HEALTH AND WELLNESS

10025 Jasper Avenue
Box 1360
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5J 2N3

May 7, 2009

To: Recipients of HIV/AIDS Statistical Reports

Re: HIV/AIDS Year End Report to December 31, 2008

An overview of HIV infection in Alberta:
HIV infection was added to the list of reportable diseases on May 1, 1998. In January 2009, the case definition was expanded to include newly approved laboratory testing techniques which will have a direct and immediate affect on reporting cases in infants less than 18 months of age.

There have been a total of 2,055 new cases of HIV reported in this province since it became reportable. In 2008, there were 234 newly diagnosed cases of HIV, a rate of 6.69 cases per 100,000 (**Figure 1**). This is a very slight increase from the 2007 rate of 6.63 cases per 100,000.

By Gender
In 2008, 35.5% (83/234) of newly diagnosed HIV cases were in females (**Figure 2**). This is a slight increase from 2007. In 2007, 30.1% (68/226) of the newly diagnosed HIV cases were in females. Since 2000 the ratio of males to females has remain fairly consistent, with men consistently representing 65% or more of newly reported HIV cases.

By Age
The age specific rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections is highest among those 30-39 years of age (16.27 cases per 100,000) (**Figure 3**). In 2008, 35.5% (83/234) of cases were between 30-39 years of age. The second highest rate was among 25-29 year olds with cases 9.67 cases per 100,000. The mean age of newly diagnosed cases was 37.9 years (range 0-78 years).

By Provincial Region
The proportion of newly reported cases, 45.3 % (106/163), is highest in the Calgary Health Region (**Figure 4**). The proportion of cases was second highest in the Capital Health (38.5%), followed by Northern (9.8%) and Southern Alberta (6.4%).

By Exposure Category
In 2008, 45.0% (68/151) of newly diagnosed cases of HIV in males were attributed to men who have sex with men (**Figure 5**). 13.2% (20/151) of cases

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were attributed to intravenous drug use (IDU), a decrease from 2000 when this exposure category represented 37.6% of newly reported HIV cases. In 2008, 17.9% (/151) of newly diagnosed HIV cases in males were attributed to heterosexual endemic transmission, an increase from previous years. 15.9% (24/151) were attributed to heterosexual Partner at Risk and No identified Risk other than heterosexual transmission.

In 2008, 50.6% (42/83) of newly diagnosed cases of HIV in females were attributed to heterosexual endemic transmission (**Figure 6**). This is an increase from 33.8% of cases in 2007. In 2008, 18.1% of females HIV cases were attributable to Partner at Risk. The proportion of newly diagnosed HIV cases in females with an exposure of IDU has decreased from 57% in 1999 to 13.3% of cases in 2008.

By Ethnicity

In 2008, 38.9% (91/234) of newly diagnosed cases of HIV were White. Blacks represent 29.9% (70/234) of cases, an increase from previous years. 17.5% (41/234) of cases were Aboriginal and 2.6% (6/234) were Asian **(Figure 7)**. The remaining 8.1% (19/234) of cases ethnicity was unknown. **The large proportion of cases with ethnicity reported as unknown makes accurate interpretation of the data difficult.**

Although the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases in Aboriginals remains quite consistent year to year, this group remains over represented compared to the proportion of the population in Alberta that is Aboriginal (First Nations represents under 5% of Alberta's population).

An Overview of AIDS in Alberta:

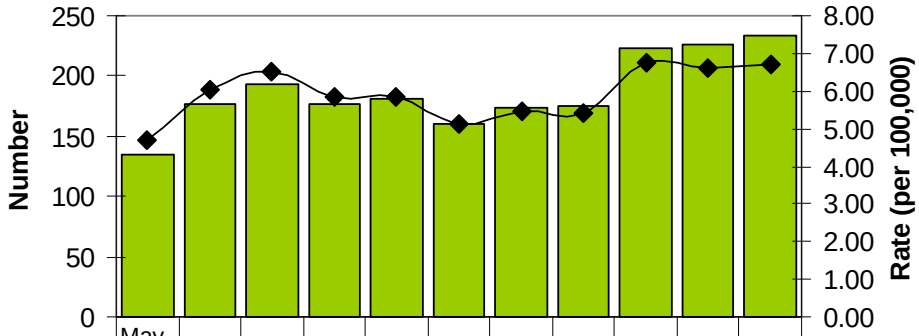
In 2008 there were 53 HIV positive individuals that developed AIDS **(Figure 8).** This is consistent with the previous two years when between 50 and 60 cases were reported. Since 1983 there have been 1,409 cases of AIDS reported in Alberta. In 2008 five individuals died of AIDS related illnesses.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Theresa St. Jean, Manager, Communicable Disease Control at 780-422-6623 or email: theresa.stjean@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely yours,

