

AIDS - New Zealand

INTRODUCTION

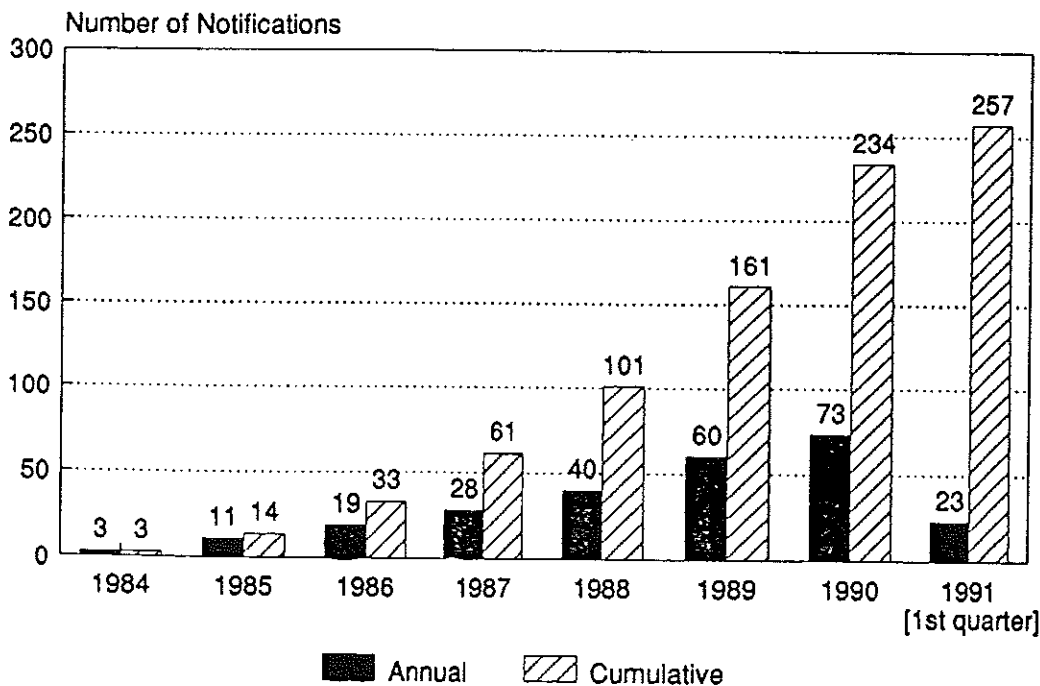
This, the ninth issue of 'AIDS - New Zealand', provides information about the occurrence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in New Zealand to 31 March 1991. These reports are produced quarterly by the AIDS Epidemiology Group, which is jointly funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand 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 reproduced in every edition.

AIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Twenty three people were notified as having AIDS in the first quarter of 1991; thus the total number notified since monitoring began was 257 at 31 March 1991. Figure 1 depicts the annual and cumulative notification numbers since 1984.

Figure 1 - AIDS notifications in New Zealand



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PROJECTIONS OF AIDS IN NZ

The AIDS Epidemiology Group published in March a report outlining projections of the numbers of people likely to develop AIDS over the next three or four years.

The overall estimates derived using various methods, are shown in Figure 2.

Upper, lower, and middle range projections were made, the latter being considered appropriate for planning. Because of the small population of New Zealand the uncertainty of estimates is relatively large.

HIV POSITIVE TESTS

As of 24 April there had been 653 confirmed positive HIV antibody tests. This is an

increase of 27 since 23 January 1991.

RISK BEHAVIOUR CATEGORIES

The risk behaviour categories most likely to relate to transmission of HIV in persons notified as having AIDS, and in those people known to have positive HIV antibody tests, are shown in Table 1. Included are all notifications of AIDS, to the end of the first quarter of 1991.

SEX DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS AND HIV INFECTION

Seven (2.7%) of the 257 people with AIDS notified to 31 March 1991 were female. Thirty three (5.1%) of the 653 people reported as having positive HIV antibody tests were female.

Figure 2 Short term projections of people developing AIDS each year in New Zealand 1991-1994

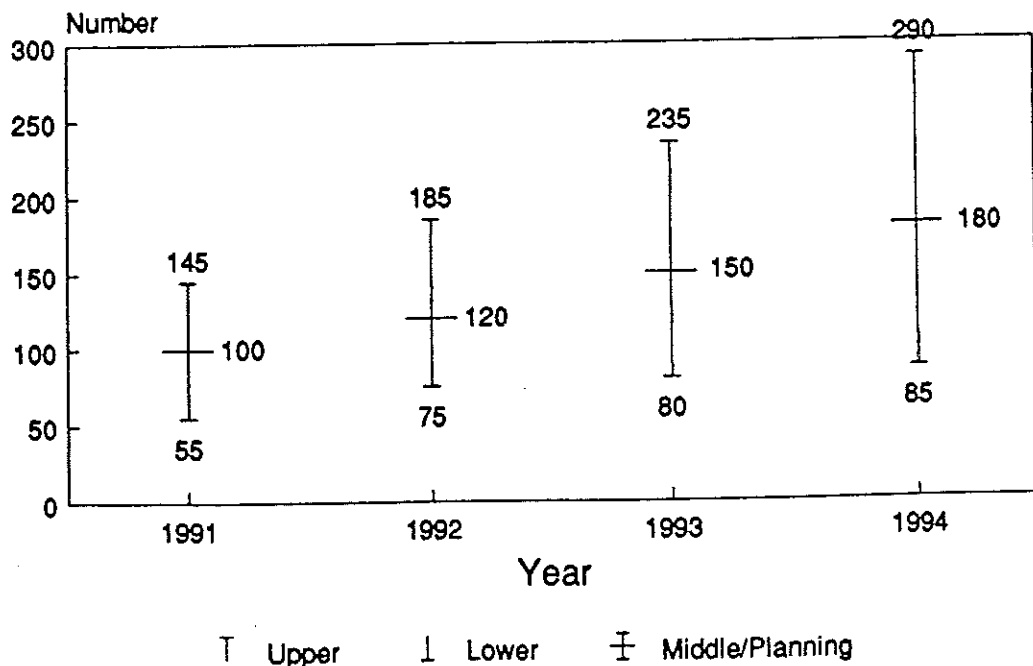


Table 1 Likely mode of HIV transmission among people with AIDS and HIV positive tests 1984-91 (end of 1st Quarter)

