National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 10, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

10 May to 23 May 2021

Infectious and congenital syphilis

Increases in infectious syphilis notifications are attributed to an on-going outbreak occurring in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing in northern and central Australia, continued increases among men who have sex with men (MSM) in urban areas of Victoria (Vic) and New South Wales (NSW), and increases in women (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) residing in urban areas of Vic, NSW, Queensland (Qld) and Western Australia (WA).

Outbreak in remote Australia

In January 2011, an increase of infectious syphilis notifications among young (15-29 years) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was identified in the North West region of Qld, following a steady decline at a national level in remote communities. Subsequent increases in infectious syphilis notifications were reported in the Northern Territory (NT) in 2013, WA in 2014 and South Australia (SA) in 2016, following sustained periods of low notification rates. The outbreak is of significant public health concern given the: elevated rates of infectious syphilis among women of child-bearing age, increasing the risk of congenital syphilis; and the concomitant risk of HIV transmission. For the latest information on the infectious syphilis outbreak and related national activities, refer to the Department's website.

Increases among MSM

Since 2010 increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in MSM, predominately 20-39 years of age, residing in urban areas of Vic and NSW.

Increases among women (Indigenous and non-Indigenous)

Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in women (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) aged predominately 20-39 years of age residing in urban areas of NSW, Vic, Qld and WA. As noted in the outbreak in remote Australia, increases in women of child-bearing age is of significant public health concern given the increased risk of congenital syphilis.

Syphilis response

On 23 March 2021, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) endorsed the *National strategic approach for responding to rising rates of syphilis in Australia 2021* (Strategic Approach) prepared through the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) and BBV STI Standing Committee (BBVSS). The Strategic Approach builds on and intersects with existing national activities related to syphilis and provides specific focus for efforts towards rising rates of syphilis and adverse outcomes in Australia.

The CDNA and 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. These actions will be provided to AHPPC for endorsement in the coming months.

For further information on national activities related to STIs, including syphilis, refer to the Department's website.

Leptospirosis

In the past 12 months (24 May 2020 to 23 May 2021), there have been 197 cases of leptospirosis reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). This is higher than the mean number of cases reported for the historical five-year mean (n=116.8). In the past fortnight (10 May 2021 to 23 May 2021), 18 cases of leptospirosis were notified compared to five cases in the same reporting period in the previous year. In the past quarter (23 February 2021 to 23 May 2021), 107 cases of leptospirosis were notified compared to the quarterly rolling five year mean of 35.2 notifications.

Of the 107 cases notified in the past quarter, the highest number of notifications occurred in Queensland (53/107, 49.5%), followed by New South Wales (46/107, 43%) and the Northern Territory (5/107, 4.7%). Increased mouse and rat populations following recent wet weather in eastern Australian may be a contributing factor leading to increased case notifications in some areas.

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.

[1]The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (23/02/2021 to 23/05/2021).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 23/05/2021. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.

[3]The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (24/05/2020 to 23/05/2021).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 23/05/2021. 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.

