

Communicable Diseases Surveillance

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

The NNDSS is conducted under the auspices of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand. The system coordinates the national surveillance of more than 40 communicable diseases or disease groups endorsed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Notifications of these diseases are made to State and Territory health authorities under the provisions of their respective public health legislations. De-identified core unit data are supplied fortnightly for collation, analysis and dissemination. For further information, see CDI 1997;21:5.

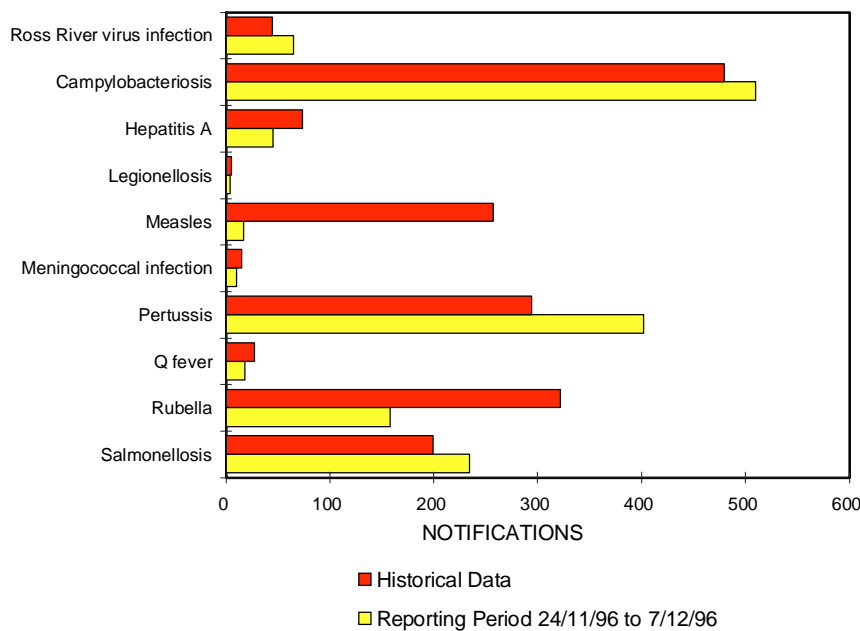
Reporting period 24 November to 7 December 1996

There were 1,873 notifications received for this two-week period (Tables 1, 2 and 3). The numbers of reports for selected diseases have been compared with average data for this period in the previous three years (Figure 1).

Five hundred and ten notifications of campylobacteriosis were received in this period. The 0 - 4 years age group accounted for 106 of these and reports of infection in this age group are the most frequent (Figure 2).

One hundred and thirty-five cases of gonococcal infection were reported in this period. Ninety-five of these (70%) were for persons in the 15 - 34 years age group. The

Figure 1. Selected National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reports, and historical data¹



1. The historical data are the averages of the number of notifications in 9 previous 2-week reporting periods: the corresponding periods of the last 3 years and the periods immediately preceding and following those.

Table 1. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood immunisation, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 24 November 1996 to 7 December 1996

Disease ^{1,2}									This period	This period	Year to	Year to
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	1996	1995	date	date
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	50	65
Measles	2	5	0	6	0	0	4	0	17	39	479	1281
Mumps	0	1	0	NN	2	0	5	1	9	10	121	147
Pertussis	6	88	0	51	100	5	129	23	402	184	3827	4074
Rubella	2	8	0	64	45	1	21	17	158	324	2559	4020
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5

NN Not Notifiable.

1. No notifications of poliomyelitis have been reported since 1986.

2. 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.

Table 2. Notifications of other diseases received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 24 November 1996 to 7 December 1996

