

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 19, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
12 September to 25 September 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 <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-infectious-syphilis-outbreak.htm>

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 (28/06/2020 to 25/09/2020).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 25/09/2020. 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 (26/09/2019 to 25/09/2020).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 25/09/2020. 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 FN19/2020			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
											12/09/2020	29/08/2020	12/09/2019	01/01/2020	28/06/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	26/09/2019	26/09/2014	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	79	18	36.4	0.5	-	121	153.0	0.8	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	57	-	46	1	2	34	18	161	173	227	3,766	1,270	1,519.4	0.8	-	5,155	6,046.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	2	-	-	8	-	-	5	1	16	38	26	504	156	172.4	0.9	-	792	701.6	1.1	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	4	121	2	79	-	5	33	32	276	283	345	5,419	1,796	2,361.2	0.8	-	7,456	9,900.8	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	50	25	17.4	1.4	-	68	67.2	1.0	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	1.4	-	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	18	272	17	298	119	47	223	125	1,119	1,093	1,405	21,659	6,870	6,563.0	1.0	-	32,451	27,800.2	1.2	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	9	-	6	3	3	14	4	39	46	60	2,117	226	503.2	0.4	-	2,792	3,938.8	0.7	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	3.6	1.7	-	16	16.4	1.0	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	87	4	44.2	0.1	-	152	246.8	0.6	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	30	1	10.2	0.1	-	41	45.2	0.9	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	29	13	12.0	1.1	-	39	72.2	0.5	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	45	-	11.6	-	-	66	80.6	0.6	-
	STEC	054	-	1	-	1	6	-	2	2	12	15	12	421	92	84.4	1.1	-	633	396.4	1.8	-
	Salmonellosis	030	2	47	12	78	19	2	41	59	260	249	415	9,641	1,523	2,662.8	0.6	-	13,647	16,103.0	0.8	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	14	3	4	1	-	1	2	25	27	83	1,472	205	477.2	0.4	-	2,235	1,876.0	1.2	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	90	5	24.4	0.2	-	123	146.2	0.8	-
	Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COVID-19		081	-	60	-	6	2	-	343	9	420	1,095	-	27,074	19,184	-	-	19,184.0	27,074	-	-	27,074.0
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	45	941	39	895	197	39	59	383	2,598	2,697	4,040	55,439	17,651	24,017.8	0.7	-	78,204	98,247.6	0.8	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	12	378	30	250	69	3	109	120	971	1,026	1,276	22,831	6,648	6,648.4	1.0	-	31,548	26,284.0	1.2	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	36	14	19	5	-	31	29	134	156	242	3,756	1,067	1,097.0	1.0	-	5,289	4,104.0	1.3	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	2	1	3	1	-	25	7	39	86	104	1,573	443	542.6	0.8	-	2,221	2,144.0	1.0	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	2	2.4	0.8	-	15	6.0	2.5	5.3
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	2	1.6	1.3	-	8	7.0	1.1	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	15	7	5.6	1.3	-	18	19.0	0.9	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	24	-	11	-	-	1	2	39	38	15,115	21,708	459	104,868.6	0.0	-	42,409	161,590.4	0.3	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	32	-	24.8	-	-	138	113.2	1.2	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	7	7	131	15	148.8	0.1	-	180	612.8	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	1	5	1	1	3	-	12	1	24	24	550	3,536	307	3,777.4	0.1	-	6,930	16,208.6	0.4	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	5	1	14	4	-	2	3	30	46	125	836	330	718.2	0.5	-	1,384	1,850.8	0.7	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rotavirus	077	-	9	-	4	13	1	NN	4	40	37	525	1,481	271	1,426.0	0.2	-	4,470	4,311.2	1.0	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2.6	0.4	-	3	15.8	0.2	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	0.8	-	-	2	4.0	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	6	NN	5	-	26	-	11	28	76	80	210	1,860	533	1,007.6	0.5	-	3,167	3,405.0	0.9	-
Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	19	NN	12	1	77	-	83	68	260	317	635	10,929	2,969	2,536.4	1.2	-	15,532	9,864.8	1.6	-	
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	6	NN	7	430	70	19	201	114	847	901	458	9,940	4,289	3,548.2	1.2	-	12,968	14,354.4	0.9	-	
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	5	-	9	1	-	-	1	16	19	3	592	167	67.2	2.5	56.0	646	412.4	1.6	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	37	2	20.2	0.1	-	67	93.6	0.7	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	223	2	288.4	0.0	-	514	1,496.8	0.3	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	1	7.2	0.1	-	18	32.4	0.6	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.4	-	-	2	1.2	1.7	-
	Malaria	020	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	5	2	13	133	13	94.2	0.1	-	236	332.4	0.7	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	11	1	35	2	-	-	13	62	62	81	5,411	516	567.0	0.9	-	5,871	5,497.0	1.1	-
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	15	6	5.0	1.2	-	19	18.8	1.0	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	69	16	29.8	0.5	-	84	114.0	0.7	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	23	6	4.2	1.4	-	32	19.6	1.6	1.0
	Q fever	027	-	4	-	9	-	-	-	-	13	12	17	360	88	122.0	0.7	-	523	537.6	1.0	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2.0
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	6	-	-	1	1	-	2	10	10	34	361	78	83.2	0.9	-	492	401.4	1.2	10.6
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3.4	0.6	-	6	11.8	0.5	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	9	68	22	85.2	0.3	-	112	264.0	0.4	-
	Tuberculosis	034	1	28	2	5	-	-	10	4	50	67	69	1,089	377	353.2	1.1	-	1,516	1,397.8	1.1	-
			122	2,040	149	2,227	620	122	1,240	1,035	7,564	8,621	26,163	214,985	67,684				307,488			

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 **28/09/2020**. 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.