Locked Mail Bag 5057, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 Australia.

Telephone: 61 2 9368 2714

Facsimile: 61 2 9380 9528

E-mail: conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au

Website: www.ashm.org.au/conference2004

International meeting

The **XV International AIDS Conference** will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 – 16 July 2004. Further information may be obtained through the Conference Secretariat, International AIDS Society HQ,

Berzeliusvag 8, Karolinska Institute, SE-171 77 Stockholm, Sweden.

Telephone: +46 8 508 846 40

Facsimile: +46 8 508 846 64

E-mail: info@aids2004.org

In September 1996, newly diagnosed HIV infection was made doctor notifiable in Victoria and reporting of cases with namecode was introduced (Department of Human Services 1996). Namecode for cases of HIV infection diagnosed in Victoria from September 1996 has been routinely reported to the National HIV Database. In January 2004, information on namecode for cases of HIV infection diagnosed in Victoria prior to September 1996 was made available to the National HIV Database. The newly available namecodes has led to the identification of duplicate diagnoses across State/Territory borders. We report the extent of identified duplicate HIV diagnoses and revised estimates of the extent of multiple reporting.

The namecodes for Victorian HIV diagnoses were imported into Victorian records without namecode held on the National HIV Database, using an exact match on sex and date of birth. The National HIV Database records for Victoria were then matched to the Victorian records of HIV diagnosis, to check for consistency between the two datasets. Identified differences between the datasets were corrected on the National HIV Database records for Victoria. The updated National HIV Database records for Victoria were then matched to records of HIV infection diagnosed in other health jurisdictions in Australia, to check for cases of cross border duplication.

Namecodes were imported for 3,850 cases of HIV infection diagnosed in Victoria by 31 August 1996. Comparison of the National HIV Database records for Victoria with the Victorian records with namecode indicated that 77 records had not been previously notified to the National HIV Database. These records were added to the National HIV Database, including 29 cases diagnosed with AIDS. Based on the new information, minor revisions were made to the date of HIV diagnosis or the exposure category for 30 Victorian records, diagnosed prior to 1988.

Matching Victorian records of HIV diagnosis with the records of HIV diagnosis in other health jurisdictions, by namecode, sex and date birth, indicated that 210 cases had had more than one diagnosis. Of 122 cases of HIV infection first diagnosed in Victoria with a subsequent notification from another health jurisdiction, 46% had also been diagnosed in Queensland and 38% were identified among diagnoses in New South Wales, following availability of namecode in 1991. A total of 88 Victorian records of HIV infection had initially been diagnosed in another health jurisdiction in Australia.

By the end of 2003, a namecode was available for more than 99% of new HIV diagnoses in Victoria and for 72% of new HIV diagnoses nationally. Increases in the percentage of HIV diagnoses with namecode as well as increases in the percentage of diagnoses with exact dates of birth have lead to a gradual decline in the estimated extent of multiple reporting of HIV diagnoses, from around 20% of HIV diagnoses notified by the end of 1996 (NCHECR 1997) to around 12% of HIV diagnoses notified by the end of 2003. Reporting of new HIV diagnoses with namecode also facilitates more accurate reporting of trends over time, linkage to AIDS cases for estimation of the long-term outcome of HIV infection and linkage to other datasets for evaluation of the completeness and accuracy of national HIV/AIDS surveillance reports.

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References

Department of Human Services. Surveillance of sexually transmissible diseases in Victoria 1996. STD/Blood-Borne Virus Program, Infectious Diseases Unit, Department of Human Services, Melbourne, VIC.

Gertig D, Crofts N, Stevenson E and Breschkin A for the Victorian Collaborative Group on HIV and AIDS Surveillance. The epidemiology of HIV-1 in Victoria. *Medical Journal of Australia* 1993; 158: 17-20

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Law M, McDonald A and Menzies R. New numbers on HIV diagnoses in Australia. *Australian HIV Surveillance Report* 1998; 14(2): 9-10

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. *HIV/AIDS and related diseases in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 1997*. National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW. [http: www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au)

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. *HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2003*. National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW. [http: www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au)

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 31 December 2003, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases

State/Territory	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	2	0	3	1	93	10	103	1.1
NSW	84	4	107	0	5 057	217	5 289	57.1
NT	1	0	3	1	41	1	42	0.4
QLD	43	3	17	2	948	56	1 006	10.9
SA	13	2	4	0	380	30	410	4.4
TAS	1	1	0	0	47	4	51	0.6
VIC	42	3	40	4	1 822	89	1 921	20.7
WA	10	3	11	1	404	34	440	4.8
Total	196	16	185	9	8 792	441	9 262	100.0

Deaths

State/Territory	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	%
ACT	0	1	1	1	72	6	78	1.2
NSW	38	2	38	2	3 429	127	3 565	56.2
NT	1	0	0	0	26	0	26	0.4
QLD	14	1	11	2	620	39	661	10.4
SA	8	2	5	2	256	20	276	4.3
TAS	1	0	0	0	31	2	33	0.5
VIC	11	0	16	1	1 345	58	1 411	22.2
WA	3	1	4	1	276	22	299	4.7
Total	76	7	75	9	6 055	274	6 349	100.0

† Totals include 29 AIDS cases and 20 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 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02			1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	12.6	0.0	6.2	18.8	6.1	12.4
NSW	25.5	1.2	13.4	32.2	0.0	16.2
NT	9.6	0.0	5.0	28.8	10.6	20.2
QLD	23.2	1.6	12.4	9.0	1.1	5.0
SA	17.3	2.6	9.9	5.3	0.0	2.6
TAS	4.3	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
VIC	17.5	1.2	9.3	16.5	1.6	8.9
WA	10.4	3.1	6.8	11.3	1.0	6.1
Total	20.1	1.6	10.8	18.7	0.9	9.8

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 31 December 2003, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases¹

Age group (years)	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	
0–2	0	0	0	0	9	9	18	0.2
2–12	0	0	0	0	21	10	31	0.3
0–12	0	0	0	0	30	19	49	0.5
13–19	0	0	0	0	27	4	31	0.3
20–29	13	4	13	1	1 393	109	1 515	16.4
30–39	65	8	68	4	3 657	164	3 831	41.4
40–49	80	2	46	3	2 487	75	2 565	27.7
50–59	25	2	40	1	894	36	933	10.1
60+	13	0	18	0	304	34	338	3.6
Total	196	16	185	9	8 792	441	9 262	100.0

Deaths²

Age group (years)	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total†	
0–2	0	0	0	0	5	6	11	0.2
2–12	0	0	0	0	17	6	23	0.3
0–12	0	0	0	0	22	12	34	0.5
13–19	0	0	0	0	14	3	17	0.3
20–29	3	1	1	2	684	48	743	11.7
30–39	18	1	25	4	2 413	98	2 518	39.7
40–49	33	2	30	3	1 937	50	1 989	31.3
50–59	16	3	11	0	735	31	766	12.1
60+	6	0	8	0	250	32	282	4.4
Total	76	7	75	9	6 055	274	6 349	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 31 December 2003, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	141	–	127	–	7 265	–	7 265	81.4
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	14	–	13	–	416	–	416	4.7
Injecting drug use	7	0	8	2	196	94	290	3.3
<i>Heterosexual</i>	4	0	5	1	126	71	197	
<i>Not further specified</i>	3	0	3	1	70	23	93	
Heterosexual contact	23	13	25	7	391	240	631	7.1
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	2	2	0	9	25	34	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	1	–	1	–	44	44	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	4	4	2	1	72	53	125	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	4	0	4	4	62	19	81	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	2	10	12	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	3	2	1	1	36	33	69	
<i>Not further specified</i>	12	4	16	0	210	56	266	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	2	0	1	0	119	3	122	1.4
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	1	0	0	78	65	143	1.6
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents	187	14	174	9	8 466	405	8 871	99.5
Children (under 13 years at AIDS diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	0	0	14	16	30	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	0.1
Total children	0	0	0	0	30	19	49	0.5
Sub-total	187	14	174	9	8 496	424	8 920	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	9	2	11	0	296	17	342	
Total	196	16	185	9	8 792	441	9 262	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 29 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 31 December 2003, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	58	–	49	–	5 119	–	5 119	83.4
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	5	–	9	–	286	–	286	4.7
Injecting drug use	3	1	5	3	117	57	174	2.8
<i>Heterosexual</i>	0	0	2	2	79	46	125	
<i>Not further specified</i>	3	1	3	1	38	11	49	
Heterosexual contact	6	5	7	5	167	132	299	4.9
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	0	1	4	12	16	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	1	–	1	–	31	31	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	2	0	0	1	17	17	34	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	1	0	0	1	19	11	30	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	2	7	9	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	0	1	2	0	24	17	41	
<i>Not further specified</i>	3	3	5	1	101	37	138	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	0	0	93	3	96	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	1	0	0	68	56	124	2.0
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents	73	7	70	8	5 851	250	6 101	99.4
Children (under 13 years at death following AIDS)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	0	0	8	10	18	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	0	0	0	22	12	34	0.6
Sub-total	73	7	70	8	5 873	262	6 135	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	3	0	5	1	182	12	214	
Total	76	7	75	9	6 055	274	6 349	