Patti Kowalski, Senior Manager, CD Teams
Provincial Program Development & Disease Control
Alberta Health & Wellness

Figure 1: Number and Crude Rate of Newly Reported HIV Cases in Alberta by Year of Diagnosis. May 1998-Dec 2008 (n=2,055)



	May-Dec.	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Cases	135	177	193	177	181	160	174	175	223	226	234
Rate per 100,000	4.70	6.05	6.50	5.86	5.86	5.10	5.47	5.43	6.76	6.63	6.69

Figure 2: Gender Distribution of Newly Reported HIV Cases in Alberta by Year of Diagnosis, May 1998 to December 2008 (n=2,055)

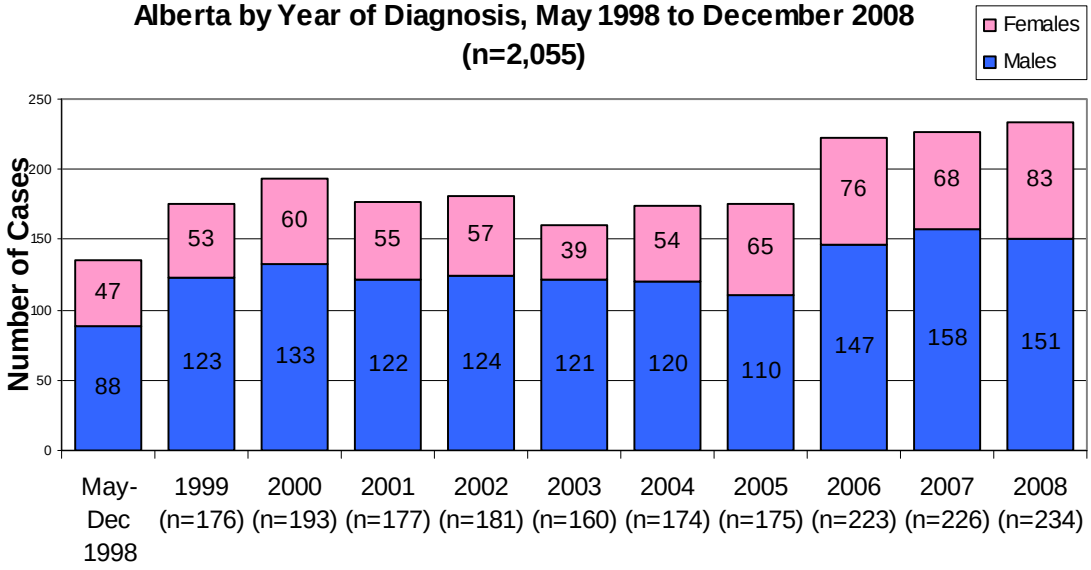


Figure 3: Age-Specific Rate (per 100 000) and Counts of Newly Reported HIV Cases in Alberta in 2008 (n=234)

