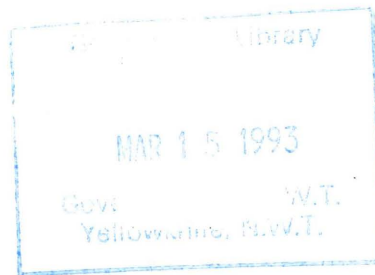


Profile

1.	Ages	0 - 10	2	
		11 - 20	0	
		21 - 30	9	
		31 - 40	7	Average 33
		41 - 50	4	
		51 - 60	1	
		61 - 70	1	
2.	Gender	20 male	4 female	
3.	Chronology	1987	3	
		1988	3	
		1989	2	
		1990	3	
		1991	2	
		1992	8	
		1993	3 to date	
4.	Types	Homosexual	11	
		Heterosexual	9	
		Other	4	
5.	Place	Western	16	
		Eastern	8	



### HIV and AIDS in the NWT in 1993

- The HI virus, that causes AIDS was found to be spreading and causing disease in North America in 1980 for the first time.
- The first NWT infections became known in 1987.
- The virus is a complicated one for which there is no cure, and always seems to cause death, though it may take as long as 20 years to do that.
- The virus attacks the immune system of the body, so that an infected person may get many other diseases that usually they wouldn't get.
- Up until that happens, however, most people will feel quite well and will not know that they are infected.
- In southern Canada and the United States the larger number of people getting infected, are men having sex with other men and people sharing injection needles.
- In most parts of the world, however, HIV is usually spread by men and women having unprotected sex together.

- In the NWT, about half of our infections have spread through homosexual contact or needle use, but the other half has spread by sex between men and women.
- During the first 5 years of the virus' presence in the north, the infection did not seem to spread as quickly as many people thought it would, with an average of just two to three new cases each year, every year.
- However in 1992, eight infections were reported and already in 1993 there have been three more, bringing the total to 24.
- The infection seems to have been fairly even in distribution, with the largest number in the central NWT, the second largest number in the east and the smallest in the west. However, because some health regions deal more with some provincial health services, it is less certain what is happening in those regions.
- In any event , regardless of what the reported figures are, it is certain that HIV is in ALL parts of the NWT, and based on calculations done by the World Health Organization, the number of infections is likely to be at least 10 times higher than those reported, which means there may be 240 or more infections in the NWT.

- How does this compare with southern Canada? In an anonymous survey carried out in the NWT in 1991, one unknown infection was found in 973 blood samples. In most provinces that figure would be close to one in 1100 or 1200, so our infection rates are not better.
- A bright spot is that it looks as if the number of other sexually spread diseases in the NWT fell in 1992, suggesting that people are in fact starting to be more careful.
- On the negative side, about 1000 NWT residents did get either chlamydia or gonorrhoea, or both, which means that they had unprotected sex, and could also have caught HIV.
- Still, HIV can easily be stopped if people:
  - stay with one sex partner
  - always use a condom
  - don't use injection needles
- What we ALL have to do is to make sure that everybody in the NWT understands these points.