

Characteristics of new cases of HIV infection reported in first 6 months of 2008

1. 153 Singaporeans were detected to be HIV-infected in the first six months of 2008. 93% of the new cases were males and 7% were females.
2. Sexual transmission remains the main mode of HIV transmission among Singaporeans. Of the 153 cases reported in the first 6 months of 2008, 133 cases acquired the infection through the sexual route, with heterosexual transmission accounting for 50% of infections, homosexual transmission 32% and bisexual transmission 5%. Intravenous drug use (13 cases) accounted for 8% -- 11 of these cases were detected as a result of screening in prisons and drug rehabilitation centres, and 2 in the course of medical care.
3. 75% of all new cases reported in the first 6 months of 2008 were aged between 30 to 59 years of age. Approximately 64% were single, while 22% were married, and 13% were divorced or separated.
4. In the first 6 months of 2008, nearly half (47%) of the new cases already had late-stage HIV infection¹ when they were diagnosed. This was similar to the pattern in the previous year.
5. More than half of the new cases in the first 6 months of 2008 (58%) had their HIV detected when they had HIV testing in the course of some form of medical care. 17% were detected as a result of voluntary HIV screening (17%). Another 20% of the cases were detected as a result of screening in prisons and drug rehabilitation centres. The rest were detected through contact tracing and other screening. When differentiated by sexual orientation, a higher proportion of homosexuals had their HIV infection detected via voluntary screening compared to heterosexuals (38% vs 7%).

Characteristics of all HIV infected Singaporeans (as at end June 2008)

6. The total number of HIV infected Singaporeans as at end-June 2008 is 3,636 (Table 1). Of these, 1,619 are asymptomatic carriers, 841 have AIDS-related illnesses and 1,176 have died.
7. Heterosexual transmission has been the most common mode of HIV transmission among Singaporeans since 1991 (Table 2). Most of these cases contracted the infection through casual sex and sex with prostitutes in Singapore and overseas.

¹ CD4+ cell count of less than 200 per cu mm or AIDS-defining opportunistic infections or both.

8. The majority of HIV infected Singaporeans are male with 3,252 cases; 384 are female (Table 3), giving a sex ratio of eight males to one female. Among the males, 61% were single at the point of diagnosis. For the females, however, the majority (60%) were married.

9. About 83% of HIV cases are Chinese, 10% are Malays and 4% are Indian (Table 4). The majority of cases (59%) were diagnosed when they were between 30 and 49 years of age (Table 5). Nearly a fifth (17%) of cases were diagnosed when they were between 20 and 29 years of age.



Ministry of Health, Singapore
College of Medicine Building
16 College Road
Singapore 169854
TEL (65) 6325 9220
FAX (65) 6224 1677
WEB www.moh.gov.sg

TABLE 1
NUMBER OF SINGAPORE RESIDENTS REPORTED WITH HIV /AIDS
(1985 – JUN 2008)

Year	HIV/AIDS			
	Male	Female	Total	Rate*
1985	2	0	2	0.8
1986	6	1	7	2.8
1987	10	0	10	3.9
1988	15	0	15	5.8
1989	9	1	10	3.8
1990	17	0	17	6.2
1991	39	3	42	15.0
1992	49	6	55	19.3
1993	58	6	64	22.0
1994	76	10	86	29.1
1995	102	9	111	36.8
1996	123	16	139	45.3
1997	157	16	173	55.4
1998	167	32	199	62.6
1999	171	35	206	63.8
2000	193	33	226	69.0
2001	204	33	237	71.3
2002	206	28	234	69.2
2003	212	30	242	71.9
2004	290	21	311	91.1
2005	287	30	317	91.4
2006	325	32	357	101.3
2007	392	31	423	118.1
Jun 2008	142	11	153	-
Total	3,252	384	3,636	-

* per million population, based on yearly resident population estimates revised by Singapore Department of Statistics in February 2008.



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TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF HIV/AIDS - INFECTED SINGAPORE RESIDENTS
BY MODES OF TRANSMISSION
(1985 – JUN 2008)

Mode of Transmission	1985 – 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Jan-Jun
Sexual Transmission								
Heterosexual	1160	181	177	188	185	222	255	77
Homosexual	191	30	40	72	87	94	130	49
Bisexual	146	12	14	22	14	14	15	7
Intravenous drug use	32	6	4	7	4	14	7	13
Blood Transfusion	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Renal Transplant overseas	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perinatal (mother to child)	15	2	1	4	3	2	2	0
Uncertain	47	3	6	18	24	11	13	7
Total	1599	234	242	311	317	357	423	153

TABLE 3
HIV/AIDS - INFECTED SINGAPORE RESIDENTS
BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX
(1985 – JUN 2008)

Martial status	1985 – 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Jan-Jun
Male								
Single	868	106	112	180	176	198	230	97
Married	376	71	65	74	82	92	114	27
Divorced/Separated	119	25	28	25	27	30	42	18
Widowed	35	4	7	11	2	5	6	0
Female								
Single	40	6	3	7	7	8	6	1
Married	128	15	21	8	19	17	17	6
Divorced/Separated	19	3	5	2	3	6	7	2
Widowed	14	4	1	4	1	1	1	2
Total								
Single	908	112	115	187	183	206	236	98
Married	504	86	86	82	101	109	131	33
Divorced/Separated	138	28	33	27	30	36	49	20
Widowed	49	8	8	15	3	6	7	2

TABLE 4
HIV/AIDS - INFECTED SINGAPORE RESIDENTS BY ETHNIC GROUP
(1985 – JUN 2008)

Ethnic Group	1985 – 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Jan-Jun
Chinese	1340	201	201	261	252	291	355	120
Malay	114	23	27	29	48	46	47	21
Indian	84	5	6	16	12	12	11	7
Others	61	5	8	5	5	8	10	5

TABLE 5
HIV/AIDS - INFECTED SINGAPORE RESIDENTS BY AGE AND SEX
(1985 – JUN 2008)

Age group	1985 – 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Jan-Jun
Male								
0 – 9	8	1	1	1	0	2	1	0
10 – 19	9	0	1	4	4	1	6	0
20 – 29	250	22	22	41	36	50	54	26
30 – 39	557	53	71	82	85	91	99	42
40 – 49	334	67	66	84	83	90	121	40
50 – 59	129	39	29	44	49	60	81	25
60 & above	111	24	22	34	30	31	30	9
Female								
0 – 9	7	1	0	2	3	1	1	0
10 – 19	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	0
20 – 29	81	10	7	6	8	7	1	2
30 – 39	53	3	12	7	10	8	7	4
40 – 49	28	6	8	5	1	7	13	3
50 – 59	17	6	3	0	7	6	6	1
60 & above	12	1	0	1	1	2	0	1
Total								
0 – 9	15	2	1	3	3	3	2	0
10 – 19	12	1	1	4	4	2	9	0
20 – 29	331	32	29	47	44	57	55	28
30 – 39	610	56	83	89	95	99	106	46
40 – 49	362	73	74	89	84	97	134	43
50 – 59	146	45	32	44	56	66	87	26
60 & above	123	25	22	35	31	33	30	10