Disease ^{1,2}	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1996	This period 1995	Year to date 1996	Year to date 1995
Arbovirus Infection (NEC) ^{3,4}	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	96	66
Barmah Forest virus infection	0	2	-	10	0	0	0	-	12	22	760	735
Ross River virus infection	0	15	6	22	2	0	2	18	65	46	7705	2569
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	1	1	2	40	31
Campylobacteriosis ⁵	9	-	2	201	82	30	85	101	510	523	11201	10247
Chlamydial infection (NEC) ⁶	8	NN	34	139	0	9	77	57	324	281	7024	5995
Donovanosis	0	NN	0	0	NN	0	0	1	1	1	46	75
Gonococcal infection ⁷	1	17	18	26	0	0	14	59	135	137	3638	2991
Hepatitis A	1	21	2	6	2	1	7	5	45	87	2058	1475
Hepatitis B incident	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	17	183	307
Hepatitis C incident	0	2	0	-	0	0	-	-	2	2	36	67
Hepatitis C unspecified	13	NN	17	92	NN	5	22	36	185	430	8521	9152
Hepatitis (NEC)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	NN	1	0	18	12
Legionellosis	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	4	6	169	153
Leptospirosis	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	5	15	217	137
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	63	53
Malaria	1	1	1	9	1	0	2	0	15	7	800	593
Meningococcal infection	0	6	0	2	0	1	1	0	10	16	401	366
Ornithosis	0	NN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	68	160
Q Fever	0	7	0	10	0	0	0	1	18	22	492	452
Salmonellosis (NEC)	2	65	9	83	10	4	27	34	234	199	5417	5602
Shigellosis ⁵	0	-	2	9	8	0	3	2	24	22	621	703
Syphilis	0	20	7	12	0	0	0	0	39	52	1384	1746
Tuberculosis	2	16	2	3	1	0	10	4	38	57	1046	997
Typhoid ⁸	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	76	68

- For HIV and AIDS, see *CDI* 1996;20:548. For rarely notified diseases, see Table 3.
- 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.
- Tas: includes Ross River virus and dengue.
- NT, Vic and WA: includes Barmah Forest virus.
- NSW: only as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.

- WA: genital only.
- NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.
- NSW, Vic: includes paratyphoid.
- NN Not Notifiable.
- NEC Not Elsewhere Classified.
- Elsewhere Classified.

Table 3. Notifications of rare¹ diseases received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 24 November to 7 December 1996

Disease ²	Total this period	Reporting States or Territories	Year to date 1996
Brucellosis	1	Qld	35
Chancroid			1
Cholera			4
Hydatid infection			42
Leprosy			9

- Fewer than 60 cases of each of these diseases were notified each year during the period 1988 to 1995.
- No notifications have been received during 1996 for the following rare diseases: botulism lymphogranuloma venereum; plague; rabies; yellow fever; or other viral haemorrhagic fevers.

Figure 2. Campylobacteriosis notifications, 1995 and 1996, by age group and sex

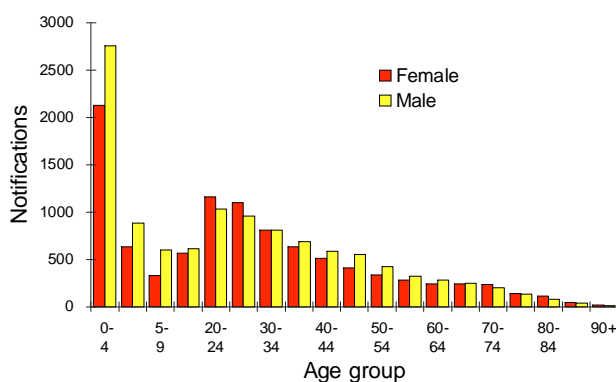


Figure 3. Pertussis notifications, 1994 to 1996, by month of onset

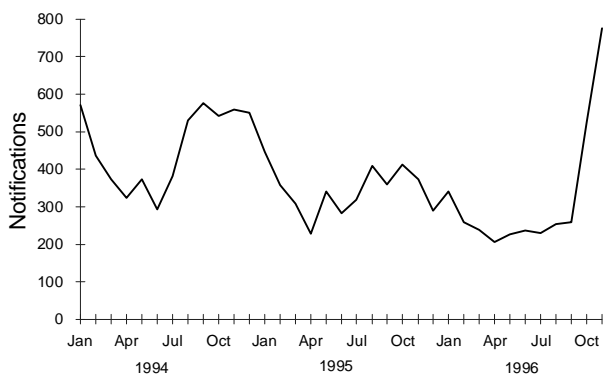
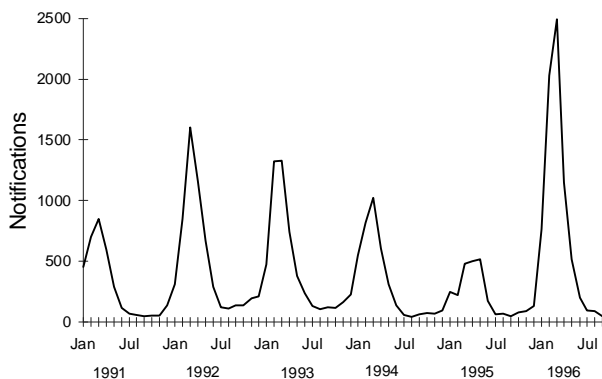


