National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 24, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

23 November to 06 December 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 (08/09/2020 to 06/12/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 06/12/2020. 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 (07/12/2019 to 22/11/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 06/12/2020. 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 FN24/2020

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 23/11/2020 06/12/2020	Previous reporting Period 09/11/2020 22/11/2020	Same reporting period last year 23/11/2019 06/12/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2020 06/12/2020	Past Quarter 08/09/2020 06/12/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 07/12/2019 06/12/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 07/12/2014 06/12/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	4	10	6	104	25	33.6	0.7	-	115	153.4	0.7	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	1	83	-	27	3	1	42	14	171	205	208	4,691	1,172	1,477.4	0.8	-	4,979	6,007.6	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	1	-	16	2	1	-	2	21	17	45	622	150	199.4	0.8	-	685	716.4	1.0	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	4	101	3	75	-	2	42	53	281	279	318	6,935	1,819	2,406.4	0.8	-	7,431	9,842.6	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	64	20	18.0	1.1	-	68	68.4	1.0	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.4	-	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	46	499	18	305	85	76	56	151	1,236	1,609	1,678	28,688	8,494	7,862.0	1.1	-	31,185	28,601.2	1.1	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	17	6	12	-	1	10	1	47	52	135	2,370	301	625.8	0.5	-	2,560	3,977.0	0.6	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	15	3	4.4	0.7	-	15	16.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	91	4	50.4	0.1	-	110	244.8	0.4	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	32	1	9.0	0.1	-	34	45.8	0.7	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	1	40	13	16.4	0.8	-	40	71.8	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	45	-	16.0	-	-	51	82.4	0.6	-
	STEC	054	-	10	-	3	-	-	6	2	21	21	32	528	125	120.2	1.0	-	583	427.2	1.4	-
	Salmonellosis	030	2	86	8	128	8	12	47	51	342	305	624	11,195	1,890	3,141.4	0.6	-	12,277	16,147.4	0.8	-
	Shigellosis	031	1	9	4	13	1	-	-	6	34	39	124	1,624	189	491.2	0.4	-	1,802	1,953.4	0.9	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	1	-	97	7	27.0	0.3	-	109	146.8	0.7	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	2	78	16	18	6	-	-	32	145	161	-	28,041	1,620	-		1,620.0	28,041	-		28,041.0
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	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	49	1,023	50	876	164	61	-	414	2,637	2,714	3,855	69,739	17,745	23,798.4	0.7	-	74,742	98,850.0	0.8	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	10	335	50	196	70	1	127	127	916	967	1,343	27,939	6,310	6,663.8	0.9	-	29,920	27,015.4	1.1	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	4	31	12	30	3	-	46	21	146	180	243	4,835	1,180	1,117.2	1.1	-	5,162	4,269.8	1.2	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	10	2	5	1	-	31	3	53	65	108	1,908	410	548.2	0.7	-	2,025	2,175.0	0.9	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	15	4	2.4	1.7	-	16	6.0	2.7	4.2
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	2.4	0.4	-	5	7.4	0.7	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	20	7	4.0	1.8	1.0	20	18.6	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	10	-	11	2	2	7	4	36	36	1,944	21,851	175	41,439.8	0.0	-	25,150	162,589.0	0.2	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	32	-	35.0	-	-	40	128.6	0.3	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	150	14	148.2	0.1	-	165	615.0	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	-	4	-	5	-	1	17	3	30	24	566	3,634	124	4,886.4	0.0	-	4,480	16,070.0	0.3	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	15	1	6	8	-	7	7	45	46	75	1,044	251	527.0	0.5	-	1,159	1,872.2	0.6	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	1	6	2	14	1	-	NN	5	31	33	557	1,682	251	1,939.8	0.1	-	2,320	4,590.8	0.5	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2.0	-	-	2	15.4	0.1	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1.0	1.0	-	4	3.6	1.1	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	6	NN	1	-	26	6	14	26	73	97	218	2,546	728	1,071.6	0.7	-	2,805	3,526.0	0.8	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	25	NN	18	2	89	14	55	66	249	362	731	14,077	3,020	2,776.8	1.1	-	15,104	10,382.6	1.5	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	5	NN	7	449	45	19	1	91	643	775	474	12,160	4,086	3,518.8	1.2	-	12,866	14,289.4	0.9	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	6	-	24	-	-	-	-	30	27	8	719	148	67.8	2.2	39.6	727	404.4	1.8	24.2
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	41	-	29.0	-	-	51	93.8	0.5	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	249	-	275.4	-	-	303	1,508.8	0.2	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	12	4	7.8	0.5	-	12	32.8	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	17	159	13	86.0	0.2	-	178	340.6	0.5	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	22	8	29	4	-	2	54	119	122	66	5,935	547	600.4	0.9	-	6,016	5,366.6	1.1	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	17	3	4.8	0.6	-	17	19.0	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	2	3	87	22	15.0	1.5	-	92	113.8	0.8	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	42	18	7.4	2.4	2.8	44	18.6	2.4	11.9
	Q fever	027	-	7	-	4	-	-	1	-	12	18	30	453	101	143.6	0.7	-	485	547.0	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-		-	2	-		2.0
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	4	-	2	2	-	6	8	22	18	28	464	118	112.2	1.1	-	492	403.0	1.2	6.2
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	2	4.0	0.5	-	6	12.2	0.5	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	83	17	82.2	0.2	-	93	261.8	0.4	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	35	-	11	2	1	15	7	71	60	77	1,456	412	375.0	1.1	-	1,557	1,403.4	1.1	-
			158	2,399	207	2,271	522	198	535	1,155	7,440	8,256	13,620	256,550	51,545				276,146			

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 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 **(09/12/2020)**. 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.