# National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

# Fortnight 12, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

# 07 June to 20 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>.

#### **Leptospirosis**

In the past 12 months (21 June 2020 to 20 June 2021), there have been 216 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=119.2). In the past fortnight (7 June 2021 to 20 June 2021), seven cases of leptospirosis were notified compared to five cases in the same reporting period in the previous year. In the past quarter (23 March 2021 to 20 June 2021), 111 cases of leptospirosis were notified compared to the quarterly rolling five year mean of 36.2 notifications. Of the 111 cases notified in the past quarter, the highest number of notifications occurred in Queensland (52/111, 46.8%), followed by New South Wales (51/111, 45.9%) and Victoria (5/111, 4.5%). 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.

<sup>1</sup>The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (23/03/2021 to 20/06/2021).

<sup>2</sup>The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 20/06/2021. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.

<sup>3</sup>The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (21/06/2020 to 20/06/2021).

<sup>4</sup>The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 20/06/2021. 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.

Barbar    Star    Star   Star   Star <th< th=""><th></th><th colspan="10">T FN12/2021 State or Territory</th><th colspan="8">Notification received date</th><th colspan="4"></th></th<>		T FN12/2021 State or Territory										Notification received date												
							State or	Territo	ory				Totals for A			H	istorical 90 [	Day Perio	d		Historical Yearly Period			
Balance    Balance <t< th=""><th>Disease group</th><th>Disease name</th><th>Disease code</th><th>АСТ</th><th>NSW</th><th>Ť</th><th>old</th><th>SA</th><th>Tas</th><th>Vic</th><th>WA</th><th>period 07/06/2021</th><th>reporting Period 24/05/2021</th><th>reporting period last year 07/06/2020</th><th>YTD 01/01/2021</th><th>23/03/2021</th><th></th><th>quarter/5</th><th>quarterly rolling mean +2 SD</th><th>21/06/2020</th><th>5 year mean 21/06/2015</th><th>year/5 year</th><th>rolling mean +2</th></t<>	Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	АСТ	NSW	Ť	old	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	period 07/06/2021	reporting Period 24/05/2021	reporting period last year 07/06/2020	YTD 01/01/2021	23/03/2021		quarter/5	quarterly rolling mean +2 SD	21/06/2020	5 year mean 21/06/2015	year/5 year	rolling mean +2	
		Hoppetitic P. (powly acquired)	020														25.0	0.4				0.6		
Image: Sector				- 3		-		- 4						-	-							-	-	
image    image <th< td=""><td>Bloodborne diseases</td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></th<>	Bloodborne diseases			1		-	3	-	-		2	-							-					
Image    Image <th< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td>102</td><td>4</td><td>154</td><td>-</td><td>11</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>369</td><td></td><td></td><td>,</td><td>,</td><td></td><td></td><td>,</td><td>,</td><td></td><td>-</td></th<>				2	102	4	154	-	11				369			,	,			,	,		-	
				-	-	-	- 1	-	-				-		1	-		1.2					-	
				24		7			21		92	,			,	· · · · ·	,				,		-	
				-		- 6	25	- 3	-		3				1	1	,				,			
Image: Section of the sectio				-		-	1	-	-						7							-		
Image    Image <th< td=""><td>Gastrointestinal diseases</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></th<>	Gastrointestinal diseases				-		-	-	-		-			1	5					3				
Image: Sector	Gasti Onitestinai diseases				-	-	-		-		1		1	- 1	1				-					
					4	-	-	8	-		5		25		304	137		1.2		556				
Import    Import<				5					3		24				,		,		-				-	
Image    Image <th< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>- 4</td><td>- 1</td><td>- 2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>- 4</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>232</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td></th<>				-	3	- 4	- 1	- 2	-	-	- 4				232				-			-	-	
Barcon    Bi    Bi   Bi    Bi <th< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>076</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td></th<>			076	-		-	-	-	-		-		-			-	-			-	-			
Image: Part and series and serie				-	56	2	33		-		6													
Image: state					-	-		-	-				1					-				-		
Image: state	Quarantinable diseases			-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
Image    Image <th< td=""><td rowspan="3">Quarantinable diseases</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></th<>	Quarantinable diseases							-																
Image: Proper temp    Image: Propertemp    Image: Proper temp    Image: P							-	-	-															
Head    Head <th< td=""><td>Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)</td><td>036</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>· -</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td></th<>		Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	036	-	-	-	· -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
