

HIV and AIDS in Canada

AIDS in Canada

Through September 30, 1996, 14,185 cumulative cases of AIDS have been reported in Canada. Due to delayed reporting and under-reporting, the true number was estimated to be 19,000-20,000 cases.

- Women account for 6% of the total reported cases of AIDS
- At least 72% of the reported cases have died
- 73.5% of AIDS cases were amongst men who have sex with men
- Heterosexual contacts (63.4%) are the main risk category for AIDS cases in women

Another 10,000-12,000 AIDS cases are expected by the year 2000.

HIV in Canada

A recent study estimates that the total number of persons infected up to the end of 1994 to be between 42,500 and 45,000.

- In the past five years on average there have been between 2,500 and 3,000 new HIV infections per year
- The median age of new infection has dropped from age 32 years in those infected before 1983 to 23 in the period 1985-90
- The HIV situation among injection drug users in Canada appears to be worsening. An outbreak of HIV among injection drug users has recently been reported in Vancouver, and studies in Montreal indicate an incidence of five new infections per 100 users per year. This rate is one of the highest in North America.

HIV epidemics in Canada are certainly continuing and could even be rising.

References available on request

For more information, please contact:

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