National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 09, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

26 April to 09 May 2021

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 women (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) 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 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 Vic and NSW.

Increases among women (Indigenous and non-Indigenous)

Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in women (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) 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.

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 (09/02/2021 to 09/05/2021).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 09/05/2021. 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 (10/05/2020 to 09/05/2021).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 09/05/2021. 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 FN09/2021

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 26/04/2021 09/05/2021	Previous reporting Period 12/04/2021 25/04/2021	Same reporting period last year 26/04/2020 09/05/2020	Current year YTD 01/01/2021 09/05/2021	Past Quarter 09/02/2021 09/05/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 10/05/2020 09/05/2021	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 10/05/2015 09/05/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	26	14	40.6	0.3	-	101	151.4	0.7	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	-	62	-	25	-	5	57	15	164	182	158	1,630	1,192	1,476.2	0.8	-	4,861	5,911.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	23	33	23	251	182	161.8	1.1	-	684	711.6	1.0	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	2	105	4	58	2	8	59	35	273	267	237	2,557	1,819	2,538.2	0.7	-	7,330	9,685.6	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	27	19	13.8	1.4	-	82	67.0	1.2	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-		1.0	2	1.2	1.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	25	427	6	323	76	35	48	101	1,041	1,423	744	13,350	8,907	6,833.4	1.3	-	33,500	29,522.0	1.1	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	14	15	19	7	-	18	12	85	85	73	725	491	1,615.8	0.3	-	1,468	3,922.0	0.4	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	3	3.6	0.8	-	14	15.6	0.9	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	3	78.2	0.0	-	12	241.0	0.0	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	17.0	0.1	-	6	49.2	0.1	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	15	8	20.0	0.4	-	44	68.2	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	30.8	-	-	1	85.6	0.0	-
	STEC	054	-	4	-	1	7	1	6	6	25	20	12	243	176	139.0	1.3	-	539	481.2	1.1	-
	Salmonellosis	030	2	94	16	158	30	8	40	45	393	523	431	5,388	3,448	5,084.6	0.7	-	10,562	15,748.0	0.7	-
	Shigellosis	031	1	4	2	-	1	-	1	2	11	13	36	177	115	545.8	0.2	-	665	2,118.8	0.3	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	4	60.2	0.1	-	19	153.0	0.1	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	1	123	2	40	22	-	33	28	249	310	246	1,642	1,157	1,423.8	0.8	-	23,046	1,428.0	16.1	15,231.8
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	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	51	1,185	51	750	193	77	263	384	2,954	3,041	3,109	29,855	20,544	26,103.6	0.8	-	85,596	100,292.0	0.9	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	13	357	29	182	73	6	79	93	832	949	891	9,393	6,426	7,426.6	0.9	-	27,015	28,256.0	1.0	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	55	8	24	5	-	61	20	175	233	212	1,857	1,283	1,161.8	1.1	-	5,177	4,531.0	1.1	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	3	2	5	-	-	31	2	43	66	67	592	400	547.2	0.7	-	1,866	2,186.6	0.9	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	8	4	1.0	4.0	1.6	20	7.0	2.9	7.9
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1.8	0.6	-	6	8.0	0.8	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	4.0	1.3	-	22	19.0	1.2	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	2	1	16	-	2	1	1	23	36	156	261	178	14,943.6	0.0	-	1,278	165,993.0	0.0	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.2	-	-	-	126.4	-	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	11	6	164.4	0.0	-	50	620.8	0.1	-
	Pertussis	024	-	6	-	1	1	-	16	-	24	27	132	205	148	2,930.4	0.1	-	958	15,445.2	0.1	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	18	1	9	6	2	16	5	57	51	16	385	295	283.0	1.0	-	1,113	1,891.6	0.6	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	-	9	-	14	13	-	NN	4	46	47	50	406	292	608.0	0.5	-	1,114	4,732.0	0.2	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5.4	0.2	-	3	13.8	0.2	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1.6	1.3	-	8	3.6	2.2	1.4
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	8	NN	4	-	20	2	10	2	46	59	55	531	370	721.2	0.5	-	2,334	3,605.0	0.6	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	27	NN	9	8	74	19	48	20	205	287	559	2,877	1,875	2,934.0	0.6	-	12,649	11,197.4	1.1	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	6	NN	4	352	62	11	40	131	606	498	378	5,992	3,696	3,490.8	1.1	-	15,004	14,215.0	1.1	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	6	-	9	-	-	1	-	16	17	51	169	124	129.4	1.0	-	662	377.2	1.8	132.8
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	16.4	0.1	-	4	85.2	0.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	375.6	0.0	-	8	1,363.2	0.0	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	11.2	0.1	-	12	32.2	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.2	-	-
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	13	9	80.8	0.1	-	53	346.2	0.2	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	42	3	47	3	2	36	32	165	164	1,032	1,946	1,248	1,966.4	0.6	-	5,202	4,514.8	1.2	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	4	4.2	1.0	-	17	19.0	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	1	6	-	3	-	-	1	-	11	22	7	117	90	38.6	2.3	28.5	173	117.0	1.5	14.6
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	4.0	0.3	-	59	20.2	2.9	23.4
	Q fever	027	-	3	-	19	1	-	1	-	24	27	16	199	157	132.0	1.2	-	485	541.0	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	0.2	5.0	-
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	10	-	1	1	-	7	4	23	20	25	222	165	111.0	1.5	1.5	545	416.6	1.3	5.0
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2.0	0.5	-	7	11.4	0.6	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	2	27	21	44.2	0.5	-	78	259.4	0.3	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	25	1	4	2	1	24	2	59	63	52	508	351	346.4	1.0	-	1,603	1,423.0	1.1	-
			139	2,564	159	2,093	600	179	897	947	7,584	8,481	8,800	81,653	55,241				246,058			

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 **(11/05/2021)**. 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.