

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 22, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
26 October to 08 November 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 (11/08/2020 to 08/11/2020).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 08/11/2020. 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 (09/11/2019 to 08/11/2020).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 08/11/2020. 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 FN22/2020			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	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	
			26/10/2020 08/11/2020	10/10/2020 25/10/2020	26/10/2019 08/11/2019	01/01/2020 08/11/2020	11/08/2020 08/11/2020	11/08/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	09/11/2019 08/11/2020	09/11/2014 08/11/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by								
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	90	15	35.6	0.4	-	109	153.6	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	6	75	2	35	3	1	42	21	185	200	176	4,307	1,177	1,507.0	0.8	-	5,027	6,016.6	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	1	-	-	23	1	-	-	-	25	22	46	580	159	190.4	0.8	-	730	708.4	1.0	-	
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	3	110	3	74	3	1	51	34	279	315	332	6,280	1,818	2,379.6	0.8	-	7,357	9,856.4	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	5	2	62	24	19.8	1.2	-	69	68.2	1.0	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	47	419	19	344	139	42	221	139	1,370	1,441	1,642	25,690	7,727	7,195.0	1.1	-	31,481	28,289.8	1.1	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	9	1	5	5	3	20	3	46	48	83	2,268	278	489.4	0.6	-	2,710	3,951.4	0.7	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	3	4.2	0.7	-	16	16.2	1.0	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	91	6	48.4	0.1	-	133	243.6	0.5	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	32	2	8.6	0.2	-	39	45.8	0.9	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	33	10	16.4	0.6	-	37	71.2	0.5	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	45	-	12.6	-	-	54	82.8	0.7	-	
	STEC	054	-	5	-	2	14	-	-	2	3	26	19	26	485	116	102.4	1.1	-	604	414.6	1.5	-
	Salmonellosis	030	4	80	13	114	26	3	47	50	337	325	537	10,550	1,689	2,778.6	0.6	-	12,858	16,163.6	0.8	-	
	Shigellosis	031	-	3	4	6	1	-	1	5	20	25	107	1,548	163	476.4	0.3	-	1,965	1,916.8	1.0	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	91	3	27.6	0.1	-	113	146.8	0.8	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	COVID-19	081	-	88	7	10	23	-	6	17	151	286	-	27,741	6,125	-	6,125.0	-	27,741	-	-	27,741.0	
	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	49	1,061	60	890	201	17	59	405	2,742	3,202	3,506	64,147	17,796	23,475.0	0.8	-	75,741	98,487.0	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Gonococcal infection	011	10	369	31	231	60	2	48	124	875	1,035	1,292	25,911	6,384	6,626.4	1.0	-	30,591	26,712.2	1.1	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	3	41	12	27	7	-	34	40	164	185	218	4,436	1,165	1,118.4	1.0	-	5,265	4,197.6	1.3	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	3	4	6	-	-	15	5	33	70	85	1,782	416	535.2	0.8	-	2,111	2,165.2	1.0	-	
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	4	2.2	1.8	-	16	5.8	2.8	5.2	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	1.6	0.6	-	7	7.2	1.0	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	18	6	3.4	1.8	0.8	19	19.2	1.0	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	5	2	9	-	1	3	1	21	11	2,131	21,779	216	82,612.6	0.0	-	28,828	162,122.8	0.2	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	32	-	35.0	-	-	66	124.6	0.5	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	2	9	148	16	149.4	0.1	-	177	616.0	0.3	-	
	Pertussis	024	-	1	-	1	1	-	9	2	14	12	506	3,580	131	4,371.0	0.0	-	5,555	16,119.2	0.3	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	12	2	8	6	-	1	7	36	36	83	953	268	621.8	0.4	-	1,215	1,863.8	0.7	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	1	5	1	5	7	1	NN	5	41	44	362	1,615	253	1,865.8	0.1	-	3,277	4,454.4	0.7	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2.4	-	-	2	15.8	0.1	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	0.6	1.7	-	4	4.0	1.0	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	11	NN	2	1	33	-	8	53	108	82	230	2,246	646	1,061.6	0.6	-	2,933	3,476.8	0.8	-	
Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	16	NN	15	-	99	15	31	72	248	339	696	12,722	2,856	2,659.2	1.1	-	15,153	10,180.0	1.5	-		
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	6	NN	3	466	61	18	17	113	684	869	423	11,432	4,219	3,478.0	1.2	-	13,043	14,308.4	0.9	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	7	1	12	-	-	-	-	20	21	11	657	132	69.2	1.9	17.3	681	408.6	1.7	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	38	-	26.0	-	-	56	94.2	0.6	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	244	1	257.4	0.0	-	394	1,505.6	0.3	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	6.2	0.2	-	10	32.6	0.3	-		
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1.2	1.7	-	
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	13	156	14	85.8	0.2	-	216	334.4	0.6	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	17	2	28	1	-	3	31	82	83	81	5,688	431	563.2	0.8	-	5,895	5,444.2	1.1	-	
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	1.6	0.6	-		
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	16	3	5.0	0.6	-	17	19.0	0.9	-	
	Leptospirosis	017	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	2	82	18	17.6	1.0	-	91	113.8	0.8	-	
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Ornithosis	023	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	39	18	6.0	3.0	6.9	44	20.4	2.2	10.9	
	Q fever	027	-	7	-	9	-	-	-	-	16	17	24	416	94	138.6	0.7	-	495	543.0	0.9	-	
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2.0	
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	3	-	2	7	-	3	2	17	19	22	423	101	98.6	1.0	-	500	400.2	1.2	29.3	
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4.0	-	-	4	11.8	0.3	-	
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	4	7	3	81	21	91.0	0.2	-	105	261.2	0.4	-	
	Tuberculosis	034	-	21	-	8	2	-	19	5	55	75	53	1,321	412	372.0	1.1	-	1,559	1,398.4	1.1	-	
			157	2,347	184	2,321	702	104	644	1,140	7,615	8,810	12,801	239,908	54,939			285,118					

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 (12/11/2020). 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.