

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research Australian HIV Surveillance Report

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Diagnoses in the fourth quarter

1 October – 31 December 2009

a total of 252 diagnoses of HIV infection, 17 diagnoses of AIDS and 1 death following AIDS were reported, by 31 March 2010, to have occurred in the fourth quarter of 2009

in comparison, 236 diagnoses of HIV infection, 26 diagnoses of AIDS and 10 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2010, to have occurred in the fourth quarter of 2008

New HIV infection

During the fourth quarter of 2009, 67 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 primary HIV infection. Men who have sex with men, with or without a history of injecting drug use, accounted for 60 (89.6%) cases.

Diagnoses in the year to 31 December 2009

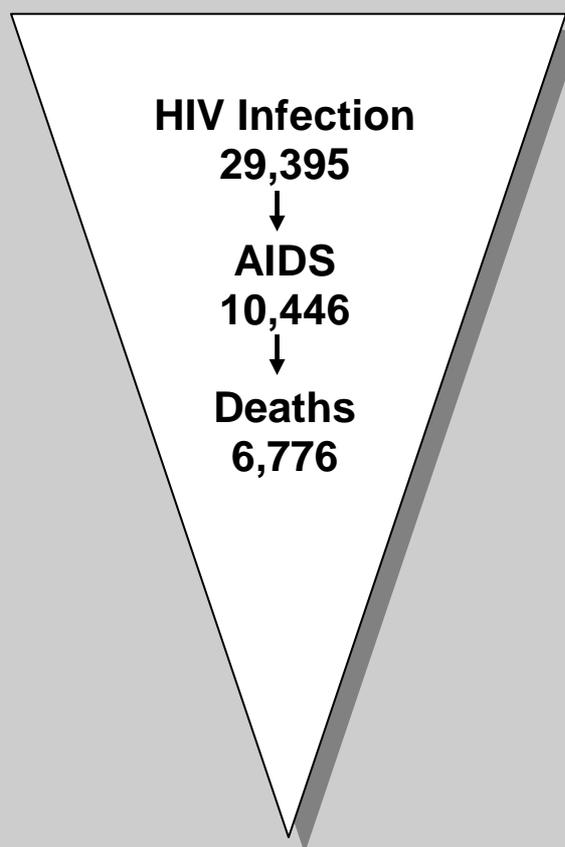
1 050 diagnoses of HIV infection

90 diagnoses of AIDS

9 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2010

The HIV Epidemic in Australia

A cumulative profile to 31 December 2009



Announcements

The **22nd annual ASHM Conference** will be held in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, on 20 – 22 October 2010. The conference will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. Further information may be obtained through the website <http://www.hivaidconference.com.au>.

The **2010 Australasian Sexual Health Conference** will also be held in Sydney, New South Wales, on 18 – 20 October 2010. Further information may be obtained through the website <http://www.hivaidconference.com.au>

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HIV diagnoses

People diagnosed with HIV infection in the year to 31 December 2009 had an average age of 37 years and 1.2% were in the age group 13 – 19 years

86.6% were male and 13.2% were female

of 843 cases of HIV infection, newly diagnosed among adult/adolescent males in the year to 31 December 2009 for which an exposure to HIV was reported, 666 (79.0%) were in men who have sex with men, with or without a history of injecting drug use.

Total diagnoses to 31 December 2009

29 395 diagnoses of HIV infection

10 446 diagnoses of AIDS

6 776 deaths following AIDS were reported by 31 March 2010

HIV testing in sexual health clinics

Six sexual health clinics in Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney tested 7,136 people in the quarter 1 October – 31 December 2009 who were not previously known to have HIV infection

of 1,328 men reported as having been tested for the first time, 1 (0.1%) was found to have HIV infection

of 3,068 men, reported as having been retested following a previous negative test, 30 (1.0%) were found to have HIV infection

of 1,837 men who have sex with men who were retested following a previous negative test, 27 (1.5%) were newly diagnosed with HIV infection

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 2009, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases

State/Territory	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	
ACT	1	0	1	0	95	10	105	1.0
NSW ¹	--	--	--	--	5 513	265	5 796	55.5
NT	2	0	1	2	48	6	54	0.5
QLD	22	1	15	3	1 096	77	1 175	11.2
SA	6	0	8	0	426	32	459	4.4
TAS	0	0	0	0	55	4	59	0.6
VIC	50	5	43	5	2 151	126	2 290	21.9
WA	14	3	9	3	458	48	508	4.9
Total	95	9	77	13	9 842	568	10 446	100.0

