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# AIDS - New Zealand

## INTRODUCTION

This, the eighth issue of 'AIDS - New Zealand', updates what is known about the occurrence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in New Zealand to 31 December 1990. These reports are produced quarterly by the Health Research Council AIDS Epidemiology Group. This group is jointly funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand and the Department of Health.

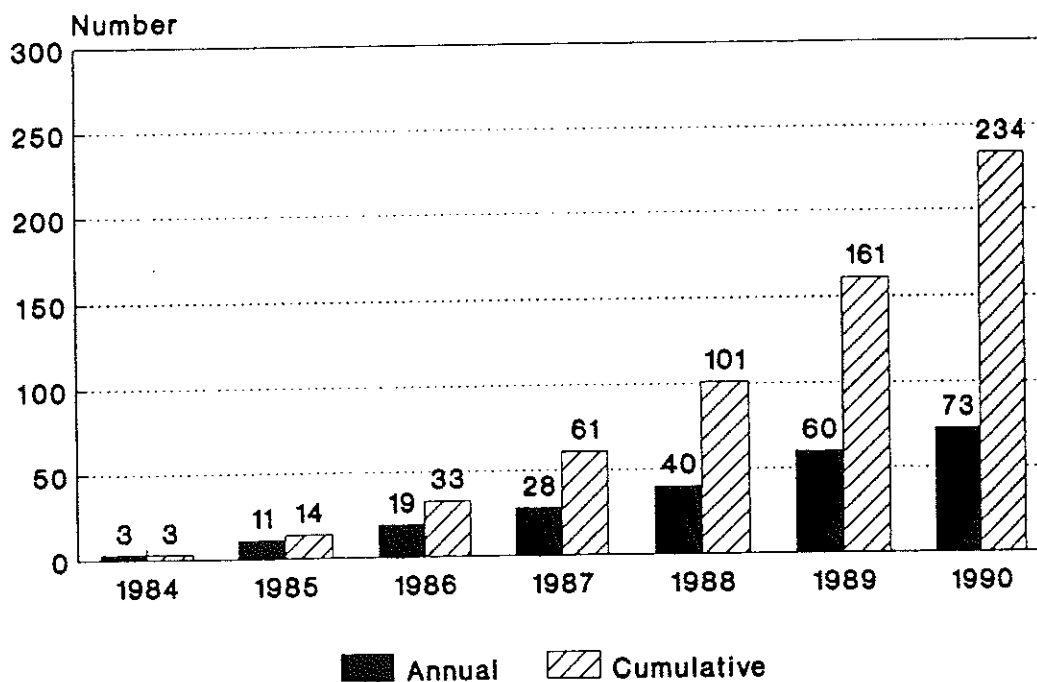
## AIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Seventy three people were notified as having AIDS in 1990; this brings the total number having been notified since monitoring began to 234.

Figure 1 depicts the annual and cumulative notification numbers since 1984.

The rise in 1990 was not as large as was previously predicted. This could have been because of the inevitable

**Figure 1 - AIDS notifications in New Zealand**



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imprecision of earlier predictions, under or delayed reporting in the latter part of the year, or the fact that progression of HIV infection to AIDS has been delayed by treatment given to infected people.

The AIDS Epidemiology Group plans to publish in March a report outlining their predictions of the likely

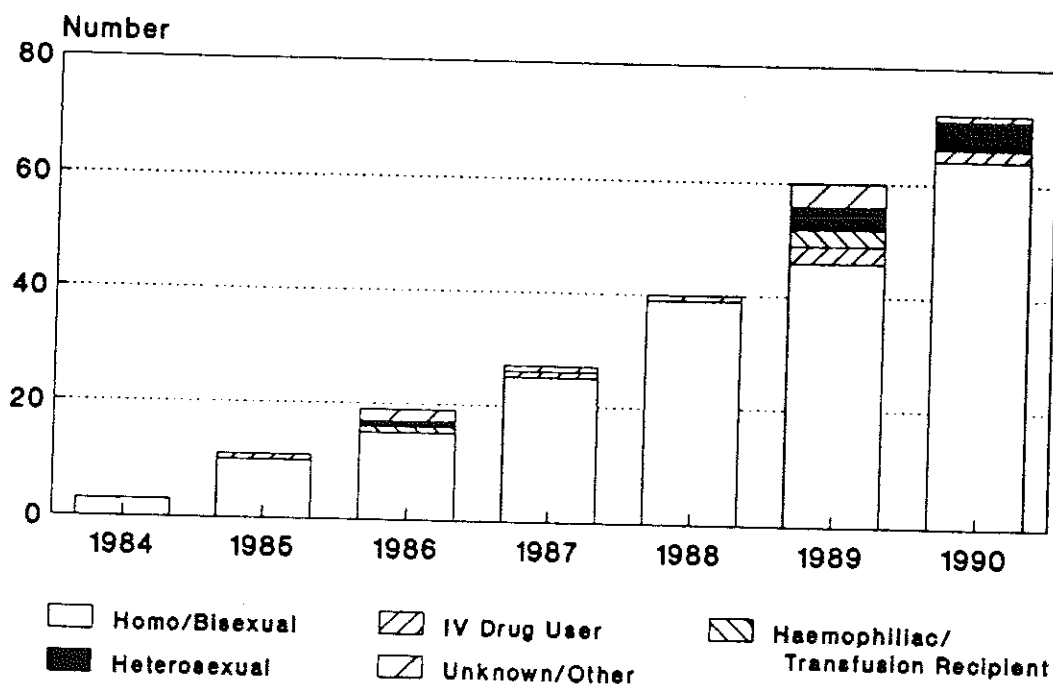
number to suffer from AIDS in New Zealand over the next few years. It is hoped that this will give guidelines for planning of future services.

