National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 11, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

24 May to 06 June 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 <u>Department's website</u>.

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 <u>Department's website</u>.

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 (09/03/2021 to 06/06/2021).

²The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 06/06/2021. 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 (07/06/2020 to 06/06/2021).

⁴The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 06/06/2021. 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.

	DT FN11/2021										Notification received date							-l				
A			State or Territory									Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Ye	arly Peric	Da
Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	ACT	MSN	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period 24/05/2021 06/06/2021	Previous reporting Period 10/05/2021 23/05/2021	Same reporting period last year 24/05/2020 06/06/2020	Current year YTD 01/01/2021 06/06/2021	Past Quarter 09/03/2021 06/06/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 07/06/2020 06/06/2021	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 07/06/2015 06/06/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-		-		•	-	-	-	3	4	34	12	38.4	0.3	-	94	151.4	0.6	-
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	4	63	-	61	2	7	47	16	200	199	221	2,049	1,149	1,468.6	0.8	-	4,894	5,892.0	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired) Hepatitis C (unspecified)	040	- 1	1 94	- 3	- 161	- 2	- 12	- 48	- 34	1 352	20 293	29 273	281 3,195	144 1,815	160.8 2,457.6	0.9	-	649 7,377	712.2 9,676.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	6	3	3	37	1,013	, <u>'</u>			86	67.2	1.3	
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	2	1.2	1.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis Cryptosporidiosis	005	- 30	402 18	17 12	354 36	88	22	64 15	90 11	1,061 92	1,232 80	1,010 63	15,934 898	8,349 468	6,309.2 1,288.4	1.3 0.4	-	34,144 1,509	29,795.2 3,885.0	1.1 0.4	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	4.2	0.2	-	13	15.8	0.8	-
	Hepatitis A Hepatitis E	038	-	-	-	- 1	-	-	-	-	- 1	1	-	6	4			-	13 10	240.2 48.4	0.1	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	18	9			-	47	67.0	0.2	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	19.6		-	-	85.6	-	-
	STEC Salmonellosis	054	- 8	5 106	- 17	1 141	9 21	1	5 37	43	25 373	18 375	12 311	285	151 3,019	4,213.6	1.3	-	553 10,532	486.0	1.1	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	2	7	2	4		1	43	22	16	25	215	3,019	463.0	0.2	-	647	2,116.4	0.3	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2		0.1	-	17	151.2	0.1	-
	Avian influenza in humans (AIH) COVID-19	076	-	- 35	- 2	- 28	- 19	-	- 103	- 4	- 191	- 102	- 160	- 1,939	- 1,251	- 1,471.2	0.9	-	- 23,022	- 1,490.6	15.4	- 14,865.2
Quarantinable diseases	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4		-	-	1,1,0010	-	-
	MERS-CoV	079	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Plague Rabies	025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)	071	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Smallpox Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	069	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-			-
	Yellow fever	030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Chlamydial infection	007	52	1,059	77	922	187	58	310	417	3,060	3,329	3,342	36,850	20,325	25,070.2	0.8	-	85,806	100,238.6	0.9	
Sexually transmissible infections	Donovanosis Gonococcal infection	010	- 21	- 325	- 48	- 148	- 58	- 6	- 197	- 101	- 898	- 1,055	- 1,100	- 12,048	- 6,772	- 7,246.6	0.9	-	- 27,458	- 28,396.2	1.0	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	50		21	9			27	200	221	228	2,414	1,390	1,171.6			5,300	4,581.8	1.2	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration Syphilis congenital	067	-	- 5	2	-	-	-	43	- 4	54	68	84	768	434	540.8 1.8	0.8	-	1,909 18	2,190.4	0.9	- 4.8
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	047	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	- 1	-	2	4			-	7	8.0	0.9	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	9	6			-	23	19.2	1.2	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed) Measles	062	-	- 6	-	- 21	- 3	2	2	-	- 38	46	- 108	343	213	17,849.0 38.0	0.0	-	1,119	165,716.4 125.0	0.0	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3		0.0	-	43	616.0	0.1	-
	Pertussis	024	-	4		11	-	-	18	1	34	26	111	265	149	,	0.1	-	806	15,213.4	0.1	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive) Poliovirus infection	065	-	- 31	2	- 10	- 8	- 3	- 19	- 6	- 80	- 67	- 21	536	366	338.2	1.1	-	1,220	1,875.4	0.7	-
	Rotavirus	077	-	23	-	17	11	2	NN	5	66	49	51	522	333	616.6		-	1,136	4,707.2	0.2	-
	Rubella Rubella congenital	029 046	-	-	-	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3.6	0.3	-	4	13.2	0.3	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1		0.8	-	8	3.6	2.2	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	16		3	-	20			15	72		83	835	448				2,552	3,599.4	0.7	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles) Varicella zoster (unspecified)	074	27	NN NN	10 5	3 415	90 52		50 92	65 79	259 672	303 582	630 420	4,618 5,953	2,076 3,279	2,888.4 3,426.8	0.7	-	13,544 13,637	11,362.6 14,151.2	1.2 1.0	
	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	1	11	-	-	-	-	15		46	200					581	387.4	1.5	
Vectorborne diseases	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	12.4		-	4	83.4	0.0	-
	Dengue virus infection Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	003	-	-	-	- 1	-	-	-	-	- 1	-	1	2	1	360.8		-	5	1,334.0 33.0	0.0	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	1.2	-	-
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	16	8	71.4		-	46	345.8	0.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection Ross River virus infection	049	-	- 27	- 3	- 85	- 2	-	- 18	- 40	- 175	- 177	- 618	- 2,312	- 1,079	0.2		-	- 4,004	0.2 4,705.0	- 0.9	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6		-	-	4,703.0		-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection Brucellosis	063	-	-	-	- 2	-	-	-	-	- 2	- 2	-	- 9	- 7	- 3.4	2.1	-	- 19	- 19.2	1.0	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	2	-	9	-	-	-	-	11		6	163	110	35.4			208	117.4	1.8	56.0
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC) Ornithosis	064 023	-	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 1	- 3	- 4	- 11	- 5	- 5.8	0.9	-	- 56	- 21.2	2.6	- 16.7
	Q fever	023	-	4		- 8	- 1		- 1	- 2	16		28	244	146				465	544.0	0.9	- 16.7
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0.4		-	-	0.4	-	-
		_			1																	
	Legionellosis	015	-	5		3	3		3	8	22		23	263	145				537	419.4	1.3	
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	_	-	5 - 2	-	3 - -	3 - 1	-	3 - 1	8	22 1 4	1	23 1 1	263 4 35		1.8	2.2	0.5	537 9 83	419.4 11.4 256.2	1.3 0.8 0.3	

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 (08/06/2021). 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.