Deaths

State/Territory	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	
ACT	0	0	0	0	73	7	80	1.2
NSW ¹	--	--	--	--	3 597	138	3 746	55.3
NT	2	0	1	0	33	1	34	0.5
QLD	3	0	0	0	679	43	724	10.7
SA	0	0	0	0	280	20	300	4.4
TAS	1	0	0	0	34	2	36	0.5
VIC	18	1	5	1	1 449	66	1 524	22.5
WA	1	0	1	1	301	30	332	4.9
Total	25	1	7	2	6 446	307	6 776	100.0

† Totals include 36 AIDS cases and 23 deaths following AIDS in people whose sex was reported as transgender.
 1 AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in NSW from 1 January 2008 are not included. The number of AIDS cases and deaths following AIDS in NSW are cumulative to 31 December 2007.

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 08 – 31 Dec 08			1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	5.8	0.0	2.9	5.7	0.0	2.8
NSW ²	--	--	--	--	--	--
NT	17.3	0.0	9.0	8.5	18.2	13.2
QLD	10.1	0.5	5.3	6.7	1.3	4.0
SA	7.5	0.0	3.7	9.9	0.0	4.9
TAS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VIC	18.7	1.8	10.2	15.8	1.8	8.7
WA	12.5	2.7	7.7	7.8	2.7	5.3
Total	8.8	0.8	4.8	7.0	1.2	4.1

1 Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar period from *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

2 AIDS diagnoses occurring in NSW from 1 January 2008 are not included.

Table 1.3 Cases of AIDS¹ and deaths following AIDS by sex and age group, cumulative to 31 December 2009, and for two previous yearly intervals

Cases²

Age group (years)	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	
0 – 2	1	1	0	2	10	12	22	0.2
2 – 12	1	0	0	0	22	12	34	0.3
0 – 12	2	1	0	2	32	24	56	0.5
13 – 19	0	0	0	1	28	6	34	0.3
20 – 29	7	0	6	0	1 466	127	1 608	15.4
30 – 39	29	6	22	4	3 987	208	4 207	40.3
40 – 49	27	1	22	3	2 859	110	2 974	28.5
50 – 59	17	1	20	3	1 077	52	1 133	10.8
60+	13	0	7	0	393	41	434	4.2
Total	95	9	77	13	9 842	568	10 446	100.0

Deaths³

Age group (years)	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total [†]	
0 – 2	1	0	0	0	6	6	12	0.2
2 – 12	0	0	0	0	17	6	23	0.3
0 – 12	1	0	0	0	23	12	35	0.5
13 – 19	0	0	0	0	15	3	18	0.3
20 – 29	0	0	0	0	695	50	756	11.2
30 – 39	7	0	0	2	2 489	110	2 608	38.5
40 – 49	8	1	2	0	2 081	61	2 144	31.6
50 – 59	4	0	5	0	830	34	865	12.8
60+	5	0	0	0	313	37	350	5.2
Total	25	1	7	2	6 446	307	6 776	100.0

1 AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS occurring in NSW from 1 January 2008 are not included.

2 Cases are classified by age at diagnosis.

3 Deaths are classified by age at death.

Table 1.4 Cases of AIDS¹ by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 31 December 2009, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Men who have sex with men	58	--	47	--	7 956	--	7 956	79.4
Men who have sex with men and injecting drug use	2	--	6	--	507	--	507	5.1
Injecting drug use	1	0	2	0	238	104	342	3.4
<i>Heterosexual</i>	1	0	0	0	144	78	222	
<i>Not further specified</i>	0	0	2	0	94	26	120	
Heterosexual contact	24	8	11	10	534	344	878	8.8
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	0	0	9	31	40	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	--	0	--	0	--	50	50	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	7	1	1	3	105	99	204	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	3	0	3	1	91	26	117	
<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>	0	2	0	1	34	40	74	
<i>Not further specified</i>	14	5	7	5	293	88	381	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	1	0	0	0	123	3	126	1.3
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	84	66	150	1.5
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
Total Adults/ Adolescents	86	8	66	10	9 443	520	9 963	99.4
Children (under 13 years at AIDS diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	2	1	0	2	17	21	38	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0.0
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	11	3	14	0.1
Total children	2	1	0	2	33	24	57	0.6
Sub-total	88	9	66	12	9 476	544	10 020	100.0
Other/undetermined ²	7	0	11	1	366	24	426	
Total	95	9	77	13	9 842	568	10 446	

1 AIDS diagnoses occurring in NSW from 1 January 2008 are not included. The number of AIDS cases is cumulative to 31 December 2007.

