#### **National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**

## Fortnight 08, 2022 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

#### 11 April 2022 to 17 April 2022

## 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**.

# **Reporting Change**

Please note this report has been adjusted to 7 days to support a change in the meeting schedule of Communicable Diseases Network Australia. The next surveillance report and onwards will include data for 14 days.

#### **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 (18/01/2022 to 17/04/2022).

<sup>2</sup>The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 17/04/2022. 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 (18/04/2021 to 17/04/2022).

<sup>4</sup>The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 17/04/2022. 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.

. A.F.	F FN09/2022										Notification received date											
AL	FN08/2022		State or Territory								Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	ACT	NSW	Ę	plo	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period  11/04/2022 17/04/2022	Previous reporting Period 28/03/2022 03/04/2022	Same reporting period last year 11/04/2021 17/04/2021	Current year YTD 01/01/2022 17/04/2022	Past Quarter 18/01/2022 17/04/2022	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 18/04/2021 17/04/2022	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 18/04/2016 17/04/2021	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	10	31.2	0.3	-	76	143.4	0.5	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	-	43	-	25	1	1	33	12	115	104	100	1,424	1,251	1,416.2	0.9	-	4,941	5,623.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired) Hepatitis C (unspecified)	040 053	- 3	37	- 2	3 16	-	-	- 32	- 7	3 97	16 110	21 118	139 1,653	119 1,474	173.0 2,220.2	0.7	-	661 6,465	692.6 9,109.4	1.0 0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1		- 10	-	-	-	- '	1	2	110	20	1,474	15.6	1.2	-	83	72.0	1.2	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0.6	1.7	-	5	1.2	4.2	2.1
	Campylobacteriosis	005	5	150	4	122	58	16		65	577	593	773	10,308	8,759	8,217.4	1.1	-	36,420	31,847.2	1.1	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	18	-	11	4	- 4	12	- 6	55 -	54	26	587 1	493	1,269.4	0.4	-	1,866	3,254.8	0.6	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) Hepatitis A	055 038	-	<del>-</del>	-	3	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	3	- 6	-	27	1 26	4.2 73.8	0.2	-	47	15.0 215.4	0.3	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	7	15.0	0.5	-	16	41.2	0.4	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	26	24	19.0	1.3	-	57	61.6	0.9	-
	Paratyphoid Salmanallasis	080	- 4	- 65	- 7	76	- 14		- 26	- 20	1 217	2 255	267	12 3,905	11 3,420	30.4 4,914.8	0.4	-	16 10,084	70.2 14,553.4	0.2	-
	Salmonellosis Shigellosis	030	-	4	1	2	4	5 1	6	1	19	19	6	234	203	571.2	0.7	-	543	2,043.6	0.7	-
	STEC	054	-	3	-		5	1	2	5	16	16	7	233	207	170.6	1.2	-	656	553.6	1.2	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-		-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	42	40	59.4	0.7	-	51	136.8	0.4	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 1	- 1	- 0.4	3.5	-	- 2	- 10	2.0	-
	Cholera COVID-19	008 081	3,378	100,389	2,584	16,853	35,637	2,199	22,830	19,421	203,291	266,307	113	3,336,724	2,403,540	0.4 1,517.4	2.5 1,584.0	2,396,163.6	3,703,440	1.0 5,969.0	2.0 620.4	3,677,478.0
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (N	V 079	-	-	-,554	-	-	-,255	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	_,550	-	-	-	020.4	-
	Plague	025	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rabies	028	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) Smallpox	071 069	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	036	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Yellow fever	041	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Sexually transmissible infections	Chlamydial infection	007	18	521		446	85	20		199	1,666	1,809	1,789	25,378	22,686	26,364.6	0.9	-	85,868	99,729.6	0.9	-
	Donovanosis Gonococcal infection	010 011	- 1	197	- 21	121	- 27	- 6	- 79	- 53	505	621	617	8,854	7,842	8,188.4	1.0	-	27,116	30,035.6	0.9	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	17		24	2	-	28	15	89	105	131	1,441	1,269	1,306.8	1.0	-	5,472	4,995.6	1.1	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	-	1	4	1	-	20	4	30	35	46	514	460	561.6	0.8	-	1,839	2,167.0	0.8	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-		-	<u> </u>	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	2.2	2.3	0.2	16	8.8	1.8	-
	Diphtheria Haemophilus influenzae type b	009 012	-	<del>- :</del>	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	13	13 1	2.0 4.2	6.5 0.2	8.2	18 13	8.6 19.8	2.1 0.7	6.1
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	8	355	8	60	34	2		-	631	243	22	1,654	1,625	13,513.2	0.1	-	2,175	146,033.6	0.0	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37.0	-	-	-	110.8	-	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	- 3	-	-	- 7	-	- 10	1	- 8	5 149	130	106.4 2,154.2	0.0	-	15 548	445.6 10,878.8	0.0	-
	Pertussis Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	024 065	-	- 8	1	7	- 3	<del>                                     </del>	4	- 2	10 25	9 20	25	259	206	2,154.2	0.1	-	1,303	1,812.6	0.1	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-		-	- 1	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.7	-
	Rotavirus	077	-	2	-	9	7	-	2	6	26	33	19	659	474	564.4	0.8	-	2,868	4,104.2	0.7	-
	Rubella	029 046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.8	-	-	2	11.2	0.2	-
	Rubella congenital Tetanus	033	-	<del>-</del>	-	-	-	<del>                                     </del>	-	-	-			-	-	1.2	_	-	- 2	4.4	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	-	NN	-	-	4	1	5	7	17	23	37	341	280	736.4	0.4	-	1,754	3,638.2	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	8	NN	5	3	23	5		64	125	165	215	2,457	2,082	3,359.0	0.6		9,458	12,926.8	0.7	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075 048		NN	2	_	29	- 5		68	372	430	368 9	5,898	5,121	3,509.2	1.5	521.0	21,212	14,099.8	1.5	4,095.9
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection Chikungunya virus infection	048	-	-	-	- 2	-	-	-	- 1	- 3	- 6	- 9	98 5	90 5	116.4 16.2	0.8	-	342 6	416.2 71.6	0.8	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	-	19	17	248.6	0.1	-	28	1,035.6	0.0	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		0.4	-	2	24.4	0.1	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection** Malaria	059 020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 2	-	- 28	- 27	84.8	0.3	-	- 76	310.4	0.2	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	0.2	5.0	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	10			5		14	12	53	124	98	1,931	1,786	1,682.0	1.1	-	3,440	4,653.4	0.7	-
Zoonoses	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.2	-	-
	Anthrax Australian bat lyssavirus infection	058 063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	5.0	0.6	-	17	18.6	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	1	6	14	47	44	47.8		-	201	129.4	1.6	14.1
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis Q fever	023 027	-	- 2	-	- 1	-	-	-	-	- 3	- 11	16	1 123	109	3.6 139.0		-	34 459	28.6 520.8	1.2 0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-		-	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	- 11	- 16	- 123	-	- 139.0	0.8	-	- 459	0.4	- 0.9	-
Other notifiable diseases	iGAS^	082	-	NN	1	3	-	NN	NN	3	7	15	-	166	136	0.6		133.6	368	0.8	460.0	365.0
	Legionellosis	015	-	6		1	-	-	-	1	8	6	11	165	132	125.0		-	530	452.6	1.2	-
	Leprosy Maningacoccal disease (invasiva)	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 3	1	- 15	1.0		-	13	10.0 237.0	1.3	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive) RSV^	022 083	-	- NN	-	264	-	- NN	- NN	- 13	277	209	-	18 2,085	15 1,716	38.2	0.4	1,716.0	70 3,552	237.0	0.3	3,552.0
	Tuberculosis	034	-	13		3	-		6	1	23	23	33	275	248	348.0	0.7	-	1,296	1,487.6	0.9	-
		_	3,427	101,845	2,662	18,218	35,943	2,266	23,925	19,987	208,273	271,392	4,896	3,407,951	2,466,133				3,935,548			

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

\*\* Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) cases are reported separately on the JEV outbreak webpage, accessible at: https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/japanese-encephalitis-virus-jev/about

A 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 (26/04/2022). 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.