

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 01, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
04 January to 17 January 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 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 (20/10/2020 to 17/01/2021).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 17/01/2021. 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 (18/01/2020 to 17/01/2021).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 17/01/2021. 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 FN01/2021			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
			04/01/2021 17/01/2021	21/12/2020 03/01/2021	04/01/2020 17/01/2020	01/01/2021 17/01/2021	20/10/2020 17/01/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	18/01/2020 17/01/2021	18/01/2015 17/01/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by								
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	2	28	36.4	0.8	-	119	152.6	0.8	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	-	70	-	17	3	2	35	15	142	94	212	143	1,078	1,318.2	0.8	-	4,902	5,992.0	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	3	19	15	25	20	136	186.8	0.7	-	663	722.6	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	2	85	2	56	1	7	54	38	245	150	286	250	1,694	2,282.8	0.7	-	7,325	9,809.6	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	2	14	16.8	0.8	-	67	67.4	1.0	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	5.0	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	55	450	11	422	147	53	449	166	1,753	1,114	1,732	1,879	9,658	8,610.8	1.1	-	31,429	28,982.6	1.1	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	1	37	9	24	2	1	10	4	88	43	169	97	347	836.0	0.4	-	2,371	4,002.8	0.6	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4.2	0.2	-	13	16.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	1	1	58.4	0.0	-	80	245.8	0.3	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	11.0	0.1	-	34	45.4	0.7	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	4	3	16	17.0	0.9	-	42	71.0	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	21.4	-	-	39	84.2	0.5	-
	STEC	054	-	7	-	2	7	-	5	3	24	19	38	26	148	145.4	1.0	-	553	443.8	1.2	-
	Salmonellosis	030	12	266	22	354	34	23	110	65	886	503	746	969	2,884	3,921.8	0.7	-	12,088	16,064.6	0.8	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	4	2	7	1	-	6	7	27	14	177	28	171	536.6	0.3	-	1,491	2,001.4	0.7	-
Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	7	30.0	0.2	-	91	148.8	0.6	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	COVID-19**	081	-	116	15	30	12	-	35	23	231	313	-	311	1,369	-	-	1,369.0	28,858	-	-	28,858.0
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	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	85	1,127	15	937	219	42	1	416	2,842	1,593	3,657	2,927	17,177	22,980.4	0.7	-	75,098	99,091.4	0.8	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	28	390	8	236	40	9	50	96	857	555	1,649	889	5,704	6,738.8	0.8	-	28,682	27,452.2	1.0	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	4	32	5	32	4	-	32	22	131	96	260	136	1,037	1,100.0	0.9	-	5,027	4,339.6	1.2	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	3	2	4	1	-	56	6	73	32	99	75	425	509.4	0.8	-	2,005	2,187.2	0.9	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	2	5	2.0	2.5	0.2	17	6.4	2.7	5.2
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	-	-	5	7.4	0.7	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	5	4.8	1.0	-	17	19.2	0.9	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	6	-	10	1	3	11	5	37	34	2,797	39	192	11,519.8	0.0	-	18,711	163,606.0	0.1	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	31.0	-	-	16	130.2	0.1	-
	Mumps	043	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	2	10	143.8	0.1	-	145	614.4	0.2	-
	Pertussis	024	-	3	-	4	-	-	14	1	22	15	464	22	125	4,957.0	0.0	-	3,135	15,983.4	0.2	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	16	2	4	5	1	6	6	40	51	87	47	272	389.6	0.7	-	1,075	1,887.0	0.6	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rotavirus	077	-	11	2	19	7	1	NN	5	51	39	264	60	278	1,428.4	0.2	-	1,478	4,726.8	0.3	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1.0	2.0	-	4	15.2	0.3	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	0.8	3.8	1.3	6	3.8	1.6	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	2	NN	-	1	10	2	28	14	57	62	146	60	626	1,008.4	0.6	-	2,620	3,560.8	0.7	-
Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	26	NN	12	-	60	10	68	107	283	244	698	300	2,364	2,849.6	0.8	-	14,377	10,601.2	1.4	-	
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	2	NN	3	433	65	24	262	95	884	742	388	950	5,168	3,384.4	1.5	865.5	14,359	14,264.6	1.0	-	
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	7	-	7	1	-	1	-	16	8	10	16	124	71.0	1.7	8.4	744	399.2	1.9	53.6
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	28.4	-	-	35	91.2	0.4	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	35	1	1	300.0	0.0	-	210	1,496.8	0.1	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5.6	0.9	-	14	32.8	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	9	1	8	83.8	0.1	-	150	340.4	0.4	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	38	6	39	9	-	103	46	241	125	48	258	856	743.2	1.2	-	6,378	5,245.2	1.2	-
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	5.6	0.5	-	17	18.8	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	5	3	5	5	21	19.6	1.1	-	95	114.6	0.8	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ornithosis	023	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	19	7.0	2.7	4.1	56	18.8	3.0	25.1
	Q fever	027	-	6	-	9	-	-	-	-	15	5	33	15	83	137.8	0.6	-	449	551.8	0.8	-
Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2.0	
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	14	2	1	1	1	3	1	23	25	20	23	151	111.8	1.4	-	531	402.2	1.3	47.2
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3.4	0.9	-	6	11.8	0.5	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	3	8									