

AIDS - New Zealand

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth issue of AIDS - New Zealand and updates what is known about the occurrence of Acquired Immunodeficiency in New Zealand to 30 April 1990.

This report is produced quarterly by the Medical Research Council AIDS Epidemiology Group. This group is responsible to the AIDS Task Force of the Department of Health for the monitoring of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New Zealand.

AIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

A total of 34 people have been notified as having AIDS in New Zealand so far in 1990 (i.e. to April 30). This brings the total number of people known to have developed AIDS in New Zealand to 196. Figure 1

shows the number of people notified as having AIDS since 1984 (when the first case was reported in this country).

Thirty-three people were notified as having AIDS in the first quarter of 1990. This represents the highest quarterly total since notifications began - the previous highest was 24 in the first quarter of 1989. There has previously been an observed peak in notifications in the first quarter of the year which is not sustained throughout the year. Reasons for this are unknown but if trends in previous years are followed the rate of notifications will slow from this first quarter peak. This appears likely to occur as only one person was notified with AIDS in the month of April. Figure 2 illustrates the quarterly numbers of AIDS notifications.

Figure 1 - AIDS NOTIFICATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

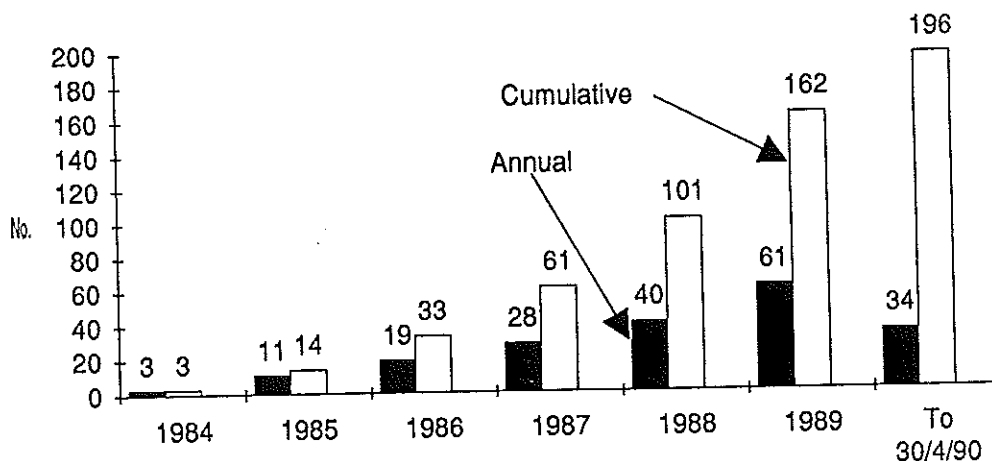


Figure 2 - NUMBER OF AIDS NOTIFICATIONS BY QUARTER

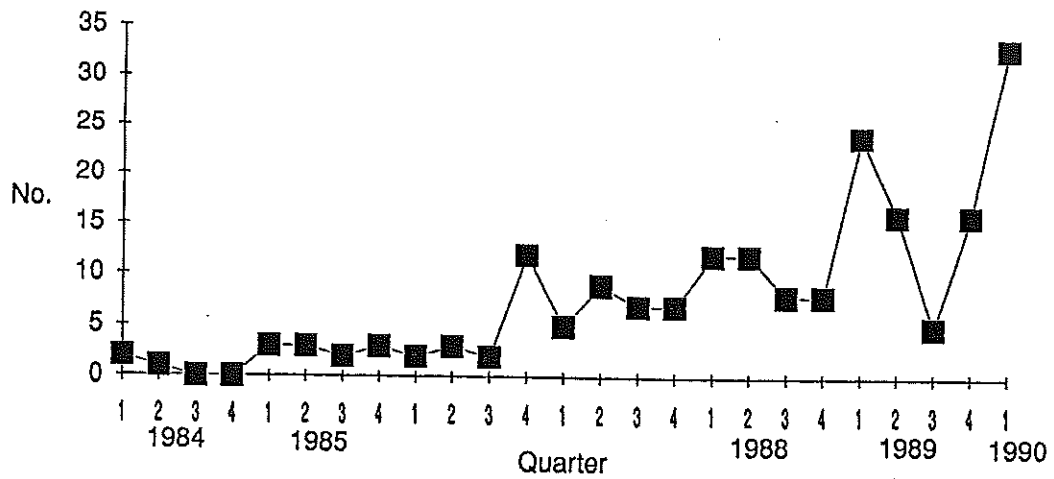


Figure 3 - AGE DISTRIBUTION: PEOPLE WITH AIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

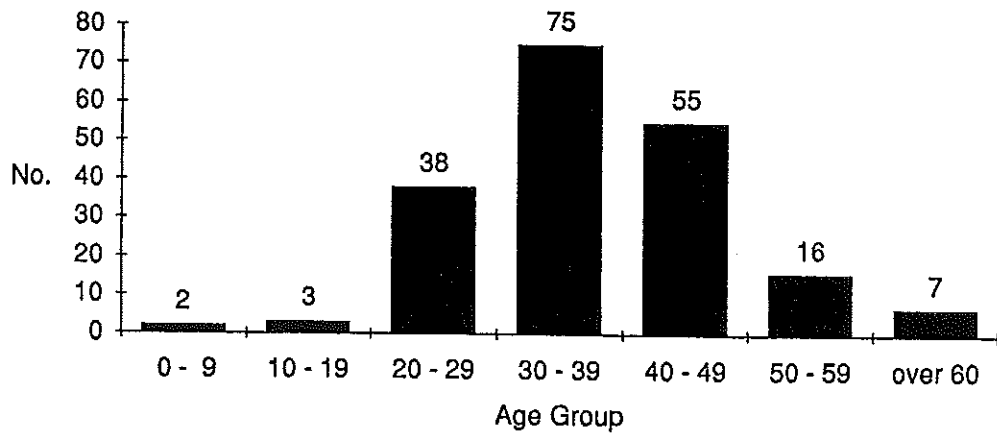


Table 1 - Risk Behaviour Categories (percentage)

