

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 21, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
10 October to 25 October 2020

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 (28/07/2020 to 25/10/2020).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 25/10/2020. 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 (27/10/2019 to 25/10/2020).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 25/10/2020. 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 FN21/2020			State or Territory									Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	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	
											10/10/2020 25/10/2020	26/09/2020 11/10/2020	10/10/2019 25/10/2019	01/01/2020 25/10/2020	28/07/2020 25/10/2020				26/10/2019 25/10/2020	26/10/2014 25/10/2019			
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	9	85	15	35.8	0.4	-	112	152.8	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	78	-	33	3	-	27	30	174	164	288	4,100	1,174	1,516.6	0.8	-	4,996	6,042.8	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	1	-	18	-	-	-	-	19	25	50	549	149	181.0	0.8	-	745	706.2	1.1	-	
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	9	104	4	72	5	8	47	39	288	268	366	5,970	1,798	2,343.8	0.8	-	7,374	9,876.6	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis D	050	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	5	3	7	59	27	19.8	1.4	-	68	68.0	1.0	-	
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	44	468	10	326	184	24	195	128	1,379	1,224	2,014	24,253	7,346	6,957.4	1.1	-	31,684	28,145.2	1.1	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	6	1	10	10	4	11	6	48	54	97	2,220	254	488.4	0.5	-	2,745	3,943.0	0.7	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	13	5	4.0	1.3	-	15	16.0	0.9	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	13	90	7	48.8	0.1	-	136	243.8	0.6	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	31	2	9.0	0.2	-	39	45.6	0.9	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	32	10	15.0	0.7	-	39	72.0	0.5	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	45	-	11.8	-	-	61	81.8	0.7	-	
	STEC	054	-	4	-	2	7	-	2	3	18	19	48	458	100	97.6	1.0	-	603	408.4	1.5	-	
	Salmonellosis	030	1	69	19	75	36	5	51	60	316	261	678	10,203	1,552	2,704.6	0.6	-	13,048	16,154.4	0.8	-	
	Shigellosis	031	-	9	3	8	1	-	-	3	24	30	139	1,525	181	478.0	0.4	-	2,049	1,903.2	1.1	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	90	2	27.8	0.1	-	115	146.0	0.8	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	COVID-19	081	1	117	-	7	15	-	78	65	283	269	-	27,589	12,396	-	-	12,396.0	27,589	-	-	27,589.0	
	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	61	1,205	75	989	244	54	31	490	3,149	2,741	4,409	61,337	17,815	23,613.8	0.8	-	76,435	98,435.0	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	6	417	52	240	72	3	76	151	1,017	1,023	1,609	25,008	6,526	6,613.6	1.0	-	30,978	26,579.8	1.2	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	29	6	30	3	1	27	32	128	160	288	4,159	1,084	1,111.6	1.0	-	5,206	4,169.6	1.2	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	6	2	8	1	-	26	6	50	57	111	1,715	433	541.6	0.8	-	2,129	2,159.8	1.0	-	
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	4	2.6	1.5	-	16	5.8	2.8	6.4	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	2.0	0.5	-	7	7.2	1.0	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	16	5	4.2	1.2	-	18	19.0	0.9	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	3	1	2	1	-	1	2	11	23	4,190	21,760	273	96,161.8	0.0	-	30,940	162,009.4	0.2	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	32	-	35.6	-	-	76	123.8	0.6	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	140	15	148.6	0.1	-	178	612.6	0.3	-	
	Pertussis	024	-	2	-	1	2	1	4	1	11	17	520	3,567	159	4,150.4	0.0	-	6,048	16,150.4	0.4	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	9	-	9	5	-	1	10	34	43	113	916	283	665.2	0.4	-	1,261	1,859.4	0.7	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	1	9	2	9	8	3	NN	5	42	48	537	1,572	252	1,773.4	0.1	-	3,596	4,412.4	0.8	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2.8	-	-	2	15.8	0.1	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	0.8	1.3	-	3	4.0	0.8	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	8	NN	3	1	18	1	10	27	68	72	227	2,106	597	1,060.6	0.6	-	3,023	3,449.4	0.9	-	
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	25	NN	12	1	108	14	42	58	260	356	853	12,296	3,035	2,633.8	1.2	-	15,423	10,082.2	1.5	-	
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	4	NN	4	476	42	23	1	158	708	834	558	10,687	4,042	3,420.2	1.2	-	12,721	14,334.2	0.9	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	6	-	14	1	-	-	1	22	20	8	637	137	65.2	2.1	32.3	672	408.2	1.6	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	38	2	22.8	0.1	-	60	95.2	0.6	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	225	1	260.6	0.0	-	430	1,498.2	0.3	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	9	2	7.8	0.3	-	10	32.6	0.3	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.4	-	-	2	1.2	1.7	-	
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	15	155	13	89.4	0.1	-	228	335.0	0.7	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	17	2	39	2	-	1	21	82	61	107	5,600	420	558.6	0.8	-	5,888	5,466.8	1.1	-	
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										

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.