

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 22, 2025 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases 13 October 2025 to 26 October 2025

Infectious and congenital syphilis

On 7 August 2025, the Chief Medical Officer declared syphilis a [Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance \(CDINS\)](#). The CDINS will bring together national efforts to coordinate an enhanced national response to syphilis, working closely with the states and territories and other key stakeholders, to work on key actions in the [National Syphilis Response Plan](#).

Declaration of a syphilis CDINS follows continued reporting of infectious syphilis notifications at high levels across Australia, including among women* of reproductive age (15-44 years). Increases among women have coincided with continued reporting of congenital syphilis cases and in some instances infant death resulting from infection. Detailed analysis of infectious and congenital syphilis trends in Australia are reported quarterly in the [National syphilis surveillance reports](#).

Leprosy summary

Leprosy (also known as Hansen's disease) is a very slow growing bacterial infection that affects the skin, nerves, and mucous membranes. The bacteria, *Mycobacterium leprae*, does not transmit easily, it is transmitted via droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with an infectious person. In the past 12 months (27 October 2024 – 26 October 2025), there have been 20 cases of leprosy notified to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). This is higher than the mean of 9.0 for the rolling 5-year period (27 October 2019 – 26 October 2024). In 2025 (1 January 2025 – 26 October 2025), there have been 18 cases of leprosy notified (4 reported in VIC, 4 in QLD, 3 in NSW, 3 in WA, 2 in NT and 2 in SA), with one case notified in this reporting period (13 October 2025 – 26 October 2025) reported in VIC. Of those notifications in 2025, 13 were overseas acquired, 2 were acquired in Australia, and 3 are under investigation. Fiji (n=2) and India (n=2) were reported as the top countries of overseas acquisition.

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 (29/07/2025 to 26/10/2025).

²The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 26/10/2025. 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 (27/10/2024 to 26/10/2025).

⁴The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 26/10/2025. 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.

*The term 'women' is used, but it is acknowledged that this may also include people with a uterus who are non-female identifying.