

AIDS - New Zealand

INTRODUCTION

This, the eleventh issue of 'AIDS - New Zealand', provides information about the occurrence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in New Zealand to 30 September 1991. These reports are produced quarterly by the AIDS Epidemiology Group, which is jointly funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand and the Department of Health. We aim to give timely and relevant details about the problem of HIV/AIDS in New Zealand. Not all tables and figures will be updated in every edition.

AIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Twenty four people were notified as having AIDS in the third quarter of 1991. The total number notified since monitoring began was 300 at 30 September 1991. Figure 1 depicts the annual and cumulative notification numbers since 1984.

The cumulative notification rate, since AIDS was first made notifiable in New Zealand in 1984, now stands at 9.1 per 100,000 total population.

A number of the notifications received in the last quarter

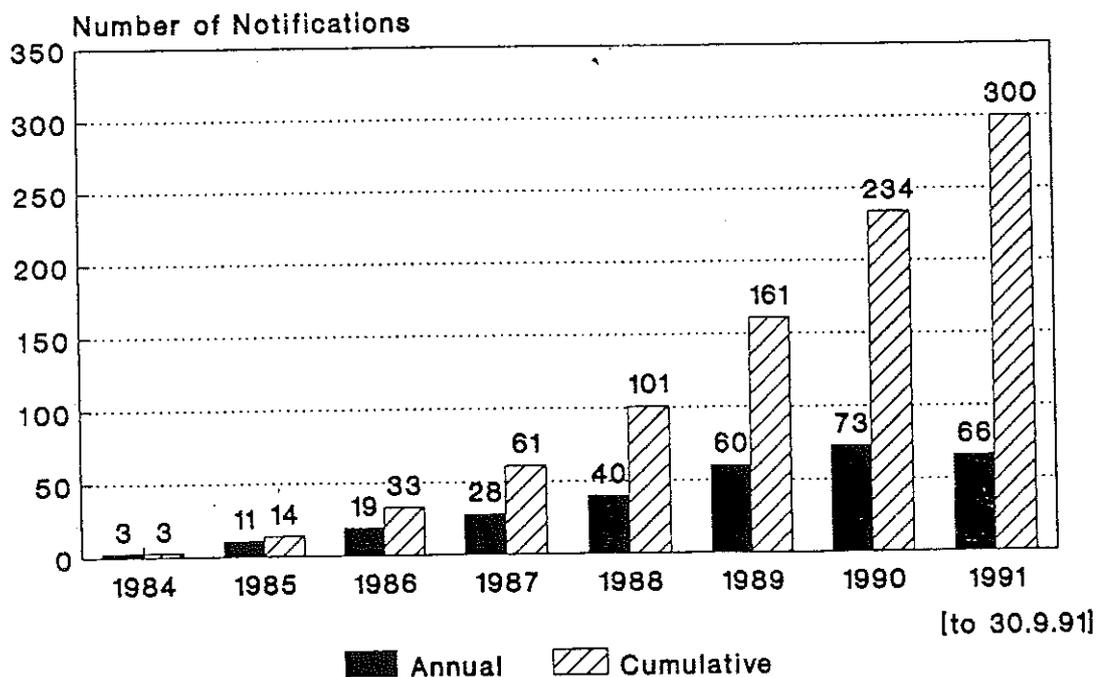


Figure 1 AIDS notifications in New Zealand

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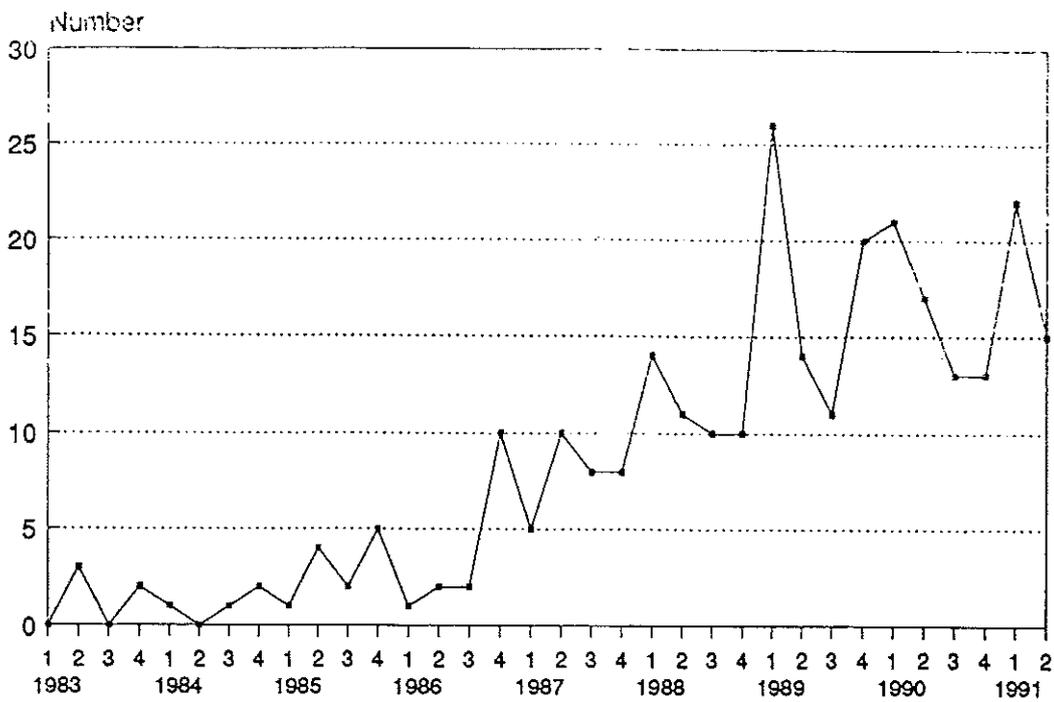


Figure 2 Number of people diagnosed with AIDS by year and quarter of diagnosis

had been significantly delayed. Therefore in Figure 2 we show the number of people with AIDS by quarter of diagnosis rather than of notification. No number is given for those diagnosed in the third quarter of 1991 as there is inevitably some delay in receiving information on

the most recently diagnosed people.

There is considerable variation in the number diagnosed in each quarter, so it is important that trends are only determined after assessment of several time periods.

