

Communicable Diseases Surveillance

Highlights

Communicable Diseases Surveillance consists of data from various sources. The National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) is conducted under the auspices of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand. The *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) is a sentinel surveillance scheme. The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) is a general practitioner-based sentinel surveillance scheme. In this report, data from the NNDSS are referred to as 'notifications' or 'cases', whereas those from ASPREN are referred to as 'consultations' or 'encounters' while data from the LabVISE scheme are referred to as 'laboratory reports'.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

The number of notifications of pertussis infection which had been falling and then appeared to plateau have now risen with 395 reports for this period compared with 324 in the previous reporting period. Examination of the historical data (Figure 3) shows that pertussis notifications are relatively low, mainly because of the large numbers reported in late 1997 and early 1998. Laboratory reporting of pertussis for this period and for the year to date is lower in comparison with similar periods in 1997.

Laboratory reports of measles and rubella continue to decline this month with the lowest number of reports for year to date since the LabVISE scheme was started. The number of reports through the NNDSS is also low and is compared with historical data in Figure 3.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

The number of reports of RSV from the labVISE system continued to decline this month after peaking in August this year with 1,767 reports. Although overall laboratory reporting was similar to that for previous years this year's peak was both higher and later than previous peaks (Figures 1 and 2). Eighty-three per cent of reports were for infants in the under five-year age group.

Ross River Virus Infection

The total number of notifications for 1998 has been lower than in the previous couple of years but a rise has been seen for this reporting period (from 50 in the previous reporting period to 198 in the current one). When examined by onset date, number of cases has risen from 72 in October to 172 in November 1998. Most reports are from NSW and Qld. This may represent the beginning of the increase expected in the Summer months.

Figure 1. LabVISE reports of RSV, 1996 to 1998, by month

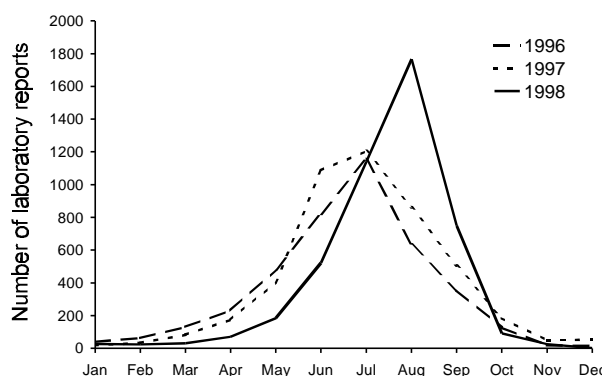
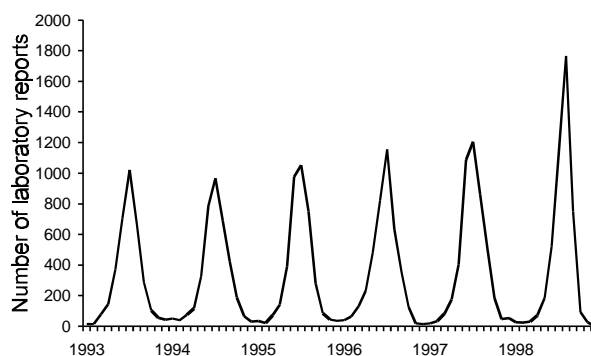


Figure 2. LabVISE reports of RSV, January 1993 to November 1998



Campylobacter

The total number of notifications with onset in October and November 1998 has risen compared with the numbers seen in previous years, particularly in Victoria and South Australia. This is reflected in the historical figure (Figure 3).

