

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 11, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
23 May to 5 June 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 (08/03/2020 to 05/06/2020).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 05/06/2020. 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 (06/06/2019 to 05/06/2020).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 05/06/2020. 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 FN11/2020			Notification received date																				
			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	
			23/05/2020 05/06/2020	09/05/2020 22/05/2020	23/05/2019 05/06/2019	01/01/2020 05/06/2020	08/03/2020 05/06/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	06/06/2019 05/06/2020	06/06/2014 05/06/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by									
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	6	8	51	30	39.6	0.8	-	141	153.4	0.9	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	2	87	3	34	2	4	60	22	214	182	234	2,166	1,119	1,556.4	0.7	-	5,324	6,111.4	0.9	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	1	1	-	20	-	-	-	-	5	27	31	31	291	157	170.0	0.9	-	809	699.8	1.2	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	7	132	2	70	1	6	45	32	295	307	334	3,241	1,772	2,516.6	0.7	-	7,958	9,967.8	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	20	7	15.0	0.5	-	58	67.4	0.9	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.2	0.8	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	23	243	9	272	106	30	103	83	869	917	1,171	13,172	5,640	6,141.6	0.9	-	34,098	26,934.0	1.3	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	9	1	9	5	2	35	3	64	71	91	1,845	798	1,433.6	0.6	-	3,022	3,954.0	0.8	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	5	3	4.4	0.7	-	14	15.8	0.9	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	83	42	63.6	0.7	-	205	242.6	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	29	17	11.6	1.5	-	57	47.2	1.2	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	7	14.6	0.5	-	43	73.2	0.6	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	45	13	21.0	0.6	-	80	80.6	1.0	-	
	STEC	054	-	5	-	-	4	-	-	2	2	13	15	24	305	113	100.2	1.1	-	664	376.6	1.8	-
	Salmonellosis	030	4	76	13	95	20	3	46	52	309	493	511	7,599	2,932	4,630.4	0.6	-	14,752	16,176.0	0.9	-	
	Shigellosis	031	-	2	1	8	4	-	3	10	28	27	131	1,228	357	441.2	0.8	-	2,810	1,770.0	1.6	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	85	30	41.6	0.7	-	166	142.2	1.2	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	COVID-19	081	-	28	-	3	1	-	78	41	151	141	-	7,461	7,363	-	-	7,363.0	7,461	-	-	7,461.0	
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	
	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	41	872	52	888	215	41	1	403	2,513	2,511	4,236	33,126	16,358	25,310.2	0.6	-	88,621	96,889.0	0.9	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Gonococcal infection	011	12	308	16	280	48	4	61	135	864	890	1,428	13,766	6,728	6,775.2	1.0	-	32,895	25,106.4	1.3	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	3	33	13	33	2	-	12	30	126	147	218	1,956	922	1,027.2	0.9	-	5,322	3,865.2	1.4	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	5	1	4	-	-	66	6	82	120	98	1,186	734	546.0	1.3	63.3	2,644	2,090.4	1.3	185.0	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	7	3	1.4	2.1	-	12	5.8	2.1	2.9	
	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1.0	1.0	-	8	6.8	1.2	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	1	3.2	0.3	-	19	18.8	1.0	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	17	4	22	14	1	36	8	102	141	16,963	21,102	5,172	17,796.2	0.3	-	257,899	128,348.0	2.0	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	32	-	43.4	-	-	183	122.4	1.5	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	13	100	33	143.2	0.2	-	190	615.4	0.3	-	
	Pertussis	024	-	28	-	15	19	2	38	7	109	100	456	3,118	1,240	3,163.6	0.4	-	10,148	16,150.2	0.6	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	4	3	3	2	-	2	6	20	20	84	435	191	356.6	0.5	-	1,921	1,802.6	1.1	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	4	11	-	6	12	1	NN	11	45	36	96	1,135	279	675.4	0.4	-	6,131	4,061.4	1.5	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4.6	-	-	5	16.2	0.3	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.4	-	-	2	3.8	0.5	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	1	NN	1	-	6	1	6	23	38	37	122	988	337	691.6	0.5	-	3,873	3,218.0	1.2	-	
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	15	NN	18	-	91	4	56	91	275	285	471	5,204	2,091	2,457.6	0.9	-	14,617	9,224.4	1.6	-	
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	7	NN	2	388	46	15	-	64	522	488	591	6,277	4,004	3,498.2	1.1	-	13,103	14,311.0	0.9	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	16	-	24	-	-	-	-	40	64	14	339	254	146.4	1.7	-	457	427.6	1.1	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	34	3	16.6	0.2	-	90	94.6	1.0	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	68	217	70	444.8	0.2	-	941	1,501.6	0.6	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	12	10	8.6	1.2	-	23	31.2	0.7	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.2	-	-	4	1.0	4.0	0.6	
	Malaria	020	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	12	116	38	70.6	0.5	-	345	329.2	1.0	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	208	2	335	2	1	-	16	564	894	192	4,279	4,023	2,061.6	2.0	-	5,597	5,560.0	1.0	-	
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	2	1.4	1.4	-		
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Bruceellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	4	3.4	1.2	-	15	19.8	0.8	-	
	Leptospirosis	017	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	5	5	5	49	26	33.0	0.8	-	88	115.8	0.8	-	
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Ornithosis	023	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	12	11	3.2	3.4	3.5	26	21.0	1.2	-	
	Q fever	027	-	9	-	8	1	-	-	1	19	32	21	230	122	136.0	0.9	-	525	539.0	1.0	-	
Tularaemia	070	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	2.0	2	-	-	2.0		
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	4	-	2	3	-	5	8	22	30	10	262	166	101.0	1.6	43.3	530	397.6	1.3	76.4	
	Leprosy	016	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2.2	0.5	-	8				