

## **National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**

### **Fortnight 13, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases**

**21 June to 04 July 2021**

#### **Infectious and congenital syphilis**

Increases in infectious syphilis notifications are attributed to an on-going outbreak occurring in 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, and increases in women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous) residing in urban areas of Australia.

#### *Outbreak in northern and central Australia*

In January 2011, an increase of infectious syphilis notifications among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was identified in the North West region of Queensland, following a steady decline at a national level in remote communities. Subsequent increases in infectious syphilis notifications were reported in the Northern Territory in 2013, Western Australia in 2014 and South Australia 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 Australia.

#### *Increases among women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous)*

Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous) aged predominately 20-39 years of age residing in urban areas in Australia. As noted in the outbreak in northern and central Australia, increases in women of childbearing 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](#).

### **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 (06/04/2021 to 04/07/2021).*

<sup>2</sup>*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 04/07/2021. 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 (05/07/2020 to 04/07/2021).*

<sup>4</sup>*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 04/07/2021. 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 FN13/2021			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	Previous reporting Period	Same reporting period last year	Current year YTD	Past Quarter	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year	Yearly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by	
			21/06/2021 04/07/2021	07/06/2021 20/06/2021	21/06/2020 04/07/2020	01/01/2020 04/07/2021	06/04/2021 04/07/2021					05/07/2020 04/07/2021	05/07/2015 04/07/2020										
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	5	5	47	24	39.0	0.6	-	99	150.0	0.7	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	1	41	-	32	1	4	58	11	148	202	229	2,426	1,205	1,448.0	0.8	-	4,832	5,883.8	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	27	293	104	162.0	0.6	-	605	713.6	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	4	110	3	111	-	9	37	27	301	307	281	3,799	1,933	2,387.4	0.8	-	7,403	9,655.4	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	2	3	42	19	16.2	1.2	-	84	66.8	1.3	-	
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1.0	2.0	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	43	365	7	325	137	34	288	111	1,310	1,217	982	18,847	8,605	6,239.2	1.4	289.7	35,310	29,966.2	1.2	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	18	9	18	3	-	7	7	62	72	24	1,040	510	925.0	0.6	-	1,591	3,860.2	0.4	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	3.2	0.3	-	11	15.8	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	9	5	48.6	0.1	-	16	237.8	0.1	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	7	10.4	0.7	-	11	48.2	0.2	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	21	7	12.6	0.6	-	48	66.4	0.7	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.6	-	-	-	84.8	-	-	
	STE C	054	-	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	7	19	19	311	122	105.2	1.2	-	544	489.8	1.1	-	
	Salmonellosis	030	6	94	19	95	13	6	40	21	294	271	293	6,701	2,447	3,506.8	0.7	-	10,460	15,596.4	0.7	-	
	Shigellosis	031	-	1	-	1	2	-	2	3	9	15	27	242	101	432.8	0.2	-	619	2,113.6	0.3	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	2	26.8	0.1	-	18	149.4	0.1	-	
	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quarantinable diseases	COVID-19	081	-	351	8	43	24	-	31	7	464	162	820	2,582	1,556	536.6	2.9	-	22,643	1,717.0	13.2	13,247.3	
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	
	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	37	809	16	771	222	52	317	370	2,594	3,028	3,478	42,637	19,701	24,376.4	0.8	-	84,760	100,335.2	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	13	327	15	241	57	10	164	99	926	1,108	1,150	14,286	6,965	7,084.8	1.0	-	27,334	28,563.6	1.0	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	41	9	23	10	-	55	19	157	214	213	2,858	1,439	1,163.4	1.2	-	5,339	4,622.2	1.2	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	4	4	1	-	-	40	13	62	53	79	912	421	532.6	0.8	-	1,883	2,191.0	0.9	-	
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	2.2	1.4	-	16	7.8	2.1	0.9	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	0.8	2.5	-	8	8.0	1.0	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	12	5	4.6	1.1	-	24	18.8	1.3	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	3	1	15	-	4	2	3	28	33	125	406	221	27,606.0	0.0	-	968	165,224.4	0.0	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.8	-	-	-	124.0	-	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	3	14	5	139.2	0.0	-	39	608.8	0.1	-	
	Pertussis	024	2	2	-	19	1	-	13	4	41	38	109	344	193	2,424.2	0.1	-	710	14,955.2	0.0	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	2	34	-	18	8	2	21	14	99	89	46	722	474	425.4	1.1	-	1,322	1,864.4	0.7	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rotavirus	077	1	16	1	11	11	-	NN	10	53	54	47	630	341	718.6	0.5	-	1,169	4,664.0	0.3	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3.6	-	-	2	13.4	0.1	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	0.8	-	-	7	3.8	1.8	1.0	
Vectorborne diseases	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	12	NN	-	1	18	3	14	7	55	80	80	1,010	456	701.6	0.6	-	2,553	3,596.0	0.7	-	
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	23	NN	8	7	88	13	46	52	237	295	620	5,374	1,967	2,875.4	0.7	-	13,066	11,504.4	1.1	-	
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	4	NN	7	305	45	18	122	74	575	620	389	9,074	4,705	3,383.0	1.4	297.8	15,943	14,092.4	1.1	-	
	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	4	-	6	-	-	-	2	12	12	29	226	95	142.6	0.7	-	526	396.8	1.3	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	11.4	-	-	4	81.2	0.0	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	324.4	0.0	-	5	1,318.4	0.0	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	7.8	0.1	-	9	32.6	0.3	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	0.2	5.0	-	1	1.2	0.8	-	
	Malaria	020	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	2	21	9	66.0	0.1	-	46	343.6	0.1	-	
Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	0.2	5.0	-	1	0.2	5.0	-		
Ross River virus infection	002	-	19	2	54	4	-	7	42	128	115	190	2,588	1,031	1,931.0	0.5	-	3,749	4,742.8	0.8	-		
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	7	3.6	1.9	-	18	19.2	0.9	-	
	Leptospirosis	017	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	7	1	182	103	36.0	2.9	47.3	221	118.8	1.9	54.6	
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	5	7.0	0.7	-	52	22.0	2.4	10.3	
	Q fever	027	-	4	-	2	-	-	2	-	8	22	9	287	143	124.0	1.2	-	479	541.6	0.9	-	
Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	
Other bacterial infections*	Legionellosis	015	-	5	-	-	-	-	8	1	14	13	22	297	121	111.4	1.1	-	533	421.6	1.3	-	
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	2.4	1.3	-	9	11.4	0.8	-	
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	4	41	23	46.0	0.5	-	83	255.6	0.3	-	
	Tuberculosis	034	1	24	-	5	-	1	20	8	59	54	51	730	361	338.2	1.1	-	1,599	1,431.6	1.1	-	
			150	2,283	110	2,111	651	157	1,296	907	7,668	8,127	9,366	119,080	55,451			246,774					

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  
^ Other Bacterial Infections will be renamed to Other Notifiable Disease from FN14 and will also include data for RSV and iGAS which became nationally notifiable on 1 July 2021.  
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 (07/07/2021). 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.