2 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 36 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 AIDS¹ by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 31 December 2009, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Men who have sex with men	19	--	4	--	5 382	--	5 382	82.2
Men who have sex with men and injecting drug use	1	--	0	--	315	--	315	4.8
Injecting drug use	1	1	0	0	140	65	205	3.1
<i>Heterosexual</i>	1	0	0	0	87	52	139	
<i>Not further specified</i>	0	1	0	0	53	13	66	
Heterosexual contact	1	0	0	2	211	152	363	5.5
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	0	0	0	0	5	14	19	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	--	0	--	0	--	36	36	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	0	0	0	1	21	22	43	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	0	0	0	0	27	11	38	
<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	0	0	0	21	16	37	
<i>Not further specified</i>	1	0	0	1	135	46	181	
Haemophilia/ coagulation disorder	1	0	1	0	101	3	104	1.6
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	0	75	58	133	2.0
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0
Total Adults/ Adolescents	23	1	5	2	6 225	280	6 505	99.4
Children (under 13 years at AIDS diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	1	0	0	0	10	10	20	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	26	13	39	0.6
Sub-total	24	1	5	2	6 251	293	6 544	100.0
Other/undetermined ²	1	0	2	0	195	14	232	
Total	25	1	7	2	6 446	307	6 776	

1 Deaths following AIDS occurring in NSW from 1 January 2008 are not included. The number of deaths following AIDS is cumulative to 31 December 2007.

2 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 23 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.

National HIV Registry

Table 2.1 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex¹ and State/Territory, cumulative to 31 December 2009, and for two previous yearly intervals

State/Territory	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			Rate ²
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
ACT	5	2	10	1	283	36	319	92.3
NSW ³	323	42	330	44	14 479	1 010	15 750	225.5
NT	9	2	11	5	158	30	188	85.5
QLD	171	30	183	26	3 251	355	3 615	84.2
SA	42	5	44	9	1 067	125	1 192	74.3
TAS	3	1	11	4	127	17	144	28.9
VIC ⁴	250	35	261	29	6 012	465	6 521	122.7
WA	61	20	59	21	1 396	263	1 666	76.7
Total⁵	864	137	909	139	26 773	2 301	29 395	137.2

1 Seventy one people (32 NSW, 9 QLD, 1 SA, 22 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 228 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 250 people whose sex was not reported.

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 2009, and for two previous yearly intervals

Exposure category	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	
Men who have sex with men	629	--	637	--	19 101	--	19 101	75.3
Men who have sex with men and injecting drug use	30	--	29	--	1 073	--	1 073	4.2
Injecting drug use	25	6	21	1	761	236	997	3.9
<i>Heterosexual</i>	18	4	7	1	328	175	503	
<i>Not further specified</i>	7	2	14	0	433	61	494	
Heterosexual contact	136	120	156	126	1 865	1 690	3 555	14.0
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	3	3	1	4	42	126	168	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	--	10	--	3	--	174	174	
<i>From a high prevalence country</i>	47	65	61	57	477	632	1 109	
<i>Sex with person from a high prevalence country</i>	26	8	25	10	408	170	578	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	1	0	1	6	22	28	
<i>Sex with HIV infected person, exposure not specified</i>	9	5	6	10	112	207	319	
<i>Not further specified</i>	51	28	63	41	820	359	1 179	
Haemophilia/ coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	219	4	223	0.9
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	1	0	0	108	104	212	0.8
Health care setting ²	0	0	0	0	4	9	13	0.1
Total Adults/ Adolescents¹	820	127	843	127	23 131	2 043	25 174	99.2
Children (under 13 years at HIV diagnosis)								
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection ³	4	2	2	5	56	52	108	0.4
Haemophilia/ coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	65	0	65	0.3
Receipt of blood/tissue	0	0	0	1	13	10	23	0.1
Total children	4	2	2	6	134	62	196	0.8
Sub-total	824	129	845	133	23 265	2 105	25 370	100.0
Other/undetermined ⁴	40	8	64	6	3 508	196	4 025	
Total¹	864	137	909	139	26 773	2 301	29 395	

1 Totals include 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 A total of 529 children were notified as having been born to women with HIV infection, cumulative to 31 December 2009.

4 The 'Other/undetermined' exposure category includes 3 997 adults/adolescents and 28 children. Seventy one 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.

