

GLOBAL REPORT

FACT SHEET

Oceania

Increasing HIV prevalence but fewer new infections

- The number of people living with HIV in Oceania nearly doubled between 2001 and 2009—from 28 000 [23 000–35 000] to 57 000 [50 000–64 000].
- New HIV infections in the region declined from 4700 [3800–5600] in 2001 to 4500 [3400–6000] in 2009.
- With an HIV prevalence of 0.9% [0.8%–1%], Papua New Guinea has the region's largest HIV epidemic. Recent analysis indicates the HIV epidemic in Papua New Guinea is beginning to level off.

HIV epidemics are largely driven by sexual transmission

- Unprotected intercourse between men and women is the main mode of HIV transmission in Papua New Guinea.
- Unprotected sex between men is the dominant mode of transmission in the epidemics of Australia, New Zealand and smaller Pacific countries.

Injecting drug use—a small but significant factor

- While injecting drug use is a minor factor overall in the epidemics of Oceania, it features prominently in some settings. Over the past five years, for example, an estimated 22% of HIV infections among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were attributed to injecting drug use.
- In French Polynesia and Melanesia (excluding Papua New Guinea), people who inject drugs account for 12% and 6%, respectively, of cumulative HIV case reports.

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