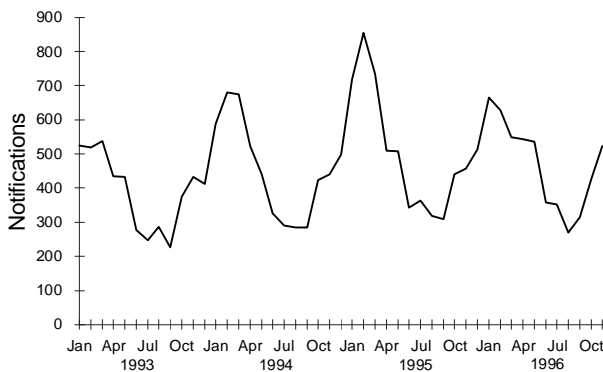
Figure 4. Ross River virus notifications, 1991 to 1996, by month of onset



male:female ratio was 2.0:1. Thirty cases were reported from the Statistical Division of Kimberley, Western Australia, 20 from the Northern Territory, 15 from Sydney and 13 from Perth.

Pertussis was reported for 402 persons in this period. Eighty-one and 96 cases were seen in the 5 - 9 years and 10 - 14 years age groups respectively. Included were 20 apparent clusters of 3 or more cases in postcode regions of New South Wales (3), Victoria (6), Queensland (2), South Australia (8) and Western Australia (1). There has been a sharp increase in the number of notifications in

Figure 5. Salmonella notifications, 1993 to 1996, by month of onset



recent months. However, total notifications for the year to date are less than those seen in 1994 or 1995 (Figure 3).

Sixty-five notifications of Ross River virus were received in this period. The majority of cases (77%) were in persons aged 20 - 54 years. Numbers remain low but are expected to increase in January (Figure 4).

There were 158 cases of rubella reported in this period. The number of notifications continues to be below the level reported for the same period in recent years. Eighty-six cases were aged between 15 and 29 years. There was a predominance of males, with the male:female ratio being 1.7:1.

Salmonellosis was reported for 234 persons in this period. Eighty-seven of the cases were in the 0 - 4 years age group. Included were 6 apparent clusters of 3 or more cases in postcode regions of New South Wales (3), Queensland (2), and Western Australia (1). The number of notifications has increased since August. This is expected, with notifications usually peaking in summer. (Figure 5).

Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) comprises 99 sentinel general practitioners from throughout the country. A total of approximately 9,000 consultations are recorded each week for 12 conditions. Of these, CDI reports the consultation rate for influenza, rubella, measles, chickenpox, pertussis and gastroenteritis. For further information including case definitions see CDI 1997;21:6.

Table 4. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network reports, weeks 48 and 49, 1996

Condition	Week 48, to 1 December 1996		Week 49, to 8 December 1996	
	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters
Influenza	16	2.4	20	3.0
Rubella	4	0.6	4	0.6
Measles	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	16	2.4	16	2.4
Pertussis	5	0.8	3	0.4
Gastroenteritis	117	17.7	124	18.5

Data for weeks 48 and 49 ending 1 and 8 December respectively are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 4). The consultation rate for influenza-like illness has remained at relatively low levels since the beginning of October. There has been no appreciable change in the consultation rate for gastroenteritis over recent months. Consultation rates for chickenpox for weeks 48 and 49 were lower than for the previous four weeks. The numbers of reported cases of rubella and pertussis have remained low. Only three cases of measles have been reported since the beginning of May.