If you would like a copy of this report please contact the AIDS Epidemiology Group as shown at the end of this report. There will be a small charge to cover production costs and postage.

**Table 1 Likely mode of HIV transmission among people with AIDS and HIV positive tests 1984-90**

	AIDS		HIV positive	
	No.	%	No.	%
Homo/Bisexual	202	85.5	344	55
Homosexual & IVDU	3	1.3	9	1.4
Intravenous Drug User	4	1.7	13	2.1
Trans-sexual	0		3	0.5
Heterosexual contact	10	3.8	12	1.9
Haemophiliac	4	1.7	31	5
Transfusion related	2	0.9	14	2.2
Perinatal	1	0.4	0	
Unknown/Not stated	8	4.7	200	31.9
Total	234	100	626	100

**Figure 2 - Likely mode of HIV transmission among people with AIDS by year of notification**



## HIV POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

As of 23 January 1991 there have been 626 confirmed positive HIV antibody test results. Notification of these is not compulsory, and will only give limited information about the extent of infection in the population. The most likely mode of infection of HIV is given in Table 1. However in over 30% of positive tests the risk category of the person is not known.

## RISK BEHAVIOUR CATEGORIES

The risk behaviour categories which are likely to relate to transmission of HIV in persons notified as having AIDS are shown for the period 1984-90 in Table 1, and by individual year of notification in Figure 2.

The percentage of cases considered to be related to heterosexual transmission has risen from 1% in the years 1984-8, to 6.7 % and 6.8% in the years 1989 and 1990. From AIDS notification data, it is too early to predict the future likely extent of heterosexual HIV infection in countries like New Zealand.

## SEX DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

Of the 234 people notified as having AIDS to the end of 1990, 227 were male and seven were female. One child has

been reported as developing AIDS through perinatal transmission of HIV.

## OUTCOMES

As at the end of December 1990 the number of known deaths among people notified as having AIDS was 155. Table 2 shows the outcome according to year of notification.

Table 2 - Outcome by year of notification

Year Notified	Number		
	Alive	Dead	LTF*
1984	0	3	0
1985	0	10	1
1986	0	12	7
1987	1	26	1
1988	4	33	3
1989	18	39	3
1990	41	32	0
Total	64	155	15

\*LTF = Lost to follow up (usually because moved overseas)

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Details of the numbers of notifications by Area Health Boards for 1990, the incidence rates for 1990, and the cumulative rates per 100,000 to the end of 1990 are given in Table 3.

Auckland and Wellington continue to have the highest rates of notification of

people newly diagnosed with AIDS in the country.

### INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

International comparisons are shown in Table 4.

The World Health Organization reports that data for 1988 and 1989 from south east Asian

countries, including Thailand and India, indicate marked increases in HIV infection among prostitutes and intravenous drug users, even though the number of cases where this has developed into AIDS as yet is still relatively low.

This may be of relevance to New Zealanders travelling to those parts of the world.

**Table 3 - Regional distribution by area of notification rates per 100,000 population**

Region	1990		1984-90 Cumulative	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Northern N.I. (excl Auckland)*	6	0.9	16	2.3
Auckland	38	4.2	136	14.9
Southern N.I. (excl Wellington)+	3	0.6	15	3.0
Wellington	18	4.6	49	12.6
Canterbury	8	2.1	14	3.7
Other South Island	0	0	4	1.0
TOTAL	73	2.2	234	7.1

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

**Table 4 International comparisons**

Country	Date of most recent report	No. of AIDS cases reported	Cumulative rate per 100,000
United States	31.08.90	144,221	60.0
Canada	31.08.90	4,427	17.2
Australia	10.08.90	2,040	12.9
New Zealand	31.12.90	234	7.1
United Kingdom	31.12.90	3237	6.8

For further information about the occurrence of AIDS in New Zealand, contact Dr Nigel Dickson, HRC AIDS Epidemiology Group, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago Medical School, PO Box 913, Dunedin, New Zealand

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