

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 05, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
1 March to 14 March 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 non-Indigenous women 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, 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 non-Indigenous women

Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in non-Indigenous women 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.

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 (15/12/2020 to 14/03/2021).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 14/03/2021. 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 (15/03/2020 to 14/03/2021).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 14/03/2021. 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 FN05/2021			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		
			01/03/2021 14/03/2021	15/02/2021 28/02/2021	01/03/2020 14/03/2020	01/01/2021 14/03/2021	15/12/2020 14/03/2021	15/12/2020 14/03/2021	15/12/2020 14/03/2021	15/03/2020 14/03/2021	15/03/2015 14/03/2020													
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	3	7	16	20	37.8	0.5	-	111	151.6	0.7	-		
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	1	78	-	31	1	-	-	43	146	300	160	223	954	1,129	1,357.8	0.8	-	4,836	5,976.2	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	1	1	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	33	28	25	146	169	170.4	1.0	-	668	720.6	0.9	-	
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	3	128	2	64	-	-	-	7	60	46	310	253	330	1,439	1,705	2,274.6	0.7	-	7,209	9,774.6	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	1	17	19	15.0	1.3	0.5	74	67.4	1.1	-	
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.8	2.5	-	2	1.2	1.7	-		
	Campylobacteriosis	005	37	488	16	487	89	39	114	99	1,369	1,614	1,433	8,079	9,657	8,353.8	1.2	-	31,447	29,510.2	1.1	-		
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	25	6	21	1	-	-	8	5	66	131	330	458	509	1,420.8	0.4	-	1,669	4,041.2	0.4	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	3	4.0	0.8	-	15	16.2	0.9	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	9	5	5	77.0	0.1	-	49	240.6	0.2	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	15.4	-	-	16	47.8	0.3	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	10	15	22.8	0.7	-	46	69.6	0.7	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	37.4	-	-	11	87.4	0.1	-	
	STEC	054	1	7	-	5	16	-	-	7	8	45	27	36	153	183	153.4	1.2	-	514	473.2	1.1	-	
	Salmonellosis	030	11	191	15	268	24	12	42	51	614	557	831	3,356	3,960	5,384.4	0.7	-	10,317	16,063.6	0.6	-		
	Shigellosis	031	-	3	8	4	1	-	-	-	2	18	21	163	109	135	654.6	0.2	-	819	2,107.6	0.4	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	2	2	62.0	0.0	-	38	153.2	0.2	-	
	Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COVID-19		081	5	65	-	53	18	-	2	13	156	85	275	756	1,133	60.0	18.9	804.7	28,992	71.2	407.2	28,602.4		
Cholera		008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	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	48	1,175	62	1,001	218	42	72	501	3,119	3,317	4,280	16,090	19,353	25,424.2	0.8	-	83,996	100,254.6	0.8	-		
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Gonococcal infection	011	17	325	51	241	58	5	189	100	986	1,162	1,276	5,563	6,579	7,512.4	0.9	-	27,605	28,018.6	1.0	-		
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	21	5	26	4	-	41	37	134	200	217	949	1,145	1,122.4	1.0	-	5,028	4,446.8	1.1	-		
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	5	1	8	1	-	46	6	68	57	96	344	421	514.2	0.8	-	1,876	2,192.6	0.9	-		
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	6	1.0	6.0	1.5	18	7.0	2.6	4.7		
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2.2	1.4	-	8	7.6	1.1	-		
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	3	5.0	0.6	-	18	19.4	0.9	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	3	3	21	3	-	9	1	40	25	4,030	156	196	12,661.4	0.0	-	4,009	166,123.4	0.0	-		
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	33.6	-	-	-	129.4	-	-		
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	16	7	7	165.4	0.0	-	75	622.8	0.1	-		
	Pertussis	024	1	-	-	8	2	-	16	3	30	23	381	122	143	3,767.0	0.0	-	1,733	15,746.0	0.1	-		
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	18	2	7	7	2	7	1	45	40	45	180	237	276.0	0.9	-	1,036	1,899.2	0.5	-		
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	-	10	2	17	7	-	NN	7	45	35	105	209	261	857.4	0.3	-	1,084	4,763.2	0.2	-		
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	4.0	0.5	-	3	13.8	0.2	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	0.8	3.8	1.3	7	4.0	1.8	-		
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	12	NN	-	-	13	-	14	5	44	48	157	273	361	795.0	0.5	-	2,294	3,604.2	0.6	-		
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	17	NN	13	2	63	10	56	64	225	298	651	1,601	1,976	2,963.2	0.7	-	13,024	10,962.4	1.2	-		
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	2	NN	1	403	58	10	3	117	594	583	527	3,730	4,719	3,362.2	1.4	349.2	15,165	14,233.4	1.1	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	2	-	15	-	-	-	-	17	20	29	91	106	93.4	1.1	-	735	386.6	1.9	121.6		
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	2	21.4	0.1	-	6	87.6	0.1	-		
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	40	2	2	369.0	0.0	-	83	1,414.0	0.1	-		
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	9.8	0.3	-	12	33.2	0.4	-		
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	1.2	-	-		
	Malaria	020	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	21	8	9	96.4	0.1	-	81	345.2	0.2	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-		
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	40	7	43	2	1	61	39	193	246	97	1,288	1,448	1,300.4	1.1	-	7,149	4,490.0	1.6	-		
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	-		
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	6.0	0.5	-	16	19.2	0.8	-		
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	1	8	10	4	53	56	32.4	1.7	10.7	124	116.0	1.1	-		
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	4.4	1.6	-	63	18.6	3.4	32.5		
	Q fever	027	-	9	-	16	2	-	1	-	28	26	24	103	113	136.4	0.8	-	451	547.8	0.8	-		
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2.0	
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	6	1	5	3	-	6	3	24	19	26	120	157	105.6	1.5	6.4	543	407.2	1.3	41.2		
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	6	11.8	0.5	-		
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	4	12	18	49.0	0.4	-	76	262.8	0.3	-		
	Tuberculosis	034	1	14	-	4	-	-	18	5	42	48	69	260	329	346.0	1.0	-	1,568	1,419.8	1.1	-		
			159	2,622	197	2,792	592	128	819	1,264	8,576	9,054	15,799	46,687	56,314				254,727					

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 is 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 16/03/2021. 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.