Table 2.3 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group, cumulative to 31 December 2009, and for two previous yearly intervals

Age group (years)	1 Jan 08 – 31 Dec 08		1 Jan 09 – 31 Dec 09		Cumulative to 31 Dec 09			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	
0–2	3	1	0	3	56	41	98	0.3
3–12	2	1	3	4	97	28	125	0.4
0–12	5	2	3	7	153	69	223	0.8
13–19	7	6	10	3	490	121	619	2.1
20–29	214	47	222	44	8 269	877	9 270	31.5
30–39	277	54	298	50	9 889	722	10 716	36.5
40–49	234	20	230	22	5 207	282	5 534	18.8
50–59	88	6	115	10	1 951	113	2 077	7.1
60+	39	2	31	3	676	85	765	2.6
Not reported	0	0	0	0	138	32	191	0.6
Total¹	864	137	909	139	26 773	2 301	29 395	100.0

1 See footnotes Table 2.1

Table 2.4 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 for which primary HIV infection 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 09 – 30 Jun 09		1 Jul 09 – 31 Dec 09		1 Jan 09 - 31 Dec 09		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
ACT	2	0	1	0	3	0	3
NSW ¹	58	3	49	3	107	6	114
NT	2	3	2	0	4	3	7
QLD	23	2	36	1	59	3	62
SA	4	0	2	0	6	0	6
TAS	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
VIC	45	1	43	1	88	2	90
WA	3	0	3	0	6	0	6
Total¹	139	9	136	5	275	14	290

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

Table 2.5 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 for which primary HIV infection 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 09 – 30 Jun 09		1 Jul 09 – 31 Dec 09		1 Jan 09 - 31 Dec 09		Total ¹
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Men who have sex with men	121	--	114	--	235	--	235
Men who have sex with men and injecting drug use	3	--	3	--	6	--	6
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Heterosexual contact	10	9	13	4	23	13	36
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined ¹	3	0	6	1	9	1	11
Total¹	139	9	136	5	275	14	290

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

Table 2.6 Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 for which primary HIV infection 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 09 – 30 Jun 09		1 Jul 09 – 31 Dec 09		1 Jan 09 - 31 Dec 09		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
0 – 12	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
13 – 19	0	1	3	0	3	1	4
20 – 29 ¹	44	4	41	2	85	6	92
30 – 39	42	2	43	0	85	2	87
40 – 49	37	2	25	0	62	2	64
50 – 59	16	0	20	2	36	2	38
60+	0	0	4	0	4	0	4
Total¹	139	9	136	5	275	14	290

1 Total includes 1 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 October to 31 December 2009

Sexual health clinic	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, NSW	1 658	1 059	806	372	8	0	8
RPA Sexual Health Centre, NSW	478	210	212	72	1	0	1
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	1 189	788	381	173	6	0	6
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	754	521	200	111	2	0	2
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	1 747	956	1 451	767	1	0	1
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	2 302	1 878	1 346	1 245	13	0	13
Total	8 128	5 412	4 396	2 740	31	0	31

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 2009

Exposure category	Previous negative HIV antibody test		% retested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Men who have sex with men	2 378	--	74.1	--	23	--	23	1.3
Men who have sex with men and injecting drug use	110	--	68.2	--	4	--	4	5.3
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	100	99	70.0	47.5	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	2 321	1 780	49.2	49.8	3	0	3	0.1
<i>outside Australia</i>	608	352	55.9	55.7	2	0	2	0.4
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 713	1 428	46.8	48.3	1	0	1	0.1
Sex worker	--	1 209	--	73.3	--	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	--	53	--	64.2	--	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	43	109	46.5	56.9	0	0	0	0.0
Total	4 952	3 250	62.0	58.9	30	0	30	0.6

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 2009

Exposure category	No previous HIV antibody test		% tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			%
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Men who have sex with men	578	--	58.7	--	1	--	1	0.3
Men who have sex with men	10	--	60.0	--	0	--	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	35	28	71.4	60.7	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1 915	1 728	49.1	38.7	0	0	0	0.0
<i>outside Australia</i>	524	404	56.3	39.6	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1 391	1 324	46.4	38.4	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	--	129	--	82.2	--	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	--	18	--	11.1	--	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	209	226	8.6	14.2	0	0	0	0.0
Total	2 747	2 129	48.3	38.8	1	0	1	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 October to 31 December 2009

Age group (years)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 – 19	312	498	178	189	2	0	2
20 – 29	3 621	2 938	2 110	1 438	13	0	13
30 – 39	2 211	1 300	1 172	745	11	0	11
40 – 49	1 156	500	463	289	2	0	2
50 – 59	533	133	241	60	3	0	3
60+	295	43	132	19	0	0	0
Total	8 128	5 412	4 396	2 740	31	0	31

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Notes

The National AIDS Registry is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee, which consists of representatives from NCHECR, the Health Departments of each State and Territory, the affected communities and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. 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 Registry is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections 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 Registry 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.

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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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