LabVISE

The Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme, *LabVISE*, is a sentinel reporting scheme. Twenty-one laboratories contribute data on the laboratory identification of viruses and other organisms. Data are collated and published in *Communicable Diseases Intelligence* each fortnight. These data should be interpreted with caution as the number and type of reports received is subject to a number of biases. For further information, see *CDI 1997;21:8-9*.

There were 1,542 reports received in the *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme in this period (Tables 5 and 6).

Thirty-one reports of Ross River virus were received in this period. Reports usually begin to rise for the season in December and January, peaking in March.

A total of 87 laboratory reports of rubella were received this fortnight, all diagnosed by IgM detection. Included were 67 males and 20 females, 6 of whom were of childbearing age. Reports peaked in October, as was the case in previous years.

Seventy-nine reports of untyped adenovirus were received this period. The number of reports received has fallen in recent months after peaking in September (Figure 6).

Influenza A was reported for 37 patients this period. Included were 22 males and 13 females (2 sex not stated). Fifteen reports were for patients over the age of 65 years. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (3), four-fold rise in titre (one) and single high titre (33). The number of reports remains low which is usual for the time of year (Figure 7).

The number of reports of parainfluenza virus type 3 remained high through November (Figure 8). A total of 149 reports were received in this reporting period, most of which were from Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria. Forty-six patients (31%) were under one year of age and 98 (66%) were under the age of 5 years. Methods of diagnosis included virus isolation (96), antigen detection (25), single high titre (27) and four-fold rise in titre (one).

Figure 6. Adenovirus (untyped) laboratory reports, 1995 to 1996, by month of specimen collection

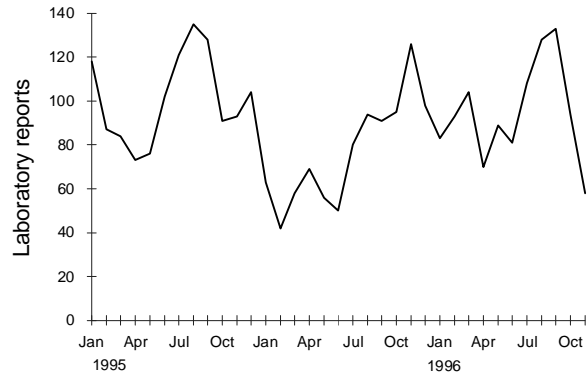


Figure 7. Influenza A laboratory reports, 1994 to 1996, by month of specimen collection

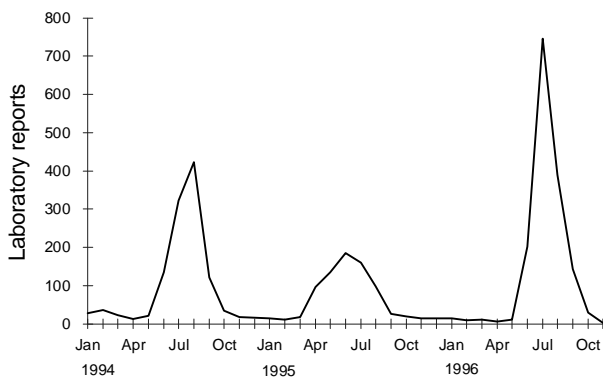


Figure 8. Parainfluenza virus type 3 laboratory reports, 1995 to 1996, by month of specimen collection

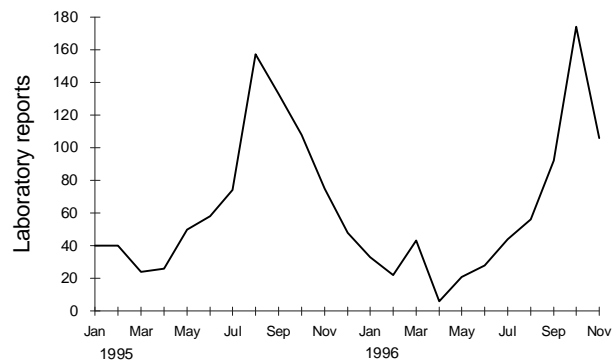


Table 5. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 28 November to 11 December 1996, historical data², and total reports for the year