1 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 20 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 31 December 2003, and for two previous years intervals

State/Territory	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate ²
ACT	5	0	4	1	242	29	271	83.9
NSW ³	366	29	377	32	12 306	723	13 295	198.8
NT	4	4	4	1	118	15	133	67.1
QLD	118	13	109	17	2 312	209	2 529	66.6
SA	24	6	41	3	787	80	867	56.8
TAS	3	2	0	0	85	7	92	19.3
VIC ⁴	193	22	187	17	4 577	289	4 906	99.8
WA	31	13	33	12	1 049	159	1 215	62.2
Total⁵	744	89	755	83	21 476	1 511	23 308⁶	117.2

1 Sixty people (27 NSW, 8 QLD, 18 VIC and 7 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 239 people whose sex was not reported.

4 Cumulative total for VIC includes 22 people whose sex was not reported.

5 Cumulative total for Australia includes 261 people whose sex was not reported.

6 Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 20 580 (range 20 110 to 21 060). 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 31 December 2003, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	
Male homosexual/ bisexual contact	536	–	567	–	15 063	–	15 063	77.3
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	30	–	32	–	814	–	814	4.2
Injecting drug use	17	2	21	6	631	198	835	4.3
<i>Heterosexual</i>	12	1	10	6	255	146	401	
<i>Not further specified</i>	5	1	11	0	376	52	434	
Heterosexual contact	86	81	67	68	1 171	1 003	2 180	11.2
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	2	6	4	3	34	97	131	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	8	–	7	–	133	133	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	25	30	15	30	246	283	532	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	18	8	23	9	217	110	327	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	4	18	22	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	5	14	3	11	68	150	219	
<i>Not further specified</i>	36	15	22	8	602	212	816	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	218	4	222	1.1
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	107	102	209	1.1
Health care setting ²	0	1	0	0	3	9	12	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents¹	669	84	687	74	18 007	1 316	19 335	99.2
Children (under 13 years at HIV diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection ³	1	1	0	2	40	33	73	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	65	0	65	0.3
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	13	9	22	0.1
Total children	1	1	0	2	118	42	160	0.8
Sub-total	670	85	687	76	18 125	1 358	19 495	100.0
Other/undetermined ⁴	74	4	68	7	3 351	153	3 813	
Total¹	744	89	755	83	21 476	1 511	23 308⁵	

1 Total column includes people whose sex was not reported.

2 'Health care setting' includes 6 cases of occupationally acquired HIV infection and 4 cases of HIV transmission in surgical rooms.

3 A total of 311 children were notified as having been born to women with HIV infection, cumulative to 31 December 2003.

4 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 3 793 adults/adolescents and 20 children. Sixty 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.

5 See footnote Table 2.1

Table 2.3 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group, cumulative to 31 December 2003, and for two previous yearly intervals

Age group (years)	1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		Cumulative to 31 Dec 03			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	
0–2	0	0	0	0	44	21	66	0.3
3–12	1	1	0	2	90	24	114	0.5
0–12	1	1	0	2	134	45	180	0.8
13–19	1	5	5	4	435	94	538	2.3
20–29	179	26	161	27	7 089	607	7 818	33.5
30–39	318	41	304	29	8 030	443	8 583	36.8
40–49	154	9	156	11	3 823	161	4 028	17.3
50–59	65	3	97	5	1 357	60	1 429	6.1
60+	26	4	32	5	448	69	519	2.2
Not reported	0	0	0	0	160	32	213	0.9
Total¹	744	89	755	83	21 476	1 511	23 308	100.0