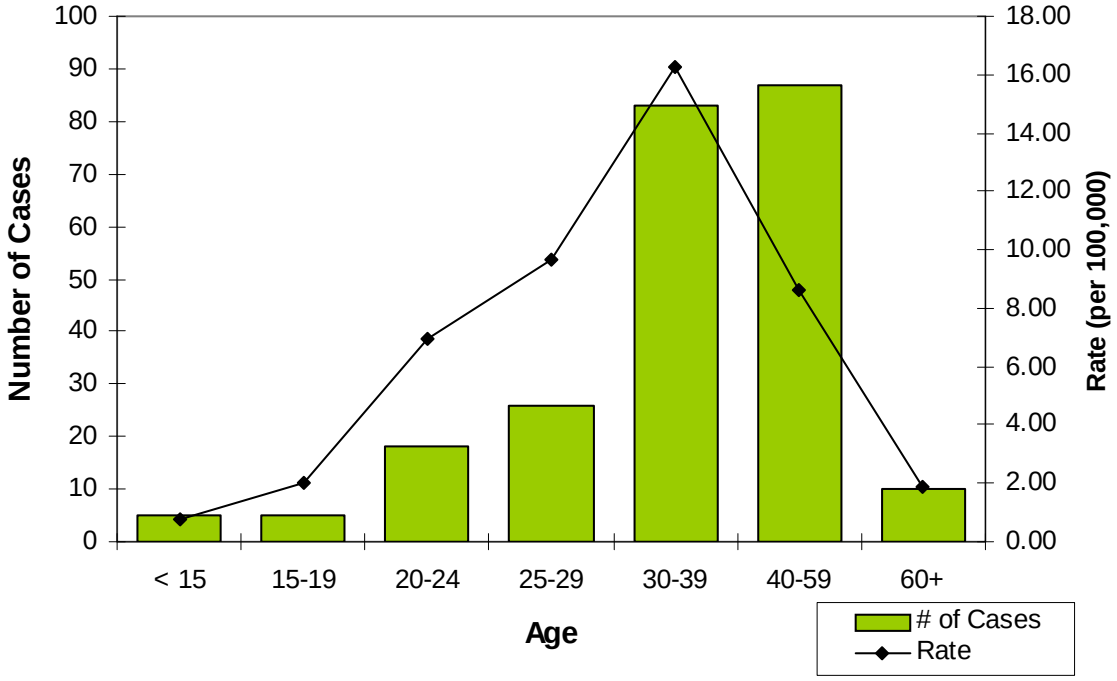


Figure 4: Proportion of Newly Reported HIV Cases in Alberta by Provincial Region and Year of Diagnosis, May 1998-December 2007 (n=2,055)

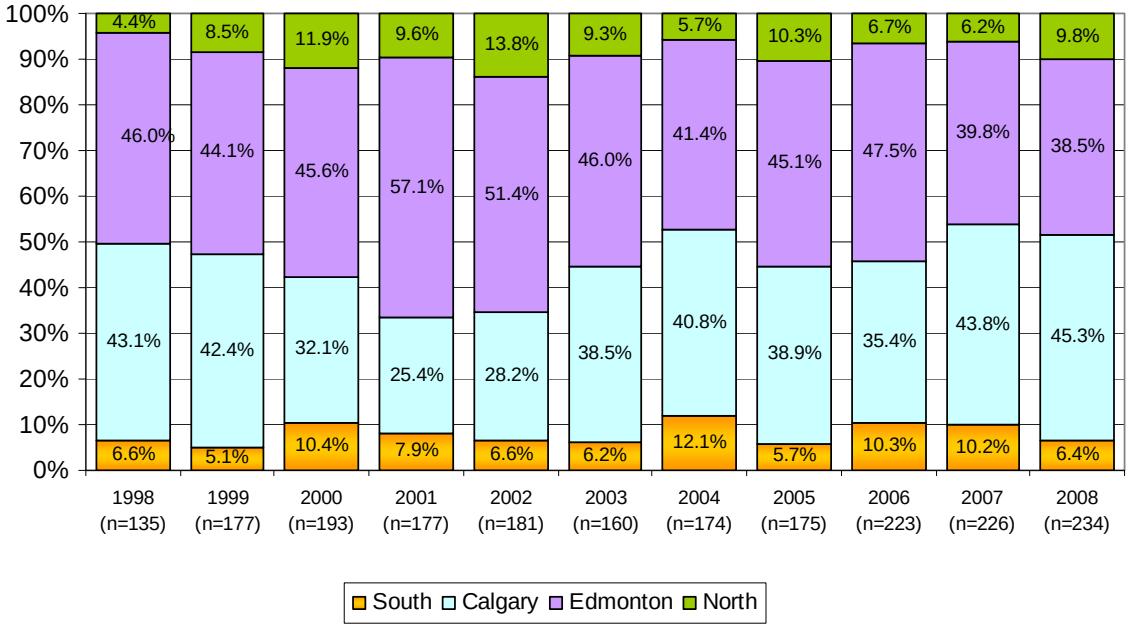


Figure 5: Proportion of Newly Reported HIV Cases in Alberta by Exposure Category among Males by Year of Diagnosis 1999-2008