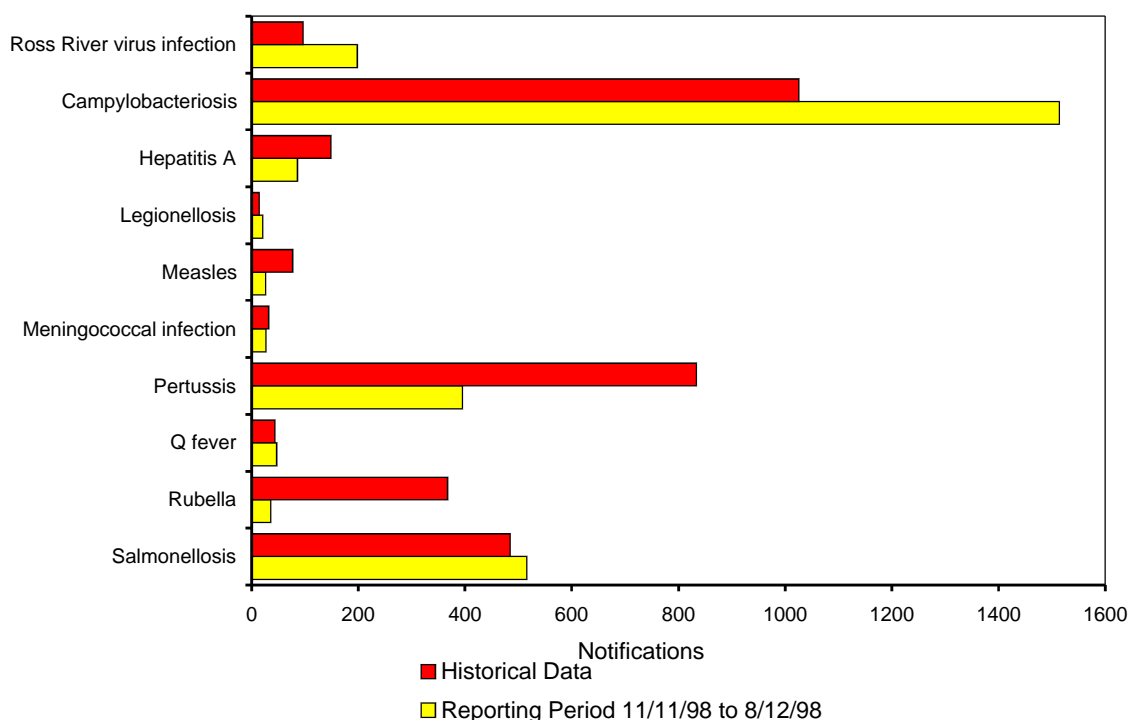
Tables

There were 5,530 notifications to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) in the four week period, 11 November to 8 December 1998 (Tables 1 and 2). The numbers of reports for selected diseases have been compared with historical data for corresponding periods in the previous three years (Figure 3).

There were 1,634 reports received by the *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) in the four week period, 5 November to 2 December 1998 (Tables 3 and 4).

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) data for weeks 44 to 47, ending 29 November 1998, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 5).

Figure 3. Selected National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reports, and historical data¹



1. The historical data are the averages of the number of notifications in the corresponding 4 week periods of the last 3 years and the 2 week 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 11 November to 8 December 1998.

Disease ^{1,2}	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1998	This period 1997	Year to date 1998	Year to date 1997
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b infection	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	3	34	47
Measles ³	6	6	0	1	0	3	8	2	26	114	332	782
Mumps	0	1	0	0	2	0	8	5	16	10	172	181
Pertussis	16	154	3	111	27	4	75	5	395	1,600	6,208	9,464
Rubella ⁴	1	7	0	11	2	2	8	5	36	101	764	1,391
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	7	7

Table 2. Notifications of diseases received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 11 November to 8 December 1998.

Disease ^{1,2,3,4}	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1998	This period 1997	Year to date 1998 ⁵	Year to date 1997
Arbovirus infection (NEC) ⁶	0	1	0	4	0	0	9	0	14	0	80	36
Barmah Forest virus infection	0	12	3	18	0	0	0	1	34	30	534	676
Brucellosis	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	5	44	37
Campylobacteriosis ⁷	30	-	13	456	349	23	506	137	1,514	1,035	11,928	10,980
Chlamydial infection (NEC) ⁸	12	NN	57	345	67	19	197	124	821	676	10,272	8,547
Cholera	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	3
Dengue	0	2	1	67	0	0	0	0	70	2	500	207
Donovanosis	0	NN	0	0	NN	0	0	0	0	8	35	36
Gonococcal infection ⁹	1	60	115	80	13	0	44	63	376	257	5,053	4,326
Hepatitis A	0	22	5	23	6	0	16	14	86	156	2,478	2,908
Hepatitis B incident	0	3	2	5	1	0	7	0	18	12	226	233
Hepatitis C incident ¹⁰	0	3	0	-	6	0	-	-	23	13	323	74
Hepatitis C unspecified ⁵	21	NN	26	268	NN	18	421	87	902	1,649	10,109	18,493
Hepatitis (NEC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NN	0	0	4	5
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome ¹¹	NN	0	NN	1	0	0	NN	0	1	1	13	3
Hydatid infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	11	42	59
Legionellosis	1	4	0	0	9	0	4	3	21	20	245	145
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	11
Leptospirosis	0	1	0	7	0	1	7	2	18	11	179	117
Listeriosis	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	51	68
Malaria	2	6	1	22	3	0	4	1	39	17	665	710
Meningococcal infection	0	6	2	9	3	0	3	4	27	23	448	466
Ornithosis	2	NN	0	0	0	0	15	0	17	2	51	43
Q Fever	0	21	0	15	0	0	11	0	47	40	548	561
Ross River virus infection	1	76	5	72	9	0	29	6	198	67	2,757	6,571
Salmonellosis (NEC)	5	96	41	197	36	4	101	36	516	551	7,373	6,611
Shigellosis ⁷	NN	0	NN	NN	0	0	NN	NN	0	2	15	17
SLTEC, VTEC ¹²	2	-	7	13	4	0	9	13	48	55	582	757
Syphilis ¹³	1	24	30	67	1	0	1	4	128	75	1,444	1,205
Tuberculosis	0	10	2	9	2	2	29	5	59	98	903	926
Typhoid ¹⁴	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	3	68	70
Yersiniosis (NEC) ⁷	0	-	0	6	3	0	1	0	10	20	197	235