1 See footnotes Table 2.2

Table 2.4 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 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 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03		1 Jul 03 – 31 Dec 03		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ²
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW ¹	86	1	60	2	146	3	150
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	16	1	9	2	25	3	28
SA	6	0	9	1	15	1	16
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	37	3	32	0	69	3	72
WA ²	7	0	3	0	10	0	11
Total³	152	5	113	5	265	10	277

1 Total includes one person whose sex was not reported.

2 Total includes one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

3 Total includes one person whose sex was reported as transgender and one person whose sex was not reported.

Table 2.5 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 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 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03		1 Jul 03 – 31 Dec 03		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	135	–	99	–	234	–	234
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	7	–	5	–	12	–	12
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	3	1	2	1	5	2	7
Heterosexual contact ¹	5	4	5	4	10	8	19
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined ²	2	0	2	0	4	0	5
Total³	152	5	113	5	265	10	277

1 Total includes one person whose sex was not reported.

2 Total includes one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

3 Total includes one person whose sex was reported as transgender and one person whose sex was not reported.

Table 2.6 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 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 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03		1 Jul 03 – 31 Dec 03		1 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ³
13–19	3	0	0	0	3	0	3
20–29 ¹	41	0	43	2	84	2	87
30–39 ²	63	5	47	1	110	6	117
40–49	31	0	12	2	43	2	45
50–59	11	0	9	0	20	0	20
60+	3	0	2	0	5	0	5
Total³	152	5	113	5	265	10	277

1 Total includes one person whose sex was reported as transgender.

2 Total includes one person whose sex was not reported.

3 Total includes one person whose sex was reported as transgender and one person whose sex was not reported.

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 clinic¹, during the quarter 1 October to 31 December 2003

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	1 460	982	617	357	4	1	5
Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Marrickville, NSW	413	402	202	125	0	0	0
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	1 021	899	399	282	0	0	0
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	375	494	104	157	0	1	1
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	1 733	1 476	705	542	7	0	7
Total	5 002	4 253	2 027	1 463	11	2	13

1 Data from Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA, not included for this quarter.

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 October to 31 December 2003

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	929	–	59.0	–	7	–	7	1.3
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	55	–	60.0	–	1	–	1	3.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	91	70	54.9	54.3	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 464	1 339	33.7	29.6	0	1	1	0.1
<i>outside Australia</i>	276	196	48.2	49.0	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 188	1 143	30.3	26.2	0	1	1	0.1
Sex worker	–	621	–	57.9	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	57	–	43.9	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	43	54	23.3	7.4	0	0	0	0.0
Total	2 582	2 141	43.9	38.4	8	1	9	0.5

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 October to 31 December 2003

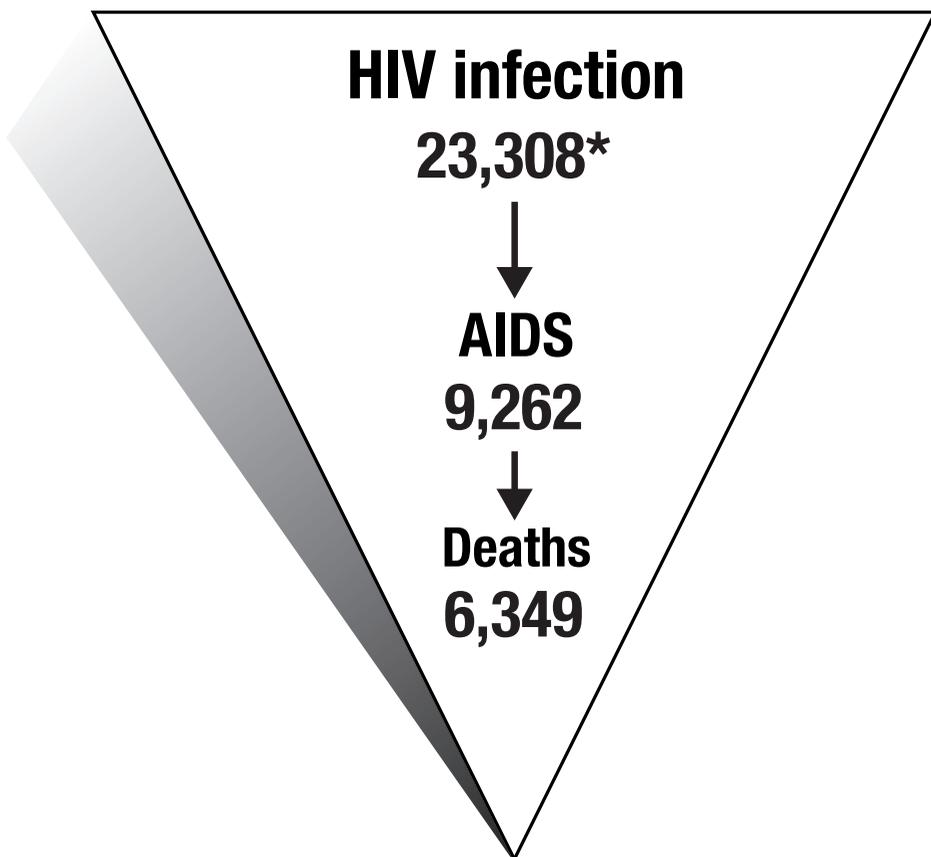
Exposure category	No previous HIV antibody test		% tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	423	–	49.9	–	1	–	1	0.5
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	16	–	62.5	–	2	–	2	20.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	37	27	62.2	44.4	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 560	1 691	39.7	31.6	0	1	1	0.2
<i>outside Australia</i>	338	351	54.7	43.9	0	1	1	0.6
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 222	1 340	35.5	28.4	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	–	166	–	38.6	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	18	–	38.9	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	175	183	17.1	19.6	0	0	0	0.0
Total	2 211	2 085	40.4	30.7	3	1	4	0.3

