

**National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**  
**Fortnight 10, 2022 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases**  
**02 May 2022 to 15 May 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](#).

### **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 (15/02/2022 to 15/05/2022).*

<sup>2</sup>*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 15/05/2022. 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 (16/05/2021 to 15/05/2022).*

<sup>4</sup>*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 15/05/2022. 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.*

ADT FN10/2022			State or Territory											Notification received date				Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period 02/05/2022 15/05/2022	Previous reporting period 18/04/2022 01/05/2022	Same reporting period last year 02/05/2021 15/05/2021	Current year YTD 01/01/2022 15/05/2022	Past Quarter 15/02/2022 15/05/2022	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 16/05/2021 15/05/2022	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 16/05/2016 15/05/2021	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by							
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	16	11	34.2	0.3	-	69	142.0	0.5	-							
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	4	88	-	44	1	3	74	23	237	161	183	1,858	1,322	1,393.4	0.9	-	5,013	5,592.8	0.9	-							
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	1	3	29	17	31	183	128	163.4	0.8	-	646	698.0	0.9	-						
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	2	88	1	94	3	4	45	25	262	191	271	2,115	1,560	2,288.2	0.7	-	6,382	9,033.4	0.7	-							
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	5	5	3	30	21	15.2	1.4	-	87	72.6	1.2	-						
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1.0	5	1.2	4.2	2.1							
	Campylobacteriosis	005	27	415	9	309	102	49	308	125	1,344	1,119	1,340	12,795	8,404	7,538.6	1.1	-	36,744	32,294.2	1.1	-							
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.4	2.5	-	2	1.2	1.7	-							
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	4	22	3	33	8	-	35	12	117	80	91	784	553	1,192.6	0.5	-	1,881	3,168.6	0.6	-							
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	4.2	0.5	-	6	15.0	0.4	-							
	Hepatitis A	038	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	4	3	-	29	68.8	0.4	-	53	215.2	0.2	-							
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	3	14.6	0.2	-	11	40.8	0.3	-							
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	4	6	2	36	26	14.4	1.8	-	64	60.4	1.1	-						
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	24.8	0.6	-	20	69.0	0.3	-							
	Salmonellosis	030	5	113	17	150	25	12	80	21	423	492	363	4,822	3,369	4,349.6	0.8	-	10,198	14,402.8	0.7	-							
	Shigellosis	031	2	13	2	8	3	-	-	1	5	34	34	13	302	220	482.8	0.5	-	588	2,029.2	0.3	-						
	STEC	054	-	3	-	-	12	1	4	5	25	27	16	285	198	159.2	1.2	9.5	663	559.8	1.2	-							
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	2	-	-	2	-	5	-	9	3	-	54	44	49.8	0.9	-	63	135.2	0.5	-							
Listed Human diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	COVID-19	081	13,824	155,247	534	26,662	53,161	2,607	95,889	59,821	407,745	435,573	181	4,934,752	2,849,950	1,679.8	1,696.6	2,841,970.3	5,343,316	6,047.6	883.5	5,317,325.9							
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)	079	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Plague	025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)	071	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Smallpox	069	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	036	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Yellow fever	041	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
Sexually transmissible infections	Chlamydia infection	007	73	1,051	32	889	229	53	862	408	3,598	2,835	3,620	31,887	22,917	25,188.0	0.9	-	85,602	99,767.6	0.9	-							
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Gonococcal infection	011	12	483	21	227	81	12	224	129	1,189	1,175	1,081	11,349	7,956	7,765.4	1.0	-	27,491	30,134.8	0.9	-							
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	-	54	2	37	10	-	79	27	209	179	257	1,870	1,269	1,373.4	0.9	-	5,575	5,308.8	1.1	-							
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	4	2	5	2	1	45	9	68	69	66	697	487	473.0	1.0	-	1,713	1,899.8	0.9	-							
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	1.8	0.6	-	15	9.0	1.7	-							
	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	18	17	1.6	10.6	13.6	23	8.4	2.7	11.6						
Vaccine preventable diseases	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4.2	0.2	-	13	19.4	0.7	-							
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.6	-	-	-	109.0	-	-							
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	2	24	14	39.0	0.4	-	70	234.2	0.3	-						
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	5	101.0	0.0	-	17	433.6	0.0	-							
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	19	2	5	5	-	12	11	54	50	57	360	251	300.4	0.8	-	1,295	1,812.6	0.7	-							
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Rotavirus	077	1	11	1	28	14	2	2	14	73	65	51	801	454	533.6	0.9	-	2,896	4,078.4	0.7	-							
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	-	-	2	10.4	0.2	-							
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	-	2	4.4	0.5	-							
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	1	NN	2	-	7	-	8	6	24	36	78	402	275	699.0	0.4	-	1,656	3,634.0	0.5	-							
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	16	NN	12	8	73	19	41	51	220	242	391	2,954	1,894	3,178.4	0.6	-	9,200	12,973.8	0.7	-							
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	1	NN	7	316	37	22	129	95	607	687	776	7,181	4,991	3,578.6	1.4	67.3	20,943	14,194.6	1.5	3,539.3							
Respiratory diseases	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	370	5,787	305	3,387	520	36	3,459	39	13,903	3,986	25	19,704	19,657	13,756.8	1.4	-	20,189	145,717.8	0.1	-							
	Legionellosis	015	1	8	-	11	2	1	8	4	35	22	23	229	153	125.2	1.2	-	556	454.0	1.2	-							
	Pertussis	024	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	1	10	9	20	167	111	1,933.6	0.1	-	513	10,640.8	0.0	-							
	RSVA	083	11	NN	-	1,459	28	NN	NN	14	1,512	623	-	4,220	3,508	-	-	3,508.0	5,686	-	-	5,686.0							
	Tuberculosis	034	-	21	-	6	1	1	14	2	45	48	62	410	308	351.8	0.9	-	1,330	1,495.2	0.9	-							
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	4	-	12	-	-	-	2	18	9	20	135	96	132.6	0.7	-	343	417.2	0.8	-							
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	9	7	11.0	0.6	-	10	69.8	0.1	-							
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	5	-	2	-	-	3	1	11	4	-	34	31	206.8	0.1	-	43	983.8	0.0	-							
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2.2	0.5	-	2	22.6	0.1	-							
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection**	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Malaria	020	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	5	9	2	42	36	68.4	0.5	-	87	307.8	0.3	-							
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	0.2	5.0	-							
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	34	-	31	6	-	15	11	97	73	195	2,127	1,336	1,972.0	0.7	-	3,284	4,634.6	0.7	-							
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.4	-	-								
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	2	3.8	0.5	-	16	19.0	0.8	-							
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	8	30	61	47	58.8	0.8	-	184	152.4	1.2	-							
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
	Ornithosis	023	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	3															