

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 25, 2024 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
25 November 2024 to 08 December 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.

Mpox

Mpox, or monkeypox virus infection, is a viral infection that can be transmitted from person-to-person through physical contact. It commonly presents as a mild illness with a rash, but can be severe. In the past 12 months (9 December 2023 – 8 December 2024), there have been 1,331 cases of mpox reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the past 3 months (10 September 2024 – 8 December 2024), there have been 837 cases of mpox notified. In this reporting period (25 November 2024 – 8 December 2024), 57 cases of mpox have been notified (33 in Victoria, 17 in New South Wales, 3 in Western Australia, 2 in the Australian Capital Territory and 2 in Queensland). This is a decrease compared to the 79 cases in the previous reporting period (11 November - 24 November 2024).

Pertussis

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly infectious disease of the respiratory tract caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. There have been 4,131 notifications of pertussis in this reporting period (25 November 2024 – 8 December 2024) slightly down from the previous fortnight (4,666). Over the past year (9 December 2023 – 8 December 2024), there have been 52,135 notifications of pertussis, compared to the yearly rolling 5 year mean of 3,993.2. In 2024, 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.

1The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (10/09/2024 to 08/12/2024).

2The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 08/12/2023. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.

3The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (09/12/2023 to 08/12/2024).

4The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 08/12/2023. 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.