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 October to 31 December 2003

Age group (years)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13–19	124	426	48	107	0	0	0
20–29	1 945	2 198	900	737	5	2	7
30–39	1 570	1 109	644	436	5	0	5
40–49	851	398	282	146	1	0	1
50–59	352	108	106	37	0	0	0
60+	160	14	47	0	0	0	0
Total	5 002	4 253	2 027	1 463	11	2	13

The HIV Epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 December 2003



* Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 20,580 (range 20,110 – 21,060)



National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Australian HIV Surveillance Update

Vol 20 No 2 April 2004

Diagnoses in the fourth quarter

1 October – 31 December 2003

- a total of 194 diagnoses of HIV infection, 52 diagnoses of AIDS and 24 deaths following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 2004, to have occurred in the fourth quarter of 2003
- following adjustment for reporting delay, the estimated numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in the fourth quarter of 2003 were 120 and 39
- in comparison, 240 diagnoses of HIV infection, 50 diagnoses of AIDS and 25 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2004, to have occurred in the fourth quarter of 2002

New HIV infection

During the fourth quarter of 2003, 54 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. A history of male homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, was reported in 50 (92.6%) cases.

Diagnoses in the year to 31 December 2003

- 848 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 195 diagnoses of AIDS
- 84 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2004

HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 31 December 2003 had an average age of 37 years and 1.1% was in the age group 13 – 19 years

- 89.0% were male, 9.8% were female, and sex was not reported or was reported as transgender in 1.1% and 0.1% of cases, respectively
- of 688 cases of HIV infection, newly diagnosed in males in the year to 31 December 2003 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 87.2%.

Total diagnoses to 31 December 2003

- 23,308 diagnoses of HIV infection
- 20,580 diagnoses of HIV infection following adjustment for multiple reporting
- 9,262 diagnoses of AIDS
- 6,349 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2004

HIV testing in sexual health clinics

Five sexual health clinics in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 3,490 people in the quarter 1 October – 31 December 2003 who were not previously known to have HIV infection

- of 1,533 people reported as having been tested for the first time, 4 (0.3%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 1,957 people reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 9 (0.5%) were found to have HIV infection
- of 984 men who reported a history of homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use, who were retested following a previous negative test, 8 (0.8%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection

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Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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ISSN 1035-221X

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. High prevalence countries are those of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and specific countries in South East Asia (Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand), where HIV prevalence is above 1% and transmission 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.

All data in this report are provisional and subject to future revision.

The Australian HIV Surveillance Report is produced by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research on a quarterly basis, issued in January, April, July and October. Subscription is free, and can be obtained by writing to the Editor or by calling the Epidemiology Section of the NCHECR:

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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/health/cdc/aids_std/report/index.shtml
Sexually Transmitted Diseases in South Australia	www.stdservices.on.net/publications
Victorian Infectious Diseases Bulletin	www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/vidb/
Disease Watch	www.public.health.wa.gov.au/

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