

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 23, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
09 November to 22 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 (25/08/2020 to 22/11/2020).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 22/11/2020. 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 (23/11/2019 to 22/11/2020).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 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 FN23/2020			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 09/11/2020 22/11/2020	Previous reporting Period 26/10/2020 08/11/2020	Same reporting period last year 09/11/2019 22/11/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2020 22/11/2020	Past Quarter 25/08/2020 22/11/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 23/11/2019 22/11/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 23/11/2014 22/11/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by	
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	4	9	-	2	98	22	34.6	0.6	-	115	153.4	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	4	96	-	27	3	2	46	17	195	187	224	4,512	1,168	1,482.2	0.8	-	5,008	6,012.2	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	1	16	25	42	598	152	194.2	0.8	-	706	712.2	1.0	-	
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	5	99	3	66	2	8	36	44	263	282	294	6,643	1,818	2,383.2	0.8	-	7,456	9,850.4	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	62	22	17.4	1.3	-	68	67.6	1.0	-	
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	39	512	12	338	111	41	293	152	1,498	1,491	1,616	27,309	8,212	7,458.8	1.1	-	31,484	28,457.4	1.1	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	20	7	5	4	3	10	3	52	47	117	2,322	298	543.0	0.5	-	2,647	3,962.4	0.7	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	15	3	3.8	0.8	-	17	16.2	1.0	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	91	5	47.6	0.1	-	123	243.4	0.5	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	32	2	8.6	0.2	-	36	46.2	0.8	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	3	37	12	16.6	0.7	-	38	71.8	0.5	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	45	-	15.0	-	-	52	82.4	0.6	-	
	STEC	054	-	12	-	3	2	-	4	-	21	27	32	507	119	112.8	1.1	-	594	418.2	1.4	-	
	Salmonellosis	030	1	76	14	96	24	4	39	50	304	338	602	10,855	1,790	2,935.6	0.6	-	12,561	16,158.6	0.8	-	
	Shigellosis	031	1	13	7	10	1	-	-	7	39	20	115	1,590	177	477.2	0.4	-	1,892	1,939.0	1.0	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	92	4	29.2	0.1	-	104	147.6	0.7	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	COVID-19	081	-	75	6	19	30	-	-	20	150	150	-	27,893	2,838	-	-	2,838.0	27,893	-	-	27,893.0	
	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	71	1,078	60	771	217	63	-	402	2,662	2,832	3,441	67,039	17,750	23,418.2	0.8	-	75,232	98,515.6	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	9	355	43	226	66	3	38	119	859	914	1,357	26,883	6,302	6,612.6	1.0	-	30,206	26,872.2	1.1	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	3	45	8	29	3	-	40	31	159	178	259	4,637	1,166	1,122.8	1.0	-	5,207	4,234.4	1.2	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	1	-	11	-	1	28	8	49	45	104	1,854	416	535.0	0.8	-	2,079	2,171.8	1.0	-	
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	3	2.0	1.5	-	16	5.6	2.9	4.5	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	1.8	0.6	-	6	7.4	0.8	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	18	6	3.4	1.8	1.5	19	19.2	1.0	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	2	16	2	9	1	-	4	2	36	21	1,805	21,815	187	62,882.2	0.0	-	27,058	162,326.0	0.2	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	32	-	33.6	-	-	56	125.2	0.4	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	6	148	16	152.6	0.1	-	171	615.6	0.3	-	
	Pertussis	024	-	5	-	-	1	-	11	2	19	13	563	3,599	117	4,638.6	0.0	-	5,011	16,102.4	0.3	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	15	-	7	6	3	3	11	46	36	72	999	257	580.0	0.4	-	1,189	1,868.0	0.6	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	4	5	1	3	1	6	NN	9	33	41	467	1,651	250	1,924.6	0.1	-	2,846	4,518.0	0.6	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2.2	-	-	2	15.6	0.1	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	0.8	1.3	-	4	3.8	1.1	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	10	NN	2	1	23	1	11	34	82	118	210	2,341	635	1,059.6	0.6	-	2,818	3,496.8	0.8	-	
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	21	NN	13	-	95	12	42	91	274	306	673	13,105	2,649	2,711.8	1.0	-	14,863	10,277.0	1.4	-	
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	10	NN	4	367	65	27	-	120	593	826	417	12,112	4,430	3,496.0	1.3	12.9	13,306	14,312.0	0.9	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	11	-	14	-	-	-	2	27	21	8	687	136	68.0	2.0	22.2	703	407.2	1.7	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	41	-	26.4	-	-	52	94.4	0.6	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	247	1	260.2	0.0	-	352	1,507.8	0.2	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	2	7.0	0.3	-	10	32.8	0.3	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	0.2	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-	
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	24	156	13	84.2	0.2	-	192	338.0	0.6	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	13	4	38	6	-	6	53	120	81	60	5,812	500	574.6	0.9	-	5,959	5,405.6	1.1	-	
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-										

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