

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 16, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

02 August to 15 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.

¹*The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (18/05/2021 to 15/08/2021).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 15/08/2021. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.*

³*The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (16/08/2020 to 15/08/2021).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 15/08/2021. 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 FN16/2021 [^]			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
											02/08/2021 15/08/2021	19/07/2021 01/08/2021	02/08/2020 15/08/2020	01/01/2020 15/08/2021	18/05/2021 15/08/2021					16/08/2020 15/08/2021	16/08/2015 15/08/2020	
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	2	3	61	26	37.8	0.7	-	100	150.8	0.7	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	45	-	43	2	1	54	18	166	161	199	2,882	1,106	1,453.8	0.8	-	4,692	5,846.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	1	26	25	21	465	179	166.8	1.1	-	707	711.0	1.0	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	3	71	3	55	1	8	52	25	218	290	273	4,425	1,739	2,260.6	0.8	-	7,179	9,598.4	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	5	52	22	18.0	1.2	-	83	69.2	1.2	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0.2	5.0	-	3	1.0	3.0	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	27	312	14	342	134	33	228	108	1,198	1,319	1,106	22,740	8,241	6,690.6	1.2	-	36,110	30,073.0	1.2	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	11	2	20	3	1	20	4	61	82	21	1,253	481	596.6	0.8	-	1,713	3,833.2	0.4	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	4.0	-	-	6	16.6	0.4	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	20	15	40.0	0.4	-	26	235.8	0.1	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	10	6	8.6	0.7	-	13	47.2	0.3	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	28	11	10.6	1.0	-	49	66.8	0.7	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	10.6	0.3	-	3	82.4	0.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	2	55	8	60	12	6	33	13	189	226	198	7,377	1,786	2,819.6	0.6	-	10,463	15,471.0	0.7	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	-	6	3	3	-	1	6	19	16	34	293	105	455.6	0.2	-	559	2,106.8	0.3	-
Quarantinable diseases	STE/C	054	-	4	-	-	6	-	-	7	17	15	17	363	115	96.4	1.2	-	559	495.8	1.1	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	8	3	20.2	0.1	-	17	148.8	0.1	-
Sexually transmissible infections	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-
	COVID-19	081	23	4,605	2	124	5	1	225	4	4,989	2,637	5,545	11,430	9,713	3,205.6	3.0	-	16,707	4,708.6	3.5	-
	Chlamydial infection	007	59	766	64	733	209	67	383	418	2,699	3,064	3,235	51,935	19,473	24,411.0	0.8	-	84,140	100,377.8	0.8	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	14	220	41	211	56	4	158	128	832	932	993	17,228	6,509	7,121.6	0.9	-	27,161	28,752.2	0.9	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	22	7	39	13	-	52	33	166	200	202	3,471	1,330	1,180.2	1.1	-	5,394	4,657.0	1.2	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	1	3	3	1	-	22	7	37	51	87	1,095	359	544.6	0.7	-	1,837	2,181.0	0.8	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	2	2.0	1.0	-	18	7.8	2.3	4.0
	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1.6	1.9	0.3	8	8.2	1.0	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	13	6	5.8	1.0	-	21	18.8	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	3	8	4	3	5	3	-	27	28	73	484	205	55,660.4	0.0	-	790	160,943.8	0.0	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.8	-	-	-	123.6	-	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	13	3	130.2	0.0	-	33	596.4	0.1	-
	Pertussis	024	-	2	-	6	-	-	13	3	24	22	33	373	153	2,434.4	0.1	-	580	14,532.4	0.0	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	15	-	19	1	3	9	8	55	71	64	917	503	598.0	0.8	-	1,339	1,845.0	0.7	-
Vectorborne diseases	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rotavirus	077	-	5	5	15	9	-	3	12	49	58	40	802	363	869.8	0.4	-	1,199	4,600.2	0.3	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3.2	-	-	2	12.8	0.2	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1.0	-	-	6	4.0	1.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	5	-	-	1	11	1	14	16	48	59	98	1,278	492	861.8	0.6	-	2,542	3,595.4	0.7	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	20	-	11	2	98	12	85	86	314	306	601	6,640	2,129	3,004.6	0.7	-	12,482	11,741.6	1.1	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	4	-	3	325	52	21	295	104	804	869	528	12,071	5,285	3,544.8	1.5	96.0	17,497	14,079.2	1.2	-
	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	-	6	-	-	-	1	10	13	27	265	84	118.4	0.7	-	469	408.2	1.1	-
	Zoonoses	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	NN	-	-	-	1	2	-	13.8	-	-	2	79.8	0.0
Dengue virus infection		003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	286.6	0.0	-	3	1,291.2	0.0	-
Flavivirus infection (unspecified)		001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	8.0	0.1	-	8	32.6	0.2	-
Japanese encephalitis virus infection		059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.6	1.7	-	1	1.2	0.8	-
Malaria		020	-	NN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	28	14	74.0	0.2	-	48	340.6	0.1	-
Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection		049	-	NN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1.0	-	1	0.2	5.0	-
Ross River virus infection		002	-	NN	2	18	-	-	7	8	48	49	60	2,762	673	1,033.8	0.7	-	3,662	4,724.6	0.8	-
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection		060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
Other notifiable diseases	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	6	4.8	1.3	-	17	19.4	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	203	55	36.2	1.5	-	232	118.2	2.0	45.9
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	16	6	6.8	0.9	-	51	23.0	2.2	6.2
	Q fever	027	-	2	-	5	1	-	-	-	8	15	13	330	111	121.6	0.9	-	474	540.8	0.9	-
Other notifiable diseases	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.4	-	-
	iGAS	082	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	25	13	-	64	62	-	62.0	-	64	-	-	64.0
	Legionellosis	015	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	13	11	329	93	93.0	1.0	-	531	421.0	1.3	-
	Leptosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	6	4	2.8	1.4	-	9	11.0	0.8	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	45	16	62.2	0.3	-	73	252.8	0.3	-
RSV	083	-	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	54	87	-	234	234	-	234.0	-	234	-	-	234.0	
Tuberculosis	034	1	19	1	10	-	-	16	4	51	47	58	908	357	351.6	1.0	-	1,587	1,445.4	1.1	-	
			162	6,168	181	2,157	620	164	1,678	1,018	12,161	10,699	13,559	152,965	62,086				241,504			

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

[^] Diseases which have had no notifications in the previous five years have not been included in this report.

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 (17/08/2021). 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.