National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 24, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

22 November to 05 December 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) predominately 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 largely 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.

For further information on national activities related to 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 (07/09/2021 to 05/12/2021).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 05/12/2021. 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 (07/09/2020 to 05/12/2021).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 05/12/2021. 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 FN24/2021

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 22/11/2021 05/12/2021	Previous reporting Period 08/11/2021 21/11/2021	Same reporting period last year 22/11/2020 05/12/2020	Current year YTD 01/01/2021 05/12/2021	Past Quarter 07/09/2021 05/12/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 06/12/2020 05/12/2021	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 06/12/2015 05/12/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	76	8	34.6	0.2	-	86	149.2	0.6	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	2	84	-	47	2	1	50	15	201	249	179	4,563	1,306	1,384.0	0.9	-	4,853	5,729.6	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	2	-	12	-	-	1	2	17	17	25	676	155	188.4	0.8	-	714	699.6	1.0	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	6	113	3	64	-	11	50	29	276	280	350	6,517	1,681	2,256.8	0.7	-	6,966	9,414.6	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	5	2	83	19	20.8	0.9	-	89	70.0	1.3	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-		-	3	1.0	3.0	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	21	542	14	381	151	80	368	188	1,745	1,966	1,618	34,485	9,725	8,505.6	1.1	-	37,048	30,746.4	1.2	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	13	3	25	7	2	19	3	72	78	49	1,705	343	519.8	0.7	-	1,792	3,727.6	0.5	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	4	3.4	1.2	-	8	15.2	0.5	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	20	8	46.4	0.2	-	20	229.6	0.1	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	7.8	0.1	-	10	45.6	0.2	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	44	14	14.6	1.0	-	49	65.2	0.8	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	13.4	-	-	3	80.0	0.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	4	146	32	153	33	10	59	39	476	561	334	10,140	2,427	2,861.0	0.8	-	10,970	15,195.0	0.7	-
	Shigellosis	031	1	3	12	3	-	-	1	1	21	20	31	431	113	489.0	0.2	-	466	2,104.4	0.2	-
	STEC	054	-	5	-	-	9	-	4	7	25	30	21	554	164	136.0	1.2	-	598	518.2	1.2	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	12	4	24.0	0.2	-	13	144.8	0.1	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.4	-	-
	COVID-19	081	111	3,362	30	31	51	-	15,747	3	19,335	18,023	157	190,647	154,249	338.4	455.8	152,397.2	191,121	5,619.0	34.0	160,373.1
	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	52	868	46	840	224	63	454	450	2,997	3,270	3,451	80,723	19,272	24,259.0	0.8	-	86,276	100,487.4	0.9	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	8	277	28	207	43	6	203	124	896	971	1,027	25,154	5,737	7,123.2	0.8	-	26,826	29,588.4	0.9	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	36	9	16	9	-	48	32	150	209	202	5,191	1,232	1,232.4	1.0	-	5,509	4,837.8	1.1	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	4	1	1	1	-	19	6	33	66	90	1,654	339	538.0	0.6	-	1,782	2,150.6	0.8	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	15	3	2.4	1.3	-	16	7.6	2.1	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	2.4	0.8	-	8	8.2	1.0	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	17	4	4.4	0.9	-	17	19.6	0.9	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	7	14	5	-	-	1	2	29	37	35	684	165	36,832.0	0.0	-	740	147,472.8	0.0	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.4	-	-	-	120.0	-	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	5	95.8	0.1	-	22	534.0	0.0	-
	Pertussis	024	-	1	-	9	1	-	5	-	16	23	29	538	121	3,333.2	0.0	-	570	12,712.6	0.0	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	9	1	6	7	2	9	9	43	43	44	1,294	290	502.0	0.6	-	1,384	1,800.6	0.8	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	1	7	14	48	58	-	4	80	212	247	39	2,061	1,136	1,658.0	0.7	-	2,147	4,264.8	0.5	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1.2	-	-	3	11.8	0.3	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1.2	-	-	6	4.2	1.4	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	5	NN	1	1	14	2	9	39	71	72	125	1,844	425	1,112.0	0.4	-	2,066	3,636.2	0.6	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	22	NN	11	12	98	9	71	94	317	358	597	9,936	2,342	3,232.2	0.7	-	10,907	12,369.4	0.9	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	1	NN	3	384	51	25	219	106	789	1,044	597	18,746	5,587	3,507.6	1.6	-	19,855	14,051.6	1.4	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	-	8	-	-	1	1	13	16	30	351	71	78.8	0.9	-	372	415.0	0.9	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	25.6	-	-	2	76.2	0.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	7	4	225.0	0.0	-	7	1,227.0	0.0	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	8.4	-	-	4	33.8	0.1	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.2	-	-	1	1.0	1.0	-
	Malaria	020	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	5	2	3	46	13	74.4	0.2	-	49	331.0	0.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	1	0.2	5.0	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	8	1	15	7	-	1	17	49	40	119	3,105	266	503.0	0.5	-	3,348	4,597.4	0.7	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.2	-	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	2	4.2	0.5	-	18	19.2	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	246	20	17.4	1.1	-	252	119.0	2.1	74.5
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	24	3	11.6	0.3	-	31	27.6	1.1	-
	Q fever	027	-	6	-	7	-	-	-	1	14	16	13	456	92	129.4	0.7	-	476	525.2	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.4	-	-
Other notifiable diseases	iGAS^	082	NN	NN	2	10	2	NN	NN	-	14	17	-	183	89	-		-	183			-
	Legionellosis	015	1	11	-	7	-	5	9	3	36	21	25	499	132	117.8	1.1	-	560	426.8	1.3	-
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	6	3.6	1.7	-	14	10.6	1.3	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	1	69	15	75.8	0.2	-	76	242.2	0.3	-
	RSV^	083	NN	NN	17	45	12	NN	NN	102	176	71	-	921	583	-		-	921			-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	30	-	14	-	-	15	8	67	61	80	1,349	333	393.4	0.8	-	1,473	1,473.0	1.0	-
			236	5,513	225	2,295	769	216	17,357	1,252	27,863	27,698	9,219	402,889	207,594				418,337			

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

^ RSV and iGAS were listed as nationally notifiable diseases as of 1 July 2021. However, notification numbers presented here do not represent a national picture, as these conditions are not yet notifiable in all states and territories.

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 **(07/12/2021)**. 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.