# National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

## Fortnight 20, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

# 27 September to 10 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 <u>Department's website</u>.

#### 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 <u>Department's website</u>.

#### 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.

<sup>1</sup>The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (13/07/2021 to 10/10/2021).

<sup>2</sup>The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 10/10/2021. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.

<sup>3</sup>The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (11/10/2020 to 10/10/2021).

<sup>4</sup>The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 10/10/2021. 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.

AD	T FN20/2021				St	ate or	Territo	ory			Notification received date Totals for Australia					e Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	АСТ	MSN	NT	QId	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period 27/09/2021 10/10/2021	Previous reporting Period 13/09/2021 26/09/2021	Same reporting period last year 27/09/2020 10/10/2020	Current year YTD 01/01/2021 10/10/2021	Past Quarter 13/07/2021 10/10/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 11/10/2020 10/10/2021	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 11/10/2015 10/10/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 S by	
Bloodborne diseases Gastrointestinal diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	-	-	· ·	-	-		3	5	69	13	35.0	0.4	-	94	149.2	0.6	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified) Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	052	4	40	-	39 9	-	2	35	15	135	202	166 27	3,599 562	1,066 158	1,420.6 168.0	0.8	-	4,674 696	5,781.4 707.4	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	2	63	1	72	1	2	42	32	215	236	261	5,370	1,543	2,209.0	0.7	-	7,031	9,529.8	0.7	-	
	Hepatitis D Botulism	050 045	-	-	-	-	1	·	-	-	- 1	- 1	- 3	66	- 19	18.4 0.2	- 1.0	-	82	70.8	1.2	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	045	24	281	- 14	299	119	27	320	97	1,181	1,145	1,176	27,365	7,700	7,163.2	1.1	-	36,087	30,379.4	1.2	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061 055	-	3	-	9	2	2	25	5	46	36 1	52	1,454	374	447.0 3.6	0.8	-	1,734 7	3,810.0 15.8	0.5	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) Hepatitis A	038	-	1	-	- 3	-		-	-	4	1	1	6 17	2	42.8	0.8	-	18	232.8	0.4	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	1	-	-	-	·	1	-	2	-	-	12	4	7.2	0.6	-	13	47.0	0.3	-	
	Listeriosis Paratyphoid	018	-	-	-	-	-	· ·	-	-	- 2	- 3	- 1	35	- 12	12.8 9.8	0.9	-	49 3	66.2 81.8	0.7	-	
	Salmonellosis	030	5	60	5	85	7	2	61	31	256	249	253	8,288	1,425	2,437.4	0.6	-	10,393	15,374.4	0.7	-	
	Shigellosis STEC	031 054	-	1 8	- 5	- 1	7	÷	- 5	3	17 29	18 18	34 20	359 447	106 122	468.0 100.6	0.2	- 2.2	513 579	2,104.6 506.8	0.2	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	18	-	12	6	23.6	0.3	-	19	146.6	0.1	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH) Cholera	076 008	-	-	-	-	-	· ·	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 0.4	-	-	-	- 1.2	-	-	
	COVID-19	008	463	9,428	5	26	9	2	20,785	- 15	30,733	24,311	231	102,459	99,376	3,473.8	28.6	80,366.9	103,667	5,474.8	18.9	73,708.	
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (N		-	-	-	-	-	·	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
	Plague Rabies	025 028	-	-	-	-	-	- ·	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)	071	-	-	-	-	-	· .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
	Smallpox Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	069 036	-	-	-	-	-	· ·	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
	Yellow fever	041	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
Sexually transmissible infections	Chlamydial infection	007	31	518	16	810	195	47	259	386	2,262	2,564	3,134	63,562	17,198	23,773.8	0.7	-	82,819	100,496.8	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis Gonococcal infection	010	- 8	- 113	- 14	- 226	- 59	- 4	- 155	- 102	- 681	- 822	- 989	- 20,721	- 5,577	- 7,066.0	0.8	-	- 26,482	- 29,359.2	0.9	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	1	31	7	10	7	1	53	31	141	190	191	4,271	1,217	1,203.0	1.0	-	5,388	4,769.4	1.1	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration Syphilis congenital	067 047	-	- 1	-	- 1	-	÷	27	- 5	- 34	34	64 1	1,360 12	334 5	533.0 3.0	0.6	-	1,808 16	2,145.4 7.8	0.8	-	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1.8	0.6	-	7	8.4	0.8	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	·	1	1	2	1	1	15	3	5.6	0.5	-	19	18.8	1.0	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed) Measles	062	-	- 2	- 8	-	-	- ·	-	-	- 20	27	- 22	575	- 162	87,766.2 26.6	0.0	-	726	148,640.6 120.6	0.0	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	·	-	-	-	1	2		7	107.8	0.1	-	26	571.4	0.0	-	
	Pertussis Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	024 065	-	- 7	-	3	- 8	- 2	7	2	12 41	14 52	15 41	453 1,130	131 366	2,823.6 658.0	0.0	-	562 1,383	13,838.4 1,811.8	0.0	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
	Rotavirus Rubella	077	1	6	17	- 34	- 13	1	NN -	- 54	129	153	45	1,231	559 1	1,406.6 1.8	0.4	-	1,472	4,468.2	0.3	-	
	Rubella congenital	029	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	- 12.2	0.2	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	· .	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	1.2	1.7	-	7	4.2	1.7	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox) Varicella zoster (shingles)	073	2		- 11	- 7	13 83		5 63	29 89	50 283	61 362	101 557	1,527 8,088	387 2,194	1,042.6 3,081.2	0.4	-	2,319 11,526	3,610.8 12,075.2	0.6	-	
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	1	NN	5	399	56			120	853	785	550	15,421	5,375	3,590.2	1.5	196.2	18,756	14,067.8	1.3	-	
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection Chikungunya virus infection	048 078	-	-	-	- 8	-	<u>·</u>	-	-	- 9	9	- 20	303	- 68	81.6 16.4	- 0.8	-	423	414.6 77.4	1.0	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	222.8	0.0	-	3	1,260.8	0.0	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	· ·	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	8.2	-	-	7	32.8	0.2	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection Malaria	059 020	-	-	-	-	- 1		-	-	- 1	-	- 3	35	- 14	0.4 83.6	- 0.2	-	1 42	1.2 334.8	0.8	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	· .	-	-	-	· ·	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	1	0.2	5.0	-	
	Ross River virus infection West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	002	-	- 7	-	- 13	-	- 1	-	- 10	- 36	- 32	- 58	2,916	278	464.4	0.6	-	3,568	4,670.8 1.6	- 0.8	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	· .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection Brucellosis	063 004	-	-	-	-	-	· ·	-	-	-	- 1	-	- 17	- 5	- 4.4	1 1	-	- 20	- 18.8	1.1	-	
	Leptospirosis	004	-	-	-	1	-		-	-	- 1	1	- 6		27	4.4 23.8	1.1	-	20	18.8	2.0	-	
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	·	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	
	Ornithosis Q fever	023	-	- 5	-	- 3	-	H÷-	-	- 1	- 9	- 13	3		4 83	6.8 117.2	0.6	-	43 473	24.6 532.0	1.7 0.9	-	
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	-	-	0.4	-	-	
Other notifiable diseases	iGAS	082 015	-	NN 4	1	18	-	-	- 5	- 1	19	15 8	- 22	126 384	102	- 85.0	0.9	-	126 527	- 422.8	- 1.2	-	
	Legionellosis Leprosy	015	-	- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 11	8	- 22	384	73	2.2	0.9	-	527	422.8	1.2	-	
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	1	1	1	-	· .	-	-	3	-	2	56	14	82.8	0.2	-	75	246.4	0.3	-	
	RSV Tuberculosis	083 034	-	NN 19	- 59	19 6	-	<u> </u>	- 13	- 4	78 42	60 36	- 64	504 1,076	450 288	- 375.2	0.8		504 1,493	- 1,458.2	1.0	-	
		1 034		1 13		0		1 Č	13		42		04	1,0/0	200	515.2	0.0	-	1,455	1,70.2	1.0	<u> </u>	

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 (11/10/2021). 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.