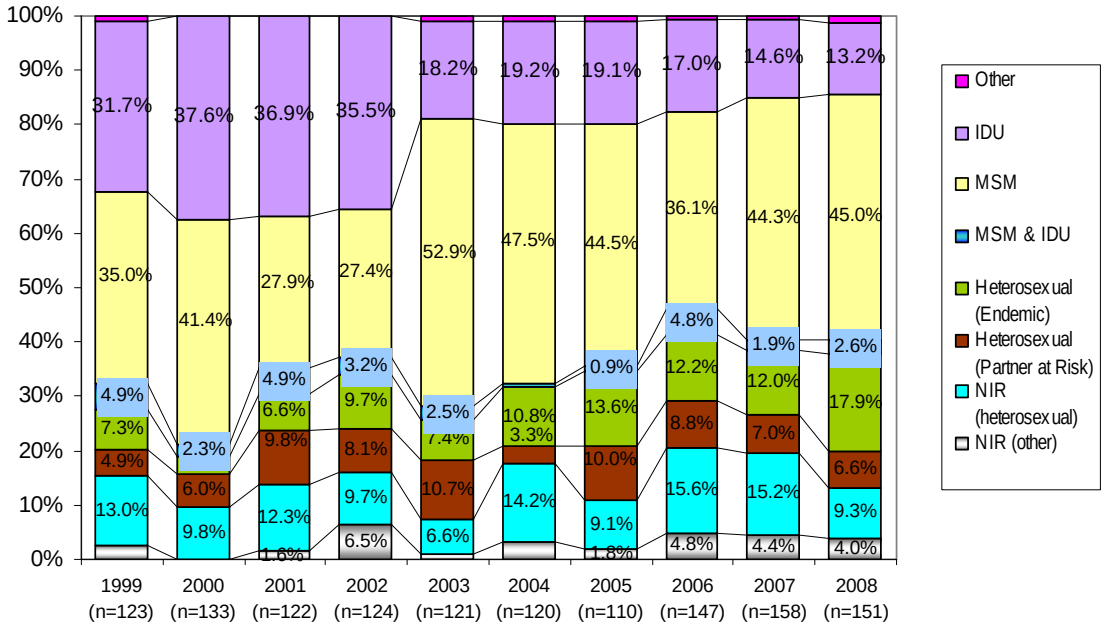


Figure 6: Proportion of Newly Reported HIV Cases in Alberta by Exposure Category among Females by Year of Diagnosis 1999-2008

