

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 21, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

11 October to 24 October 2021

Infectious and congenital syphilis

Increases in infectious syphilis notifications are attributed to an on-going outbreak occurring in 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, and increases in women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous) residing in urban areas of Australia.

Outbreak in northern and central Australia

In January 2011, an increase of infectious syphilis notifications among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was identified in the North West region of Queensland, following a steady decline at a national level in remote communities. Subsequent increases in infectious syphilis notifications were reported in the Northern Territory in 2013, Western Australia in 2014 and South Australia 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 Australia.

Increases among women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous)

Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous) aged predominately 20-39 years of age residing in urban areas in Australia. As noted in the outbreak in northern and central Australia, increases in women of childbearing 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 (27/07/2021 to 24/10/2021).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 24/10/2021. 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 (25/10/2020 to 24/10/2021).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 24/10/2021. 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 FN21/2021			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	
											11/10/2021 24/10/2021	27/09/2021 10/10/2021	11/10/2020 24/10/2020	01/01/2021 24/10/2021	27/07/2021 24/10/2021					25/10/2020 24/10/2021	25/10/2015 24/10/2020		
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	72	14	34.4	0.4	-	95	149.0	0.6	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	1	65	-	48	3	1	37	21	174	153	203	3,878	1,156	1,426.4	0.8	-	4,748	5,773.8	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	1	28	20	23	604	169	170.2	1.0	-	714	705.4	1.0	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	5	88	-	61	-	-	3	33	54	236	220	305	5,642	1,558	2,230.4	0.7	-	6,993	9,496.6	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	69	16	21.6	0.7	-	80	70.0	1.1	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	1.0	3.0	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	37	413	16	364	124	29	279	140	1,388	1,232	1,402	28,952	7,899	7,418.4	1.1	-	36,276	30,416.6	1.2	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	7	1	16	-	2	10	4	40	47	46	1,497	336	445.6	0.8	-	1,731	3,800.8	0.5	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	2	3.6	0.6	-	7	15.6	0.4	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	18	10	44.2	0.2	-	18	232.6	0.1	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	1	8.0	0.1	-	10	46.8	0.2	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	2	38	12	13.6	0.9	-	50	65.4	0.8	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	9.2	-	-	3	81.0	0.0	-	
	Salmonellosis	030	3	99	21	165	7	6	45	24	365	265	302	8,686	1,590	2,475.6	0.6	-	10,489	15,329.2	0.7	-	
	Shigellosis	031	-	2	5	2	9	-	-	2	20	16	22	378	108	470.4	0.2	-	510	2,100.6	0.2	-	
	STEC	054	-	3	-	1	3	-	4	3	14	30	19	462	119	112.4	1.1	-	575	510.2	1.1	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	12	5	23.6	0.2	-	19	144.8	0.1	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	0.4	2.5	-	1	1.2	0.8	-	
	COVID-19	081	361	4,653	7	13	6	1	25,750	5	30,798	30,412	263	132,018	127,034	2,556.4	49.7	113,045.0	132,961	5,524.8	24.1	102,728.5	
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (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	38	796	37	961	191	44	273	440	2,751	2,550	3,555	68,573	18,779	24,047.6	0.8	-	84,292	100,550.2	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Gonococcal infection	011	5	165	19	247	39	6	138	129	748	767	1,052	21,659	5,535	7,100.0	0.8	-	26,369	29,396.4	0.9	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	42	6	39	13	-	38	30	168	186	212	4,560	1,268	1,232.2	1.0	-	5,465	4,789.0	1.1	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	2	1	4	1	-	21	4	33	38	89	1,439	337	538.0	0.6	-	1,798	2,145.6	0.8	-	
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	6	2.8	2.1	1.0	17	7.8	2.2	0.3	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	2	2.4	0.8	-	8	8.4	1.0	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	16	4	3.8	1.1	-	20	18.8	1.1	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	7	6	10	2	2	-	1	28	19	11	602	159	81,710.8	0.0	-	743	147,956.0	0.0	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.0	-	-	-	120.6	-	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	19	9	106.0	0.1	-	25	562.2	0.0	-	
	Pertussis	024	1	-	-	3	-	-	8	3	15	14	11	471	135	2,946.8	0.0	-	569	13,593.0	0.0	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	5	2	12	8	-	3	12	42	43	32	1,172	331	620.2	0.5	-	1,393	1,804.8	0.8	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	-	11	36	38	12	1	NN	43	144	135	42	1,388	658	1,522.4	0.4	-	1,587	4,401.6	0.4	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1.8	0.6	-	3	12.2	0.2	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1.0	2.0	-	7	4.2	1.7	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	1	NN	3	1	15	1	9	21	51	63	140	1,614	390	1,067.8	0.4	-	2,266	3,611.8	0.6	-	
Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	19	NN	12	3	87	7	63	60	251	351	606	8,546	2,204	3,130.8	0.7	-	11,379	12,139.2	0.9	-		
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	-	NN	7	440	80	24	246	145	942	814	481	16,196	5,486	3,420.4	1.6	-	19,049	14,059.4	1.4	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	1	7	9	20	312	61	76.4	0.8	-	412	415.0	1.0	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	19.2	-	-	2	77.4	0.0	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	2	211.8	0.0	-	4	1,249.4	0.0	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7.8	-	-	7	33.2	0.2	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.2	0.8	-	
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	37	13	80.8	0.2	-	44	334.6	0.1	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	5.0	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	7	1	17	1	-	3	6	35	37	82	2,964	264	470.6	0.6	-	3,534	4,650.0	0.8	-	
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	5	4.8	1.0	-	19	18.8	1.0	-	
	Leptospirosis	017	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	3	4	242	30	20.4	1.5	-	256	118.6	2.2	-	
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	21	6	8.2	0.7	-	41	25.4	1.6	-	
	Q fever	027	-	2	-	7	2	-	-	-	11	14	17	406	86	122.8	0.7	-	474	529.8	0.9	-	
Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-		
Other notifiable diseases	iGAS	082	NN	NN	-	7	3	NN	NN	-	10	18	-	135	97	-	-	97.0	135	0.2	675.0	-	
	Legionellosis	015	-	8	1	-	2	-	3	2	16	14	20	407	87	93.0	0.9	-	530	422.2	1.3	-	
	Leprosy	01																					