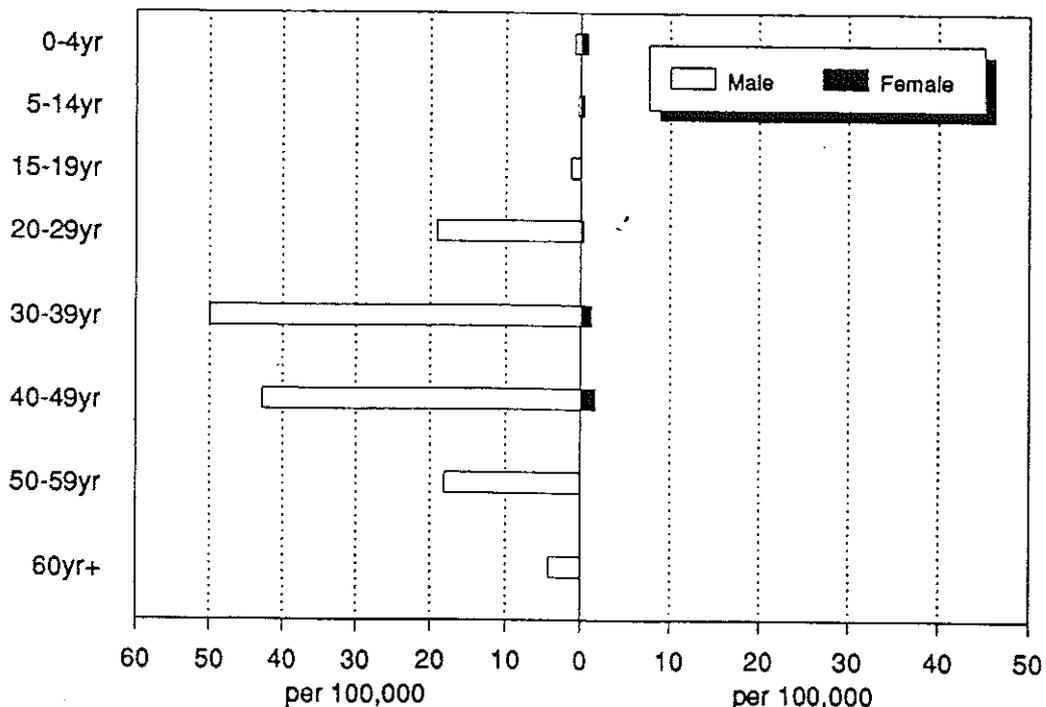


Figure 3 Age and sex specific cumulative incidence rate of people notified with AIDS

The age and sex specific cumulative incidence rates to 30 September 1991 are shown in Figure 3. The information about population size was derived from the 1986 census.

people notified over the previous 12 months. Of the 300 people notified to date, 9 were female.

RISK BEHAVIOUR CATEGORIES

The risk behaviour most likely to have resulted in HIV transmission in people notified as having AIDS during the third quarter of 1991, for the previous 12 months, and since notification began, are shown in Table 1.

Twenty-three of the 24 people notified in the last quarter reported having sex with other men. The likely source of infection was not determined for the remaining person.

SEX DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

All the people notified in the third quarter of 1991 were male, as were 77 of the 79

HIV POSITIVE TESTS

As of 31 August 1991, 693 people had been reported to have had a positive HIV antibody test. This is certain to be an underestimate because not all people at risk will have been tested.

In the three months prior to that date 24 positive tests were reported to the Department of Health. Twenty were from men and four from women. In the twelve month period prior to the end of August 1991, the total number tested as positive was 100, of whom 89 were male and 11 female. At that time of the 693 positive reports, 630 were from men, 39 from women, and in 24 the gender was not stated.

Table 1 Category of risk behaviour by date of notification

	Quarter to 30.9.91		Twelve months to 30.9.91		Total to 30.9.91	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Homo/bisexual	23	95.8	66	83.5	257	85.7
Homosexual & IDU*	0	0	1	1.3	5	1.3
IDU*	0	0	3	3.8	6	2.0
Haemophiliac	0	0	0	0	4	1.3
Transfusion Related	0	0	0	0	2	0.7
Heterosexual	0	0	5	6.3	15	5.0
Perinatal	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
Unknown	1	4.2	4	5.1	11	3.7
TOTAL	24	100	79	100	300	100

*IDU - Injecting drug user

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Table 2 shows the comparative rates for the USA, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. The rates for those countries are the latest available and are compared to the rate for New Zealand at the end of June to allow appropriate comparison.

OUTCOME

At present the known number of deaths among people with AIDS notified in New Zealand is 199.

The outcome by year of diagnosis, for the 292 people for whom a date of diagnosis has been supplied, is shown in Table 3.

This table is presented by date of diagnosis rather than of notification, as has been done in previous editions of 'AIDS - New Zealand'.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

We understand that consideration is being give by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the USA to changing their definition of

AIDS from one that requires the presence of specific diagnoses with evidence of HIV infection, to one that uses a lymphocyte count in that situation. A final decision has not yet been made.

As at present the CDC definition is used in New Zealand to define people having AIDS, we await this decision with interest. If the definition is changed in the USA, it would be necessary to liaise with other countries and the World Health Organization, before determining policy for New Zealand.

Table 3 Outcome by year of diagnosis

Year	Presumed		
	Alive	Died	Overseas
1983	0	5	0
1984	0	4	0
1985	1	10	1
1986	0	12	3
1987	3	28	0
1988	3	40	2
1989	13	56	2
1990	33	31	0
1991	35	10	0
Total	88	196	8

Table 2 International comparison of cumulative rates of notified cases of AIDS

	Reporting date	No. of cases	Cumulative rate
United States	11.6.91	179136	74.5/100,000
Canada	30.4.91	4885	18.8/100,000
Australia	30.6.91	2678	16.9/100,000
United Kingdom	31.5.91	4666	8.3/100,000
New Zealand	30.6.91	276	8.4/100,000

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