HIV/AIDS

Figure 1: Estimates of adult HIV seroprevalence, end 1994

Figure 2: Cumulative AIDS incidence, 1996

Figure 3: Reported cases of AIDS by year of diagnosis, 1980 to 1995

Figure 4: Reported cases of AIDS per 100,000 population, 1980 to 1995
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection first emerged as a deadly epidemic in the early 1980s. HIV is a retrovirus precipitating the onset of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). In the 15 years since the first reported AIDS cases, HIV infection has become a global pandemic. Reported AIDS cases worldwide numbered 1.3 million from 193 countries by the end of 1995. Over 5 million persons are estimated to have died from AIDS; an additional 24 million adults are estimated to have already been infected with HIV, with nearly 10,000 new infections occurring each day (Quinn 1996).

Risk factors responsible for the transmission of HIV vary substantially from country to country. Male to male sexual activity has been responsible for most of the cases in the United States and Australia, injecting drug use has caused most of the cases in Italy and Spain, and contaminated blood products are responsible for most of the Japanese cases (NCHECR 1997, US Congress Office of Technology Assessment 1993).

Public awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS has been heightened in many developed countries by coordinated programs, including Australia’s National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

For more information, see: