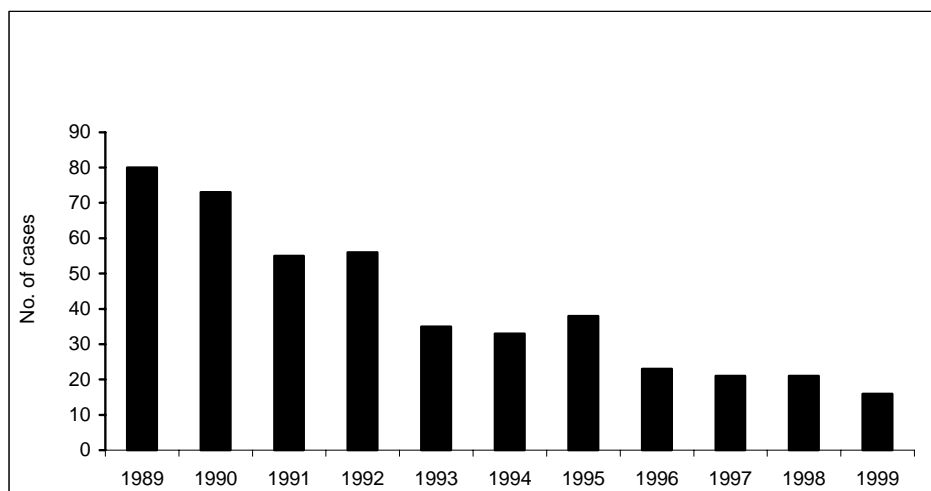


## Australia - HIV case reporting confirms the impact of harm reduction programmes to prevent HIV transmission through injecting drug use

Australia (Figure 3) avoided large-scale HIV epidemics and reduced the incidence of HIV among injecting drug users through the use of harm reduction interventions,

including needle and syringe accessibility and substitution programmes such as methadone maintenance for opiate-dependent users

**Figure 3. Reported HIV infections among injecting drug users in Australia, 1989–1999**



Source: Ministry of Health, Australia, 1999

## Sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevalence survey of antenatal women in Samoa and Vanuatu

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are an important public health problem because of their impact on maternal and child health. In addition, it has been demonstrated that the risk of heterosexual HIV acquisition and transmission may be greatly increased in the presence of most common STI.

In order to understand the epidemiology of STI in the community and to provide the information for country and the Region to orient STI and HIV/AIDS policy and programs, the WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific developed a generic protocol for conducting ad-hoc STI prevalence surveys in the Region. Such surveys were implemented among women attending prenatal clinics in Samoa and Vanuatu. PCR tests were used for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and trichomonas vaginalis. ELISA was used for HIV and RPR/TPHA for syphilis, in 1999.

The results of the surveys are presented in Table 5. A detailed report of the studies can be obtained on request at WHO Western Pacific Regional Office or by connecting to our website.

### SAMOA

In Samoa, reported STI increased between 1991 and 1995. The most common STI seen at the AIDS/STI clinic was gonorrhoea which made up 75.4% of 134 diagnosed STI in 1996. Up to July 1999, there had been 10 reported cases of HIV infection.

The STI prevalence survey was conducted among 472 recruited pregnant women attending the prenatal clinic in the National Hospital in Apia City during a 6-month period from October 1999 to April 2000. A total of 452 pregnant women participated (95.8%), the mean age was  $26.0 \pm 6.5$  (range: 15- 48 years).

Being a young pregnant woman was associated with any infection (OR 3.0; 95% CIs 2.0, 4.5); with trichomonas infection (OR 1.6; 95% CIs 1.0, 2.6), and with chlamydia infection (OR 3.5; 95% CIs 2.3, 5.5).