National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 19, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

13 September to 26 September 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 (29/06/2021 to 26/09/2021).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 26/09/2021. 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 (27/09/2020 to 26/09/2021).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 26/09/2021. 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 FN19/2021

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 13/09/2021 26/09/2021	Previous reporting Period 30/08/2021 12/09/2021	Same reporting period last year 13/09/2020 26/09/2020	Current year YTD 01/01/2021 26/09/2021	Past Quarter 29/06/2021 26/09/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 27/09/2020 26/09/2021	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 27/09/2015 26/09/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	4	1	4	70	20	34.2	0.6	-	100	149.0	0.7	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	50	-	66	5	4	49	14	191	166	176	3,445	1,049	1,437.4	0.7	-	4,686	5,794.8	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	23	-	-	1	-	24	24	25	551	184	165.2	1.1	-	712	710.0	1.0	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	3	50	5	70	2	8	52	45	235	236	284	5,161	1,574	2,238.0	0.7	-	7,084	9,552.8	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	65	21	19.8	1.1	-	84	68.4	1.2	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0.2	5.0	-	3	1.0	3.0	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	20	262	12	309	112	40	249	121	1,125	1,073	1,182	26,186	7,819	7,039.4	1.1	-	36,084	30,304.0	1.2	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	2	1	7	6	-	18	2	36	53	41	1,409	392	456.2	0.9	-	1,741	3,816.2	0.5	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	1	3.6	0.3	-	7	15.6	0.4	-
	Hepatitis A	038	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	27	19	41.4	0.5	-	29	233.0	0.1	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	8.8	0.3	-	11	46.8	0.2	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	2	33	13	12.2	1.1	-	48	67.2	0.7	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	9.0	0.3	-	3	82.0	0.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	8	56	19	83	12	2	41	27	248	205	261	8,052	1,465	2,445.6	0.6	-	10,410	15,393.6	0.7	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	1	5	2	2	-	2	6	18	13	24	340	99	466.0	0.2	-	528	2,100.2	0.3	-
	STEC	054	-	1	-	1	10	-	4	2	18	18	11	418	107	96.8	1.1	-	570	502.0	1.1	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	3	22.0	0.1	-	16	147.4	0.1	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	1.2	-	-
	COVID-19	081	259	15,141	6	16	6	-	8,551	7	23,986	22,852	390	71,408	69,112	3,827.4	18.1	48,167.9	72,846	5,424.8	13.4	43,160.8
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (M	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	30	577	42	886	227	57	259	408	2,486	2,532	3,237	61,265	17,871	24,124.8	0.7	-	83,656	100,375.6	0.8	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	12	155	34	229	73	3	158	130	794	896	1,088	20,011	5,908	7,081.8	0.8	-	26,718	28,971.2	0.9	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	1	35	10	31	9	-	47	39	172	180	208	4,083	1,237	1,212.2	1.0	-	5,393	4,755.2	1.1	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	1	1	-	-	1	20	7	30	46	61	1,298	348	533.2	0.7	-	1,807	2,145.6	0.8	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	12	6	2.6	2.3	0.4	17	8.0	2.1	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	2.0	1.0	-	7	8.4	0.8	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	14	3	5.2	0.6	-	19	18.8	1.0	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	1	8	13	1	2	1	1	27	28	34	556	175	89,754.6	0.0	-	729	150,161.6	0.0	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21.2	-	-	-	120.2	-	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	16	6	109.6	0.1	-	27	577.6	0.0	-
	Pertussis	024	1	-	-	1	-	1	6	5	14	29	25	442	142	2,752.2	0.1	-	566	13,981.6	0.0	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	11	2	19	2	2	4	12	52	65	34	1,089	411	673.8	0.6	-	1,383	1,818.8	0.8	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	-	6	9	22	9	1	NN	93	148	86	43	1,100	486	1,268.8	0.4	-	1,386	4,514.4	0.3	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1.8	0.6	-	3	12.6	0.2	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	2	1.0	2.0	1.0	8	4.0	2.0	1.2
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	5	NN	2	3	15	3	8	17	53	61	143	1,468	400	1,013.8	0.4	-	2,361	3,610.0	0.7	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	21	NN	13	5	110	19	84	74	326	350	644	7,768	2,196	3,064.0	0.7	-	11,763	12,005.0	1.0	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	8	NN	4	383	43	15	295	78	826	921	527	14,642	5,414	3,536.6	1.5	406.5	18,527	14,063.8	1.3	335.0
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	1	8	10	20	292	69	85.2	0.8	-	432	414.0	1.0	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	16.2	-	-	2	77.4	0.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	236.8	0.0	-	3	1,269.0	0.0	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7.0	-	-	8	33.2	0.2	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.2	0.8	-
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	34	15	84.6	0.2	-	44	335.4	0.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-		1.0	1	0.2	5.0	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	6	2	13	1	-	1	9	32	36	62	2,881	330	504.0	0.7	-	3,591	4,681.8	0.8	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	16	5	5.4	0.9	-	19	19.2	1.0	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	217	28	28.0	1.0	-	241	117.2	2.1	56.4
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	19	6	6.4	0.9	-	46	24.0	1.9	-
	Q fever	027	-	2	-	8	1	-	-	-	11	11	19	375	83	112.6	0.7	-	474	533.8	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.4	-	-
Other notifiable diseases	iGAS	082	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	1	11	14	-	102	90	-		90.0	102	0.2	510.0	100.9
	Legionellosis	015	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	4	8	13	13	372	71	83.2	0.9	-	537	420.4	1.3	-
	Leprosy	016	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	4	2.8	1.4	-	11	10.8	1.0	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	53	11	78.8	0.1	-	74	248.4	0.3	-
	RSV	083	-	-	38	23	-	-	-	-	61	87	-	427	427	-		427.0	427	-		427.0
	Tuberculosis	034	-	12	-	4	-	-	13	4	33	45	64	1,030	313	375.4	0.8	-	1,511	1,453.4	1.0	-
			372	16,365	178	2,205	648	158	9,852	1,107	30,893	29,946	8,586	235,348	117,207				294,918			

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 (29/09/2021). 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.