	People with AIDS	HIV-antibody Positive
Homosexual/bisexual men	85.7	55.2
Intravenous drug user (IVDU)	1.0	2.0
Homosexual and IVDU	1.5	1.5
Heterosexual	3.6	1.5
Haemophiliac	1.5	5.7
Transfusion-related	1.0	2.6
Perinatal transmission	0.5	0.0
Unknown or not stated	5.1	31.6

(Totals not equal to 100.0 because of rounding)

**AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION AND
MODE OF TRANSMISSION OF HIV**

The sex distribution of people with AIDS in New Zealand is as follows:

Male	-	190
Female	-	6
TOTAL	-	196

This represents a male:female ratio of approximately 32:1. Such a ratio is typical of "pattern I" countries where spread among homosexual or bisexual men and intravenous drug users predominated in the early stages of the epidemic. These countries include the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and most of Western Europe. In pattern II countries (sub-Saharan Africa and parts of the Caribbean and Latin America) heterosexual contact is the most frequent mode of transmission of HIV and the ratio of men to women with AIDS is roughly 1:1. There also exist patterns III (Asia, Middle East, Eastern Europe) and patterns I/II (parts of South America). Pattern III refers to those areas where only a very few cases of AIDS have been recognised - mainly among travellers to areas with higher prevalence. Pattern I/II refers to areas where transmission between homosexual or bisexual men and intravenous drug users was the predominant mode of infection in the early years of the epidemic but where there has been an increasing recognition of people developing AIDS

where HIV infection occurred by heterosexual contact. Recent reports from both the United States and the United Kingdom concur in the observation that patterns of spread are becoming increasingly complex.

The age distribution of people with AIDS in New Zealand is shown in Figure 3. Most likely modes of transmission of HIV for people with AIDS in New Zealand are shown in Table 1 alongside the data for HIV-antibody positive test results.

OUTCOMES

Table 2 shows the known outcomes in people notified as having AIDS in New Zealand according to the year in which reporting took place.

**Table 2 - Outcomes by
Year of Notification**

Year	Number:		
	Alive	Dead	LTF*
1984	0	3	0
1985	0	10	1
1986	0	12	7
1987	2	25	1
1988	9	28	3
1989	32	29	0
1990	13	21	0
TOTAL	56	128	12

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

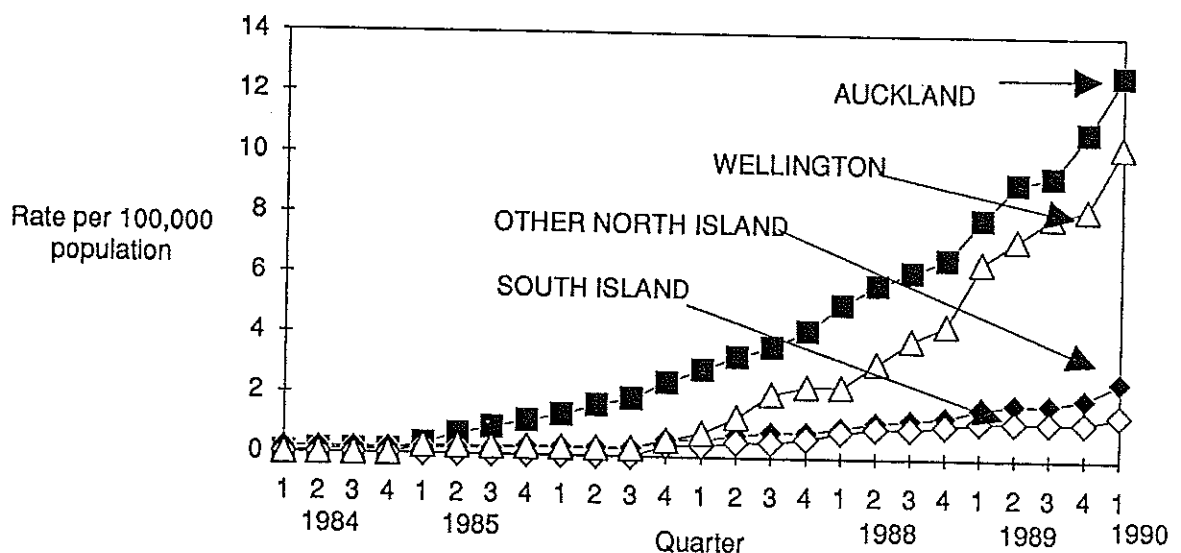
HIV ANTIBODY POSITIVE REPORTS

There have been 547 confirmed positive HIV antibody tests in New Zealand to 17 April 1990. This represents an increase of 28 since 31 December 1989. The percentage in each Risk Behaviour Category is shown in Table 1. These data contain an unknown, though probably small, number of duplicate results.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The majority of notifications received so far in 1990 are from Auckland (18 notifications) and Wellington (8 notifications). Six notifications have come from other North Island regions and two were from the South Island. Figure 4 shows the cumulative notification rates for each region on a quarterly basis.

Figure 3 - CUMULATIVE AIDS NOTIFICATION RATES - BY REGION



For further information about the occurrence of AIDS in New Zealand, contact: Dr. Robert Carlson or Dr. Charlotte Paul, MRC AIDS Epidemiology Group, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago Medical School, P.O. Box 913, DUNEDIN. Phone (024) 797 268 or (024) 797 204. Fax (024) 790 529.