

Update on HIV/AIDS case reporting in the Western Pacific Region

Thirty-six countries and areas of the Western Pacific Region have reported HIV/AIDS cases annually to WHO. As well as sentinel surveillance measuring HIV prevalence among target populations, HIV and AIDS case reporting, although incomplete, provides information on the extent and the trends of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

As of October 2000, a cumulative total of 147 025 HIV infections, 28 899 AIDS and 15 117 deaths due to AIDS had been reported (Table1).

Based on the WHO's updated HIV and AIDS estimates (STI/HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Issue 15, 2000), it was estimated that by the end of 1999, almost 900 000 individuals were HIV-infected. Therefore, the cumulative number of HIV infections reported by the end of October 2000 reflect only a small portion of the real extent of the epidemic in the Region, and we should be cautious about the interpretation of these data.

There was a 28 % increase in reported HIV infections and a 19% increase in reported AIDS cases for the Region between 1998 and 1999.

In **Australia**, the number of reported HIV infections and AIDS cases continued to decrease in 1999. Only 154 AIDS cases were reported in 1999 compared with 301 in 1998. The introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) and the stabilized level of transmission among men who have sex with men could explain this significant decrease, as men who have sex with men account for about 88 % of cumulative HIV infections in this country.

The number of reported HIV cases and AIDS cases have decreased in recent years in **Brunei Darussalam**.

In **Cambodia**, an upward trend of reported HIV and AIDS cases has been observed over the past five years. There was a 51 % increase in reported AIDS cases and a 25% increase in reported HIV infections from 1998 to 1999.

China continued to report increasing numbers of HIV infections and AIDS cases. There was a 41 % increase in reported HIV infections between 1998 and 1999.

In the past three years, the reported HIV infections and AIDS cases in **Hong Kong, China**, remained stable.

The reported number of HIV/AIDS cases in **Japan** although low, continued to increase (27% increase in HIV infections and 30 % increase in AIDS cases from 1998 to 1999).

In **Malaysia**, reported HIV infections have remained stable since 1995. Reported AIDS cases continued to increase in 1999.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic and **Macao, China**, have reported small numbers of HIV infections. The number of reported HIV infections have slightly increased in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the past five years.

In **New Zealand**, after a sudden rise in numbers of reported HIV infections in 1998 due to an influx of refugees from endemic areas, the declining trend in reported HIV infections and AIDS cases continued in 1999. The decrease in AIDS cases could be attributable to the same cause situation similar to Australia (see above).

In **Papua New Guinea**, there was a 23% increase in reported HIV infections between 1998 and 1999, while the number of reported AIDS cases remained stable.

In **the Philippines**, reported HIV infections and AIDS cases are still low.

A 50 % increase in reported HIV cases from 1998 to 1999 was noted in **the Republic of Korea**.

In **Singapore**, there was a 12% increase in reported HIV infections between 1998 and 1999.

Reported HIV infections increased by 66% between 1998 and 1999 in **Viet Nam**.

Twenty countries of **the Pacific Islands** (excluding Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea) had reported a cumulative total of 725 HIV infections and 275 AIDS cases as of October 2000. New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and Guam accounted for more than 75 % of reported HIV infections in this sub-Region. No cases of HIV infection and AIDS have been reported in American Samoa, Cook Island, Niue, Tokelau or Vanuatu.