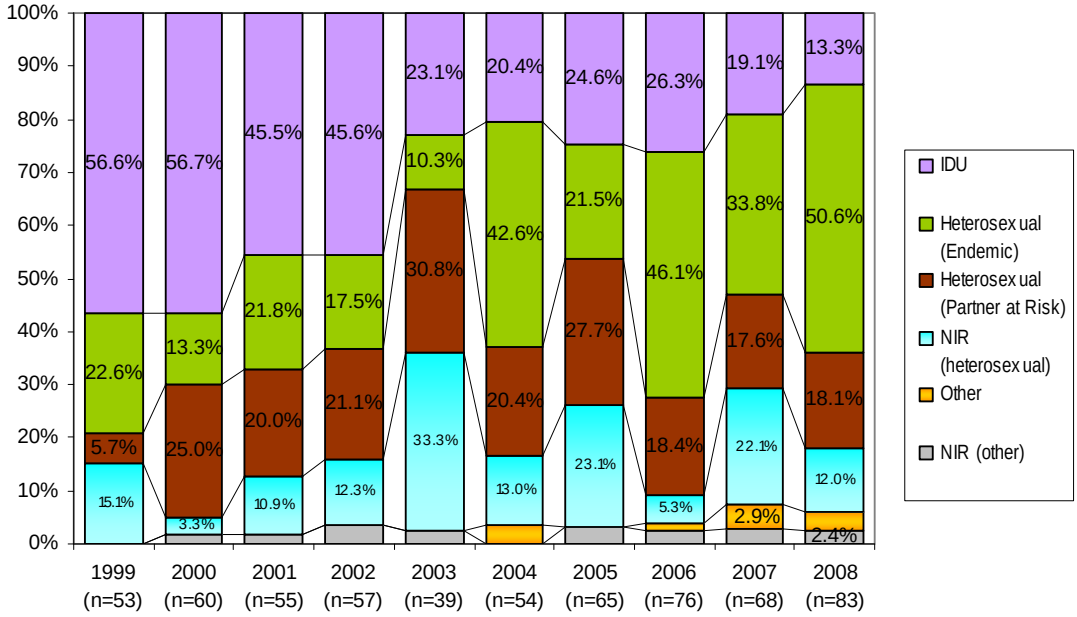
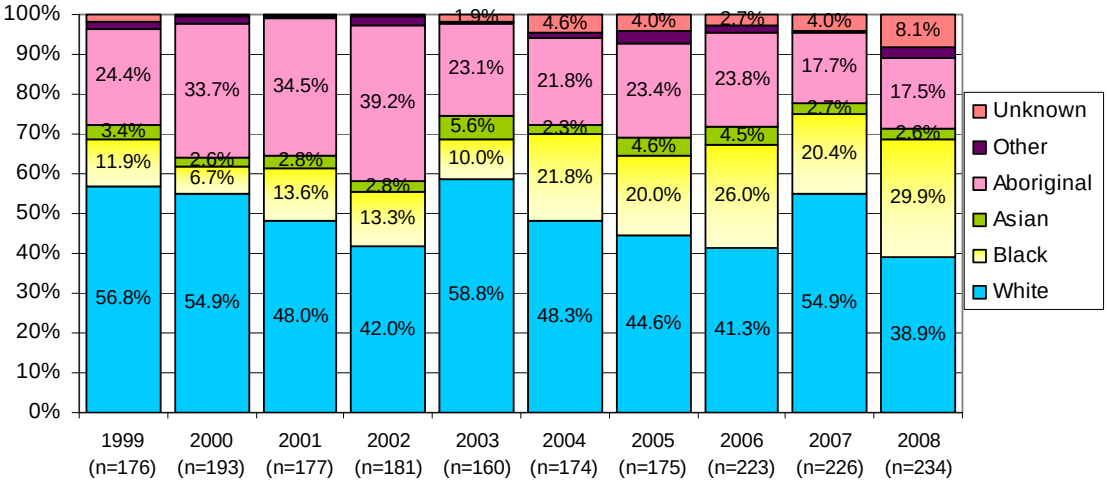


Figure 7: Proportion of Newly Reported HIV Cases in Alberta by Ethnicity and Year of Diagnosis, 1999-2008



Aboriginal refers to: First Nations, Metis and Inuit. Asian refers to: South Asian, Asian and West Asian

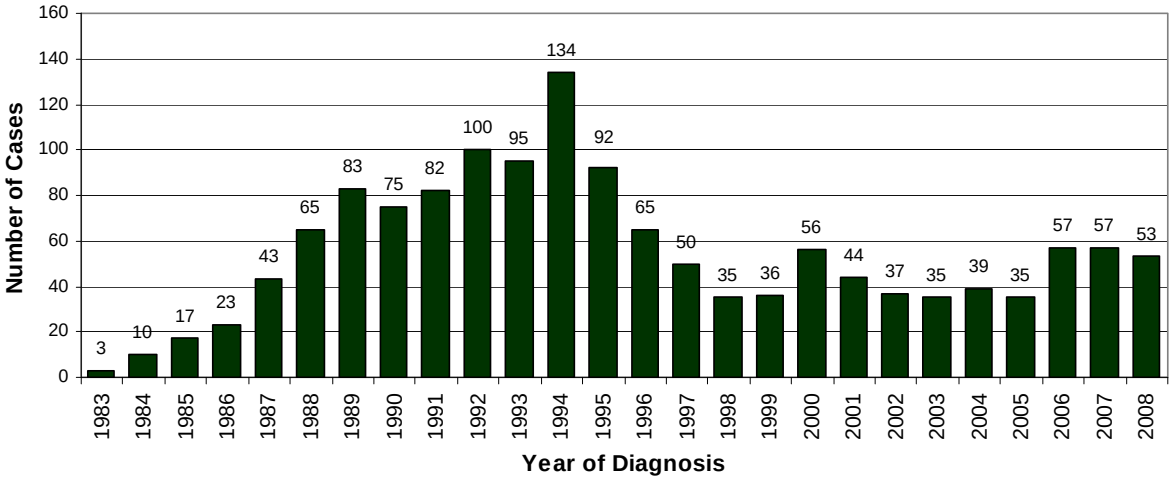



Figure 8: Number of Newly Reported AIDS Cases in Alberta by Year of Diagnosis. 1983-2008 (n=1,421)