	State or Territory ¹								Total this fortnight	Historical data ²	Total 1996
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA			
Measles, mumps, rubella											
Measles virus			2	1				2	5	27.0	58
Mumps virus				1				3	4	3.5	41
Rubella virus			1	51	16		1	18	87	98.5	787
Hepatitis viruses											
Hepatitis A virus			2		2			13	17	23.0	393
Hepatitis D virus				2					2	1.2	20
Arboviruses											
Ross River virus			6	9	2			14	31	20.5	3174
Barmah Forest virus			2	3				5	10	10.2	218
Dengue not typed							1	2	3	.8	16
Adenoviruses											
Adenovirus type 1					3		1		4	2.5	17
Adenovirus type 2					2	1		1	4	3.2	35
Adenovirus type 3								1	1	6.2	70
Adenovirus type 7					1				1	2.5	25
Adenovirus type 35							1		1	.0	3
Adenovirus type 40								3	3	.0	33
Adenovirus not typed/pending		4	1	12	4		15	43	79	63.7	1366
Herpes viruses											
Cytomegalovirus	1			18	5		10	15	49	72.3	1487
Varicella-zoster virus		1		22	3		14	30	70	56.8	1172
Epstein-Barr virus		6	5	51	31		4	64	161	101.5	2120
Other DNA viruses											
Molluscum contagiosum								1	1	.2	6
Parvovirus			1	22	2		12	2	39	7.7	257
Picornavirus family											
Coxsackievirus A7					1				1	.0	1
Coxsackievirus A16							1		1	.0	7
Coxsackievirus B3							1		1	1.8	2
Coxsackievirus B4					1				1	.0	7
Coxsackievirus B untyped/pending								1	1	.0	3
Echovirus type 7					1		1		2	.0	14
Echovirus type 15					1				1	.0	1
Echovirus type 18					1				1	.2	1
Poliovirus type 2 (uncharacterised)							1		1	1.8	17
Poliovirus type 1 (vaccine strain)					1				1	.0	1
Rhinovirus (all types)		1		25			8	37	71	43.0	730
Enterovirus not typed/pending				24			3	38	65	49.3	836
Ortho/Paramyxoviruses											
Influenza A virus								37	37	9.3	1538
Influenza B virus					5			5	10	3.7	66
Parainfluenza virus type 1		1	1		4			4	10	.7	314
Parainfluenza virus type 2								2	2	1.0	72
Parainfluenza virus type 3		4	1	71	8		28	37	149	48.5	806
Respiratory syncytial virus		1		3		1	13	11	29	40.2	4116
Other RNA viruses											
HTLV-1			1					1	2	.0	9
Rotavirus		1			15	10	10	24	60	69.5	1605

Table 5. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 28 November to 11 December 1996, historical data², and total reports for the year, continued

	State or Territory ¹								Total this fortnight	Historical data ²	Total 1996
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA			
<u>Norwalk agent</u>							4		4	3.8	42
Other											
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed		5	43	60	29	1	7	132	277	125.3	3786
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>							2	1	3	12.3	86
<i>Chlamydia</i> species		1							1	2.7	52
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>		17		20	8		15	61	121	21.5	894
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)		2		4			1	8	15	14.3	194
<i>Rickettsia australis</i>				1			1		2	1.8	20
<i>Rickettsia tsutsugamushi</i>				1					1	.2	14
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>				1			42	34	77	26.0	776
<i>Bordetella</i> species				21					21	18.7	296
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i>								2	2	.2	17
<i>Leptospira</i> species		1		3					4	1.7	63
<u><i>Schistosoma</i> species</u>			1				1	9	11	7.3	244
TOTAL	1	45	68	426	146	13	198	828	1,542	1,006.	27440

1. State or Territory of postcode, if reported, otherwise State or Territory of reporting laboratory.
2. The historical data are the averages of the numbers of reports in 6 previous 2 week reporting periods: the corresponding periods of the last 2 years and the periods immediately preceding and following those.

Table 6. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 28 November to 11 December 1996

State or Territory	Laboratory	Reports
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	25
	Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Camperdown	12
Queensland	Queensland Medical Laboratory, West End	205
	State Health Laboratory, Brisbane	129
South Australia	Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide	146
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	12
Victoria	Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne	7
	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	125
	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield Hospital	67
Western Australia	PathCentre Virology, Perth	630
	Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth	54
	Western Diagnostic Pathology	130
TOTAL		1542