

**National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**  
**Fortnight 15, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases**  
**19 July to 01 August 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 [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 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 [Department's website](#).

### **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 (04/05/2021 to 01/08/2021).*

<sup>2</sup>*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 01/08/2021. 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 (02/08/2020 to 01/08/2021).*

<sup>4</sup>*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 01/08/2021. 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 FN15/2021			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	
			19/07/2021 01/08/2021	05/07/2021 18/07/2021	19/07/2020 01/08/2020	01/01/2020 01/08/2021	04/05/2021 01/08/2021	36.2	0.8	-	99	150.6	0.7	-									
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	4	58	30	36.2	0.8	-	99	150.6	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	5	49	-	28	2	2	54	16	156	129	193	2,705	1,128	1,469.0	0.8	-	4,717	5,857.6	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	23	308	59	168.0	0.4	-	571	712.8	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	7	99	2	82	2	6	69	45	312	252	311	4,357	1,936	2,285.4	0.8	-	7,393	9,621.0	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis D	050	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	5	2	49	22	16.6	1.3	-	85	68.0	1.3	-		
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	0.2	5.0	-	3	1.0	3.0	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	30	361	8	354	89	35	291	123	1,291	1,352	988	21,510	8,374	6,613.8	1.3	-	35,986	30,041.0	1.2	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	9	3	35	12	1	19	3	82	70	34	1,192	512	698.0	0.7	-	1,673	3,841.6	0.4	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	4.0	-	-	8	16.6	0.5	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	2	1	15	10	41.0	0.2	-	21	237.4	0.1	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	10	9	8.4	1.1	-	13	47.8	0.3	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	3	3	27	12	11.6	1.0	-	49	67.2	0.7	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	4	4	12.4	0.3	-	4	83.4	0.0	-	
	STEC	054	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	5	2	15	20	10	346	112	96.6	1.2	-	559	493.0	1.1	-
	Salmonellosis	030	9	61	12	70	15	3	38	18	226	256	223	7,188	1,963	3,034.0	0.6	-	10,472	15,526.4	0.7	-	
	Shigellosis	031	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	2	7	16	14	44	273	103	454.8	0.2	-	573	2,110.6	0.3	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	21.6	0.0	-	15	149.0	0.1	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	COVID-19	081	-	2,193	7	64	30	-	153	20	2,467	1,222	5,971	6,241	4,687	2,140.8	2.2	-	17,058	3,618.2	4.7	-	
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (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	57	819	94	914	171	45	374	448	2,922	2,933	3,329	49,017	19,946	24,520.6	0.8	-	84,459	100,374.4	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Gonococcal infection	011	14	206	67	212	39	7	264	107	916	953	1,041	16,372	6,711	7,181.8	0.9	-	27,296	28,687.4	1.0	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	28	7	36	7	-	63	32	173	187	170	3,257	1,368	1,186.0	1.2	-	5,382	4,639.8	1.2	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	3	1	-	1	-	27	4	36	47	76	1,016	371	542.0	0.7	-	1,844	2,181.8	0.8	-	
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	1	1.8	0.6	-	17	7.8	2.2	2.1	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	3	1.0	3.0	0.6	8	8.2	1.0	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	13	6	6.0	1.0	-	22	19.4	1.1	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	7	-	13	-	4	2	1	27	30	88	459	208	43,203.8	0.0	-	838	163,379.0	0.0	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.8	-	-	-	123.6	-	-	
	Mumps	043	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	13	3	131.0	0.0	-	34	603.8	0.1	-	
	Pertussis	024	-	1	-	7	-	-	14	-	22	15	58	348	151	2,412.6	0.1	-	588	14,700.2	0.0	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	3	19	2	15	8	2	10	10	69	77	54	863	507	543.6	0.9	-	1,349	1,854.2	0.7	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	-	8	1	19	6	1	NN	14	54	62	45	747	354	847.0	0.4	-	1,184	4,627.8	0.3	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3.4	-	-	2	13.2	0.2	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1.0	-	-	6	4.0	1.5	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	5	NN	3	3	11	-	10	13	45	83	109	1,206	499	802.2	0.6	-	2,568	3,597.8	0.7	-	
Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	21	NN	9	4	76	8	49	76	243	337	618	6,224	2,074	2,977.0	0.7	-	12,666	11,668.6	1.1	-		
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	2	NN	3	380	41	17	138	84	665	783	421	11,025	5,053	3,551.8	1.4	-	16,980	14,077.4	1.2	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	4	-	9	-	-	-	-	13	16	34	255	93	130.2	0.7	-	486	405.8	1.2	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	11.6	-	-	3	80.2	0.0	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	303.6	0.0	-	3	1,297.0	0.0	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	7.2	0.1	-	9	32.8	0.3	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.6	1.7	-	1	1.2	0.8	-	
	Malaria	020	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	6	2	3	28	16	72.6	0.2	-	48	341.6	0.1	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1.0	-	1	0.2	5.0	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	11	-	20	-	-	7	9	47	72	91	2,712	819	1,361.0	0.6	-	3,672	4,735.6	0.8	-	
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	7	4.0	1.8	-	18	19.0	0.9	-	
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	5	197	74	37.8	2.0	11.6	226	119.2	1.9	50.5	
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	15	8	6.6	1.2	-	51	22.8	2.2	6.1	
	Q fever	027	-	4	-	9	-	-	2	-	15	10	16	320	128	121.8	1.1	-	477	541.2	0.9	-	
Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.4	-	-		
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	6	-	-	1	-	4	2	13	8	15	322	106	101.4	1.0	-	535	421.8	1.3	-	
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	3	2.6	1.2	-	9	11.4	0.8	-	
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-											