	AIDS		HIV positive	
	No.	%	No.	%
Homo/Bisexual	219	85.2	356	54.5
Homosexual & IVDU	4	1.6	9	1.4
Intravenous Drug User	4	1.6	16	2.4
Trans-sexual	0		4	0.6
Heterosexual contact	12	4.7	16	2.5
Haemophiliac	4	1.6	31	4.7
Transfusion related	2	0.8	14	2.1
Perinatal	1	0.4	0	
Unknown/Not stated	11	4.3	207	31.7
Total	257	100	653	100

ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

We include here for the first time information on the ethnic distribution of people with AIDS. Figure 3 shows the ethnic category of people with AIDS by year of notification.

When we take into account the size of and age distribution of the various ethnic groups, AIDS is not significantly more

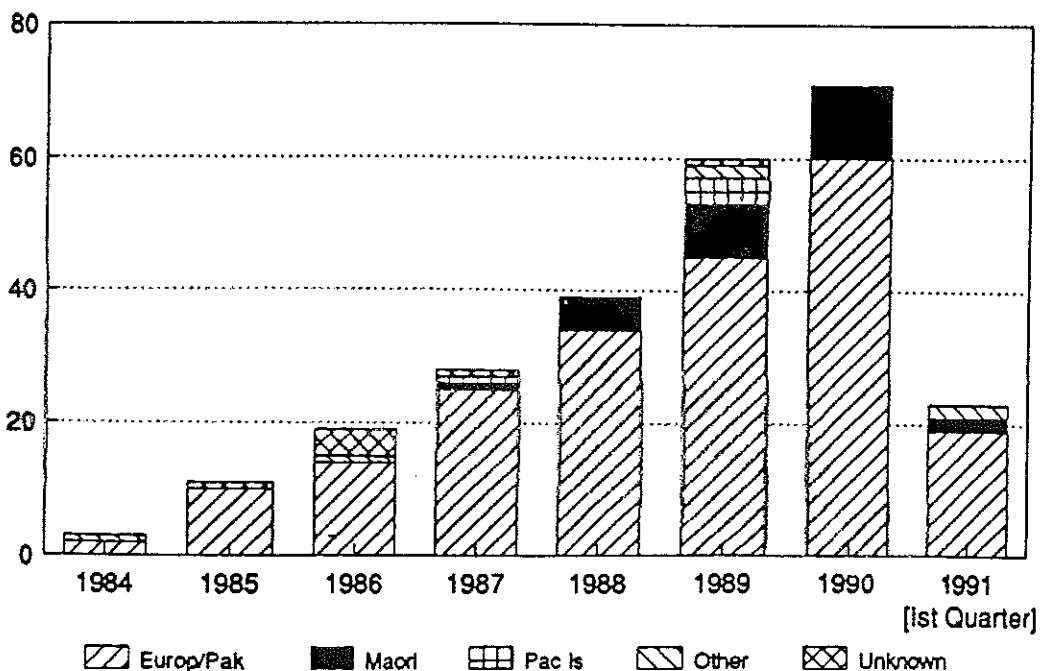
common in any group.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In previous editions of AIDS - New Zealand we have reported the cumulative number of people reported as developing AIDS by area health board district. This again is shown in Table 2.

We have also in Table 2 produced an estimate of the

Figure 3 Number of people in each ethnic grouping by year of notification



prevalence rate of people with AIDS at the end of March 1991 by area of domicile at time of diagnosis. This differs from the cumulative incidence, as it gives an indication of the present number of people living with AIDS in each of the area

health board regions. This figure is derived from the number of notifications minus the number of known deaths. Of course the information is only approximate, because some people will have migrated between regions.

Table 2 - Regional distribution (rates per 100,000 population)

Prevalence - by region of domicile
Cumulative Incidence - by region of notification

Region	31/3/91		1984-91	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Northern N.I. (excl Auckland)*	5	0.7	17	2.5
Auckland	36	4.0	150	16.5
Southern N.I. (excl Wellington)+	7	1.5	16	3.4
Wellington	16	4.1	53	13.6
Canterbury	7	1.6	16	3.7
Other South Island	<5	<0.5	5	1.2
TOTAL		2.2	257	7.8

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

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

There is growing concern in Britain about the problem of 'Travel AIDS'. There has been a steep rise in that country of the number of people with AIDS arising from overseas heterosexual acquisition of HIV. The number of such people in Britain now dwarfs the number dying each year from malaria, the next greatest imported killer.

Some New Zealanders have acquired HIV infection

similarly.

Health, and other professionals such as travel agents advising people travelling abroad should give realistic advice on the risks of sex overseas. This may even, if appropriate, include consideration of buying of condoms before departure.

People infected while abroad are likely to pass on the infection on their return home.

For further information about the occurrence of AIDS in New Zealand, contact Dr Nigel Dickson, AIDS Epidemiology Group, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago Medical School, PO Box 913, Dunedin, New Zealand
Phone: (03) 479 7201, or FAX: (03) 479 0529