Beam    Bio    Bio <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>- 00</td> <td>- 020</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>I</td> <td></td> <td>0.0</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>0.0</td> <td></td>					-	- 00	- 020	-	-							I		0.0			-	0.0		
intender				-		- 90	- 939	- 190	- 32						-			0.8				0.9		
http:    http: <th< td=""><td rowspan="2"></td><td>Gonococcal infection</td><td></td><td>17</td><td></td><td>62</td><td></td><td>59</td><td>6</td><td></td><td>128</td><td>· · · · ·</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>,</td><td>1.0</td><td>-</td><td>, i</td><td>,</td><td>1.0</td><td>-</td></th<>		Gonococcal infection		17		62		59	6		128	· · · · ·					,	1.0	-	, i	,	1.0	-	
Image    Image <th< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>8</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td></th<>				1				8	-		42												-	
Image    Image <th< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>- 4</td><td>- 4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>- 9</td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>0.9</td></th<>				-	-	- 4	- 4	-	-		- 9			2	8	1							0.9	
Interfactor    No    No <				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1	-					-				-	
Image: Part of the sector of the se					1	-	- 86	-	- 2		1		-	1 89										
Price    Pric    Price    Price				-	÷	-	-	-	-		-		1								,			
Vacche generation    06    0				-		-	-	-	-		1	-		5								-		
Vacuation    Open    Open   Open    Open  <				1		- 4		1	- 2								,						-	
Median    OP    I </td <td rowspan="6">diseases</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>017</td> <td>-</td>	diseases			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1			1	-				-	-	017	-	
Index organization    Index o				-		2		6	-		6	-			1						/		-	
Introde    Org				-		-		-					1		1	1		0.3					-	
head    head <th< td=""><td>-</td><td>033</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td>3.8</td><td></td><td>1.0</td></th<>		-	033	-	-	-	-			-		-	-	-	3				-		3.8		1.0	
Varielize outer (unspecified)    0.9    5    N.M    6    3.4    9.8    9.0    9.6    9.423    7.92    9.429    3.408.0    1.0    5.243    1.11.2						-	1																	
Image for the subscription    Image for the subscriptic subscriptic subscription    Image for the subsc																							-	
Degewins infection    003    0.0		Barmah Forest virus infection			2	-			-				16	52			147.4							
Vectory method    1    0   <															2	1							-	
Malaria    020    -	Vectorborne diseases														3	1					,		-	
Marry Valley neephalitis virus infection    Odd    I <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td>						1	-		-						1					-			-	
Ros River virus infection    000    1    1    5    6.3    1 <th1< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td><u>  -  </u></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td></th1<>						-	<u>  -  </u>	-	-														-	
Antrax    Obs    ·· </td <td></td> <td>Ross River virus infection</td> <td>002</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td>63</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2,088.2</td> <td>0.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4,740.0</td> <td></td> <td>-</td>		Ross River virus infection	002			5	63		-								2,088.2	0.5			4,740.0		-	
Austrain spread    Austrain spread    Out    Out   Out </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td>				-		-		-							1	1		-				-	-	
Bacelosis    Ond						-		-					1		1								-	
Zonose    Lysavirus infection (NEC)    06    - </td <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2.4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1.1</td> <td></td>												1		1				2.4				1.1		
Ornithosis    O23    -    -    -    -    -    -    -    -    -    -    -    2    3    12    6    6.6    0.9    -    5.4    2.1    2.5    14.6      Q fever    027    0    6    -    16    -    1    2    25    18    20    272    145    125.6    1.2    1.4    473    546.0    0.9    -    1.4	Zoonoses	· · ·			3		5		-									3.1				1.8	60.7	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$					-	-			-									0.9				2.5	- 14.6	
begin black    015    0-			027		6	-	16		-					-										
Deprosy    Offic    - <th< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td></th<>						-																	-	
American information    Operation		Lenrosy			- 3	-		-	-						282								-	
	Other bacterial infections	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022		1	-		1	1			6			41	24	43.6			86	256.0	0.3	-	
		Tuberculosis	034	- 162	24 2,145	- 240	÷ .	2 589	_		4	52 8,003	52 8,558	51 8,793	668 110,361	358 54,788	339.2	1.1	-	1,588 247,460	1,432.0	1.1	-	

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 (23/06/2021). 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.