

Oceania

Latest epidemiological trends

- An estimated 74 000 [66 000–93 000] people were living with HIV in Oceania in 2007, of which 13 000 [12 000–15 000] were new infections.
- The region's epidemics are relatively small, except for **Papua New Guinea**, where the number of people living with HIV has increased from 10 000 [9800–10 000] in 2001 to 54 000 [53 000 – 55 000] in 2007. In **Australia**, a total of 18 000 [11 000–36 000] people were living with HIV in the same year.

Primary sources of HIV transmission

- The main mode of HIV transmission in **Papua New Guinea** appears to be unsafe heterosexual intercourse, and unprotected paid sex also factors as a central factor.
- Unprotected sex between men is the primary cause of HIV infection in **Australia** and **New Zealand**. After declining sharply in the 1990s, new HIV diagnoses in Australia have increased, from the 763 reported in 2000 to 998 reported in 2006.

Additional country data¹

- In **Papua New Guinea**, a high prevalence of untreated sexually transmitted infections is being detected in both the general population and groups at higher risk of exposure. Recent community-based studies found some 40% of people to be infected with at least one sexually transmitted infection.
- **Papua New Guinea** is making some progress in expanding voluntary counselling and testing sites—about 75 are operating country-wide—which has resulted in more people being tested for HIV; the number has tripled each since 2002. But AIDS remains the leading cause of hospital admissions and deaths. At Port Moresby General Hospital, up to 70% of beds are occupied by patients with HIV-related illnesses.
- None of the other countries and territories in Oceania have reported more than 300 HIV cases since testing started. But risk factors associated with HIV outbreaks are prevalent in many; the small island states of **Fiji**, **Kiribati** and **Tonga** report condom use is extremely low in all population groups.

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¹ From *Oceania: AIDS epidemic update 2007, regional summary*