

Fact sheet

06

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Oceania

Overview

- An estimated 7 100 people acquired HIV in Oceania in 2006, bringing to 81 000 the total number of people living with the virus in the region. In 2006 around 4000 people died of AIDS related illnesses in Oceania.

Country developments

- Three quarters of people living with HIV in Oceania live in **Papua New Guinea**. Adult national HIV prevalence was around 1.8% in 2005 and around 57 000 people older than 15 years were living with HIV.
- Studies have shown that prevalence in urban areas of **Papua New Guinea** could be as high as 3.5% with young women especially vulnerable. HIV infection levels among women aged 15-29 years are twice as high as among men of the same age.
- While available data are cause for concern, they also suggest that **Papua New Guinea** can still contain its growing epidemic if effective and well-targeted HIV prevention programmes are expanded quickly and sustained.
- **Australia's** HIV epidemic still centres mainly on unsafe sex between men, which has accounted for more than two thirds of newly-diagnosed HIV infections so far this decade. New diagnoses have been rising—to 899 in 2004 and 954 in 2005. **Australia's** epidemic follows a different pattern in the country's indigenous population. Indigenous women are particularly at risk of HIV infection: studies have shown that they are 18 times more likely to be infected with HIV than non-Indigenous women, and three times more likely than non-Indigenous men.
- New HIV diagnoses in **New Zealand** reached a high of 218 in 2005; the highest number since testing began in 1985. Unsafe sex between men accounted for one half (51%) and heterosexual intercourse for more than one third (37%) of new HIV diagnoses.
- None of the other countries and territories in Oceania has reported more than 300 HIV cases since testing commenced. However, risk factors associated with HIV outbreaks are prevalent in many of those countries and territories.
- Only one quarter of people deemed at-risk of HIV infection in **Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu**, know how to prevent HIV transmission.
- In **Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu**, 9% of young men said they had bought sex in the previous 12 months, yet only one in ten reported using condoms consistently during commercial sex and one in five young men reported having sex with other man.

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