

**National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**  
**Fortnight 15, 2024 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases**  
**08 July 2024 to 21 July 2024**

**Infectious and congenital syphilis**

Infectious syphilis notifications are continuing to increase across Australia. Detailed analysis of infectious and congenital syphilis trends in Australia are reported quarterly in the [National syphilis surveillance reports](#).

***Syphilis response***

The CDNA and BBV STI Standing Committee (BBVSS) are, in collaboration, developing priority public health actions, including those related to workforce and community engagement, to ensure progress is made towards reducing the incidence of syphilis and elimination of congenital syphilis in Australia. For further information on national activities related to syphilis, including the [Don't fool around with syphilis](#) campaign, refer to the [National Response to Syphilis](#) webpage on the Department's website.

**Gonococcal infection**

Gonorrhoea is highly infectious bacterial infection usually transmitted through unprotected sexual activity with an infected person. In the past 12 months (22 July 2023 – 21 July 2024), there have been 44,215 cases of gonorrhoea reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS), which is higher than the historical five-year mean (n=32,206). In the past 3 months (23 April 2024 – 21 July 2024), there have been 10,918 cases of gonorrhoea reported to the NNDSS, which is 33% higher than the historical five-year mean for this period (n=8,184). Increases in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in gonococcal isolates have also been reported. Further information on AMR surveillance for gonorrhoea is available in the Australian Gonococcal Surveillance Program quarterly and annual reports published in the Communicable Diseases Intelligence.

**Mpox**

Mpox, or monkeypox virus infection (MPXV), is a viral infection that can be transmitted from person-to-person through prolonged physical contact and commonly presents as a mild illness with a rash. In the past 12 months (22 July 2023 – 21 July 2024), there have been 160 cases of mpox reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the past 3 months (23 April 2024 – 21 July 2024), there have been 134 cases of mpox notified. In this reporting period (8 July 2024 – 21 July 2024), 32 cases of mpox have been notified (17 in Victoria and 15 in New South Wales). The increase in notifications in the past three months has been driven by an increase in locally acquired cases (cases that were acquired in Australia), predominately reported in Victoria, followed New South Wales and by Queensland.

**Pertussis**

Between 1 January 2024 and 21 July 2024 there have been 15,416 cases of pertussis notified in Australia, compared to 2,450 cases for all of 2023. In 2024, notification rates have been highest in Queensland, followed by New South Wales. Increases have been observed in other jurisdictions, although substantially lower numbers and notification rates. In the year to date, notification rates have been highest in children aged 10–14 years, followed by children aged 5–9 years. The current situation may be due to several factors including expected epidemic peaks, vaccination coverage, waning immunity and overall population having reduced exposure to pertussis during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Interpretative Notes**

*Selected diseases are chosen each fortnight based on either exceeding two standard deviations from the 90 day and/or 365 day five year rolling mean or other disease issues of significance identified during the reporting period. All diseases reported are analysed by notification receive date. Data are extracted each Monday of a CDNA week.*

*Totals comprise data from all States and Territories. Cumulative figures are subject to retrospective revision so there may be discrepancies between the number of new notifications and the increment in the cumulative figure from the previous period.*

<sup>1</sup>*The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (23/04/2024 to 21/07/2024).*

<sup>2</sup>*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 21/07/2024. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.*

<sup>3</sup>*The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (22/07/2023 to 21/07/2024).*

<sup>4</sup>*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 21/07/2024. The ratio is the notification activity in the past year (365 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.*

*The five year rolling mean and the ratio of notifications compared with the five year rolling mean should be interpreted with caution. Changes in surveillance practice, diagnostic techniques and reporting may contribute to increases or decreases in the total notifications received over a five year period. Ratios are to be taken as a crude measure of current disease activity and may reflect changes in reporting rather than changes in disease activity.*