

**New Zealand Paediatric Surveillance Unit
HIV INFECTION, AIDS AND PERINATAL EXPOSURE TO HIV**

Background to Study

In New Zealand to the end of September 1997, 18 children under the age of 15 have been diagnosed with HIV. Six have so far been diagnosed with AIDS.

Of the 18 children found to have been infected with HIV, 7 were reported to have suffered from haemophilia (and had been infected by contaminated blood products), and 7 to have been perinatally infected. No means of infection was given for the remaining 4 children. It is possible that there are other HIV infected children in New Zealand whose infection has not been recognised. All of the children with haemophilia were diagnosed in 1987 or earlier, whereas all but one of the perinatally infected children were born after 1991.

Information from NZPSU on all infants exposed to HIV infection *in utero* will complement data on children infected with HIV and who have progressed to AIDS (collected by the AIDS Epidemiology Group). This will allow determination of the extent of recognised HIV infection among women whose pregnancies progress to term. The impact of obstetric and perinatal management, which can be a factor in reducing the risk of perinatal transmission, will also be determined.

Objective

To determine the extent and outcome of recognised perinatal exposure to HIV infection in New Zealand.

CASE DEFINITION

Any infant or child newly recognised as being born to an HIV infected woman, whether HIV infected or not.

Follow-up of positive returns

A questionnaire requesting further details will be forwarded to the practitioners who report a case.

If you have any questions please contact:

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