Table 1- Reported HIV/AIDS Cases by Year of Report

Country/ Area		Pre-1995 or unknown	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Cumulative Total	Date Cumulative to
Australia	AIDS	6015	805	658	371	301	154	50	8354	31 Mar 00
Brunei Darussalam	AIDS	5	4	2	2	0	1	2	16	Aug 2000
Cambodia	HIV	229	80	78	63	34	30	7	521	June 00
	AIDS	921	91	300	572	1494	2256	371	6005	
China	HIV	1865	2611	4541	4674	6152	7726	2720	30289	30 June 00
	AIDS	65	52	38	126	136	230	60	707	
Fed States- Micronesia	HIV	1774	1567	2649	3343	3306	4677	2115	19431	29 Feb 00
	AIDS	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	
Fiji	HIV	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	14 Sept 00
	AIDS	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	
French Polynesia	HIV	23	8	4	4	7	12	4	62	15 Sept 00
	AIDS	63	4	2	2	2	0	1	74	
Guam	HIV	163	14	6	6	8	3	2	202	27 Sept 00
	AIDS	30	2	10	5	7	8	2	64	
Hong Kong	HIV	69	12	15	10	15	11	5	137	30 June 00
	AIDS	130	45	70	64	63	53	42	467	
Japan*	HIV	520	122	134	181	189	159	87	1392	31 Dec.99
	AIDS	822	169	234	250	231	300	-	2006	
Kiribati	HIV	3458	446	610	647	653	830	-	6644	11 Sept 00
	AIDS	2	0	1	2	4	5	2	16	
Lao PDR	HIV	2	1	11	6	4	7	2	33	10 Oct 00
	AIDS	10	4	16	48	27	62	24	191	
Macao	HIV	55	31	71	108	102	123	113	603	30 June 00
	AIDS	8	0	1	2	4	2	3	20	
Malaysia	HIV	93	29	21	19	31	9	15	217	10 Oct 00
	AIDS	331	233	347	568	875	1200	564	4118	
Marshall Islands	HIV	11198	4198	4597	3924	4624	4692	2244	35477	31 Aug 00
	AIDS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Mongolia	HIV	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	4 Aug 99
	AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	1	-	1	
Nauru	HIV	1	0	0	0	1	0	-	2	24 Sept 99
	AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	
New Caledonia	HIV	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	1	15 Sept 00
	AIDS	52	5	2	9	3	4	2	77	
New Zealand	HIV	118	15	9	20	20	22	15	219	30 June 00
	AIDS	489	49	76	43	29	33	17	736	
N.Mariana Is	HIV	994	82	93	63	104	71	49	1456	Sept 00
	AIDS	6	0	1	1	3	2	1	14	
Palau	HIV	11	0	0	1	10	3	4	29	30 July 00
	AIDS	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	
Papua New Guinea	HIV	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	31 Dec 99
	AIDS	112	44	69	120	220	207	-	772	
Philippines	HIV	247	124	192	351	642	786	-	2342	12 Sep 00
	AIDS	196	52	52	23	42	77	28	470	
Rep. Of Korea	HIV	583	117	157	117	190	156	77	1397	June 00
	AIDS	27	14	22	33	35	34	21	186	
Samoa	HIV	413	108	102	124	129	187	110	1173	31 July 99
	AIDS	3	1	2	0	0	0	-	6	
Singapore	HIV	3	1	5	0	0	1	-	10	30 June 00
	AIDS	123	56	92	88	125	140	74	698	
Solomon Islands	HIV	308	111	139	173	199	206	108	1244	mid 1999
	AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	
Tonga	HIV	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	31 Aug 99
	AIDS	5	0	2	0	1	0	-	8	
Tuvalu	HIV	6	0	3	0	2	0	-	11	08 Oct 97
	AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	
Viet Nam	HIV	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	1	10 Sept 00
	AIDS	224	201	390	688	953	639	782	3877	
Wallis & Futuna	HIV	2500	1412	1668	2742	4316	7147	3903	23688	1 Sept 00
	AIDS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	HIV	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	AIDS	9653	1831	2387	3017	4555	5410	2046	28899	
		40697	12030	16033	17405	21507	27589	11764	147025	

NOTE:

No cases of HIV infection or AIDS have been reported from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau or Vanuatu. HIV totals include AIDS cases.

* 1615 HIV cases and 420 AIDS cases are hemophiliacs infected by transfusion or blood products before 1985, for which reported year is unknown.