ADT FN10/2021

Notification received date

Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	State or Territory								Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
			ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period 10/05/2021 23/05/2021	Previous reporting Period 26/04/2021 09/05/2021	Same reporting period last year 10/05/2020 23/05/2020	Current year YTD 01/01/2021 23/05/2021	Past Quarter 23/02/2021 23/05/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 24/05/2020 23/05/2021	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 24/05/2015 23/05/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	8	29	14	39.4	0.4	-	95	151.0	0.6	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	65	2	20	2	2	71	22	187	170	179	1,836	1,241	1,465.2	0.8	-	4,889	5,896.8	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	1	18	24	36	272	173	159.2	1.1	-	669	714.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	-	118	3	52	1	4	68	37	283	273	308	2,833	1,810	2,512.6	0.7	-	7,298	9,662.2	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	3	31	21	14.8	1.4	-	83	67.2	1.2	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	2	1.2	1.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	18	460	9	376	73	39	140	91	1,206	1,240	930	14,820	8,788	6,545.6	1.3	-	34,040	29,641.6	1.1	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	6	17	30	5	1	15	4	78	85	69	803	484	1,466.0	0.3	-	1,477	3,903.6	0.4	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	4.2	0.7	-	14	15.6	0.9	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	6	4	69.8	0.1	-	13	241.0	0.1	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	3	15.6	0.2	-	8	48.6	0.2	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	18	10	14.8	0.7	-	47	67.2	0.7	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.8	-	-	1	86.0	0.0	-
	STEC	054	-	4	-	-	3	2	6	3	18	24	16	260	158	126.2	1.3	-	540	483.8	1.1	-
	Salmonellosis	030	2	103	22	148	13	11	42	33	374	395	467	5,763	3,260	4,641.0	0.7	-	10,470	15,713.8	0.7	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	3	2	1	5	-	-	3	14	11	31	191	110	505.6	0.2	-	648	2,117.2	0.3	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	3	47.6	0.1	-	18	152.0	0.1	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	-	39	4	25	9	-	14	6	97	252	161	1,743	1,186	1,455.2	0.8	-	22,986	1,459.6	15.7	14,998.9
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.4	-	-
	MERS-CoV	079	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Plague	025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rabies	028	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)	071	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Smallpox	069	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	036	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Yellow fever	041	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Sexually transmissible infections	Chlamydial infection	007	62	1,085	65	891	217	69	275	438	3,102	2,983	3,443	33,143	20,218	25,649.0	0.8	-	85,441	100,258.0	0.9	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	16	358	61	217	47	5	146	111	961	923	1,114	10,592	6,511	7,341.8	0.9	-	27,102	28,333.4	1.0	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	45	6	33	10	-	71	27	194	211	225	2,128	1,345	1,161.8	1.2	-	5,240	4,555.4	1.2	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	1	5	11	-	-	35	12	65	54	92	681	429	540.8	0.8	-	1,900	2,191.0	0.9	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	4	1.4	2.9	0.3	19	7.2	2.6	6.4
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1.6	1.3	-	7	8.0	0.9	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	5	4.4	1.1	-	21	19.4	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	12	3	23	-	2	3	3	47	22	133	307	201	15,995.0	0.0	-	1,191	165,837.8	0.0	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.6	-	-	-	126.0	-	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	10	4	152.2	0.0	-	43	620.8	0.1	-
	Pertussis	024	-	1	-	5	2	-	16	-	24	23	101	229	145	2,757.6	0.1	-	881	15,340.6	0.1	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	27	1	10	6	-	20	4	69	56	22	451	326	312.4	1.0	-	1,156	1,885.2	0.6	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	-	7	2	16	11	2	NN	3	45	47	43	452	300	614.8	0.5	-	1,117	4,717.4	0.2	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4.8	0.2	-	3	13.6	0.2	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1.4	1.4	-	8	3.6	2.2	1.7
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	17	NN	2	-	8	7	20	15	69	54	64	692	394	710.0	0.6	-	2,480	3,597.8	0.7	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	24	NN	9	5	62	18	58	98	274	285	662	3,931	1,981	2,921.8	0.7	-	13,432	11,283.4	1.2	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	6	NN	7	369	56	10	75	83	606	531	409	5,745	3,264	3,474.8	0.9	-	13,915	14,184.0	1.0	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	5	1	11	-	-	-	-	17	16	66	186	122	142.2	0.9	-	613	384.2	1.6	73.0
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	14.0	-	-	4	85.0	0.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	371.6	0.0	-	6	1,347.2	0.0	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	2	8.0	0.3	-	11	32.6	0.3	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.2	-	-
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	5	15	10	74.8	0.1	-	50	347.8	0.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	34	2	62	-	1	24	50	173	173	946	2,130	1,141	2,123.0	0.5	-	4,440	4,636.4	1.0	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	7	5	3.6	1.4	-	17	19.2	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	10	-	8	-	-	-	-	18	21	5	146	107	35.2	3.0	50.7	197	116.8	1.7	43.2
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	9	3	4.2	0.7	-	58	20.6	2.8	21.1
	Q fever	027	-	4	-	14	2	-	-	1	21	24	37	221	157	131.2	1.2	-	470	543.2	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	0.2	5.0	-
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	1	8	-	3	2	-	2	1	17	23	26	237	148	116.6	1.3	-	534	417.8	1.3	-
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2.0	1.0	-	8	11.4	0.7	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	30	22	43.2	0.5	-	79	259.0	0.3	-
	Tuberculosis	034	1	23	-	4	-	-	16	5	49	59	49	565	352	338.8	1.0	-	1,611	1,422.6	1.1	0.6
			155	2,428	223	2,357	535	173	1,118	1,054	8,047	7,990	9,670	90,555	54,472				245,353			

Footnotes:

* Ratio of the 90 day prior surveillance period to the past 90 day 5 year rolling mean, or ratio of the year period prior surveillance period to the year period 5 year rolling mean.

NN = Not Notifiable, NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified

The data in this report are reliant on the provision of data from states and territories to the Australian Government Department of Health. Backlogs in notifications at the state or territory level may contribute to delays in reporting to the NNDSS. Notifications for some high volume conditions are only uploaded quarterly by some jurisdictions, which can result in apparent large variability over time. The NNDSS is a dynamic dataset, with data in this report representing data available on **(25/05/2021).** Data in this report are subject to retrospective revision and may vary from data reported in published NNDSS reports and reports of notification data by states and territories.