

AIDS - New Zealand

INTRODUCTION

This, the twelfth issue of 'AIDS - New Zealand', provides information about the occurrence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in New Zealand to 31 December 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

Twelve people were notified as having AIDS in the final quarter of 1991. It is now known that two people who were notified in 1988 did not in fact have an AIDS-defining diagnosis at that time, nor have they since, so the total for that year is less than that previously reported. The total number notified since monitoring began was 310 at 31 December 1991. Figure 1 depicts the annual and cumulative notification numbers since 1984.

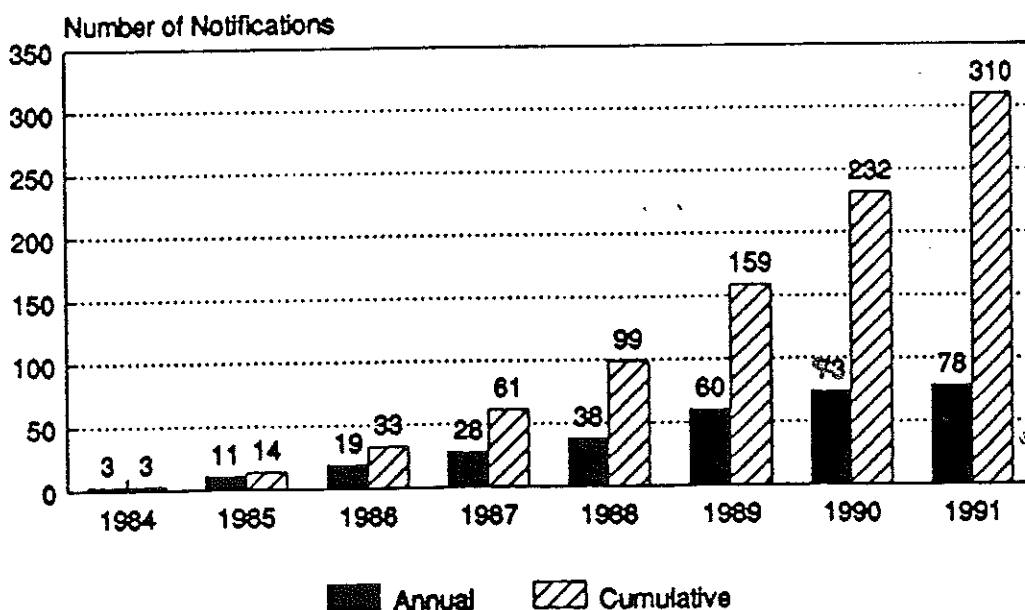


Figure 1
Annual and Cumulative Number of People
with AIDS by Year of Notification

Seventy eight people were notified in 1991 as having AIDS, which is five more than were notified in 1990.

Of the 78 people notified in 1991, 75 were male and 3 female.

The cumulative notification rate, since AIDS was first made notifiable in New Zealand in 1984, now stands at 9.4 per 100,000 total population.

HIV POSITIVE TESTS

As of 31 December 1991, 737 people had been reported to have had a positive HIV test. This is certain to be an underestimate because not all people at risk will have been tested.

In 1991, 111 people were newly found to be HIV positive. Of these, 97 (87.4%) were male and 14 (12.6%) female.

RISK BEHAVIOUR CATEGORIES

The risk behaviours most likely to have resulted in HIV transmission in people notified as having AIDS, and found to be infected by HIV during 1991, are shown in Table 1.

The information on HIV positive results is provided by the laboratory performing the testing, and the high number of people infected where the risk behaviour is 'unknown' reflects the lack of such information provided with the test request.

Of the 5 people with AIDS reportedly infected through heterosexual contact and notified in 1991, 3 were male and 2 female. Similarly of the 12 people found infected by HIV in 1991, and considered to be infected heterosexually, 2 were male and 10 female.

Table 1 Category of risk behaviour by date of notification of people with AIDS, and those identified as HIV antibody positive

	<u>AIDS</u>				<u>HIV antibody positive</u>			
	1991		1984-91		1991		1984-91	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Homo/bisexual	64	82.1	265	85.5	74	66.7	421	57.1
Homosexual & IDU*	3	3.8	6	1.9	0	0	9	1.2
IDU*	3	3.8	7	2.3	4	3.6	17	2.3
Haemophiliac	0	0	4	1.3	0	0	31	4.2
Transfusion Related	0	0	2	0.6	0	0	14	1.9
Heterosexual	5	6.4	15	4.8	12	10.8	23	3.1
Perinatal	0	0	1	0.3	1	0.9	1	0.1
Unknown	3	3.8	11	3.5	20	18.0	221	30.0
TOTAL	78	100.0	310	100.0	111	100.0	737	100.0

*IDU - Injecting drug user

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

The age at diagnosis of people with AIDS notified to the end of 1991 is shown in Table 2. It is important to remember that the infection with HIV could have occurred many years before the development of AIDS.

Table 2 Age at diagnosis of people notified with AIDS to end 1991

	No.	%
0-4yr	2	0.7
5-14yr	2	0.7
15-19yr	2	0.7
20-29yr	55	17.7
30-39yr	129	41.6
40-49yr	84	27.1
50-59yr	27	8.7
60yr+	9	2.9
Total	310	100

ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

Table 3 shows the ethnic group of people with AIDS.

When the size and age distribution of the various ethnic groups in New Zealand are taken into consideration, AIDS is not found to be significantly more common in any ethnic group.

Ethnicity is not generally available for the people reported as being HIV antibody positive.

Table 3 Ethnic group of people notified with AIDS to end of 1991

	No.	%
European/Pakeha	256	82.6
Maori	34	11.0
Pacific Islander	5	1.6
Other	8	2.6
Unknown	7	2.2
Total	310	100

OUTCOME

The outcome of the 310 people notified as having AIDS, as of 31 December 1991 is shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Outcome of people with AIDS at end 1991

Alive	91
Known to have died	209
Lost to follow up	3
Overseas	7
Total	310

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Table 5 (overleaf) shows the numbers, and rates of people ever notified with AIDS per 100,000 total population, 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 September to allow appropriate comparison.

Table 5 International comparison of numbers and cumulative rates (per 100,000 total population) of people notified with AIDS

	Reporting date	No. of people	Cumulative rate
United States	31.8.91	191601	79.7/100,000
Canada	8.7.91	5228	20.1/100,000
Australia	30.11.91	2971	18.7/100,000
United Kingdom	30.6.91	4758	8.5/100,000
New Zealand	30.9.91	300	9.1/100,000

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ZEALAND

In Table 6 are shown the numbers, and rates per 100,000 population, of people notified with AIDS for six geographic regions in New Zealand.

The rates are derived using the area health board populations for 1989.

AIDS continues to be notified more frequently from the Auckland and Wellington regions.

Table 6 Regional distribution of number and notification rate (per 100,000 total population) of people notified with AIDS to end 1991

REGION:	1991		1984-91	
	No.	Rate	No.	Cumulative rate
Northern NI (excl Auckland)*	11	1.6	27	3.9
Auckland	40	4.4	174	19.1
Southern NI (excl Wellington)+	5	1.1	20	4.3
Wellington	16	4.1	65	16.8
Canterbury	3	0.7	17	3.9
Other South Island	3	0.7	7	1.6
Total	78	2.4	310	9.4

- * Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Tairāwhiti AHBS
- + Taranaki, Manawatu/Wanganui and Hawkes Bay AHBS

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