

Table 2. Forward mutant frequencies in DNA copied by HIV-1 RT. Wild-type *lacZ* α DNA was copied and used to transfect competent *E. coli*. The background mutant frequency in this assay (6×10^{-4}) was determined as described (14). The three mutant frequency values for HIV-1 RT yield an average of 393 (± 61) $\times 10^{-4}$. The polymerase β data were taken from (14), the AMV and M-MuLV data from (17).

Enzyme	Plaques scored		Mutant frequency ($\times 10^{-4}$)	Error rate
	Total	Mutant		
Recombinant HIV-1 RT				
Experiment 1	6,109	284	460	1/1,500
Experiment 2	6,511	221	340	1/2,000
Natural HIV-1 RT	5,741	216	380	1/1,800
AMV RT	4,221	19	45	1/17,000
M-MuLV RT	19,112	53	28	1/30,000
Polymerase β (rat)	10,646	495	460	1/1,500