1. Diseases preventable by routine childhood immunisation are presented in Table 2.

2. For HIV and AIDS, see Tables 6 and 7.

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.

4. No notifications have been received during 1998 for the following rare diseases: botulism (foodborne), lymphogranuloma venereum, plague, rabies, yellow fever, or other viral haemorrhagic fevers. There have also been no cases of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), which became nationally reportable in August 1998.

5. Data from Victoria for 1998 are incomplete.

6. NT: includes Barmah Forest virus.

7. Not reported for NSW because it is only notifiable as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.

8. WA: genital only.

9. NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.

10. Qld and Vic incident cases of Hepatitis C are not separately reported.

11. Nationally reportable from August 1998.

12. Infections with *Shiga*-like toxin (verotoxin) producing *E. Coli* (SLTEC/VTEC) became nationally reportable in August 1998.

13. Includes congenital syphilis.

14. NSW, Qld, Vic: includes paratyphoid.

NN Not Notifiable.

NEC Not Elsewhere Classified.

- Elsewhere Classified.

NA Not applicable, as reporting for this condition did not commence until 1998.

Table 3. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 5 November to 2 December 1998, and total reports for the year.

	State or Territory ¹								Total this period	Total reported in <i>CDI</i> in 1998
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA		
Measles, mumps, rubella										
Measles virus		1			1			1	3	57
Mumps virus								5	5	48
Rubella virus		1		4				4	9	112
Hepatitis viruses										
Hepatitis A virus		4	4	13				16	37	380
Hepatitis D virus				1	1				2	8
Arboviruses										
Ross River virus		4	5	39				7	55	667
Barmah Forest virus			1	7				1	9	39
Dengue type 3				7					7	7
Dengue not typed								4	4	40
Flavivirus (unspecified)				10					10	74
Adenoviruses										
Adenovirus type 1					6				6	69
Adenovirus type 3					7				7	54
Adenovirus type 6					2				2	17
Adenovirus type 7					2				2	19
Adenovirus type 40								2	2	15
Adenovirus not typed/pending		30		3	15		12	21	81	833
Herpes viruses										
Cytomegalovirus		17	2	20	10	1	16	5	71	778
Varicella-zoster virus		16	2	55	6	2	28	29	138	1,256
Epstein-Barr virus		14	10	69	29		12	51	185	1,781
Other DNA viruses										
Contagious pustular dermatitis (Orf virus)								1	1	9
Parvovirus			1	11	2		2	12	28	248
Picornavirus family										
Coxsackievirus B5		1							1	5
Echovirus type 11		7							7	33
Echovirus type 30		3							3	3
Echovirus not typed/pending							1		1	2
Poliovirus type 1 (uncharacterised)		4							4	11
Poliovirus type 2 (uncharacterised)		2					1		3	14
Rhinovirus (all types)	1	25					5	4	35	442
Enterovirus not typed/pending		3	3	8	2		5	53	74	502
Ortho/paramyxoviruses										
Influenza A virus		6		4	21		2	3	36	2,780
Influenza B virus					1		1	2	4	169
Parainfluenza virus type 1					7		1		8	284
Parainfluenza virus type 3		17		12	9		8	8	54	374
Parainfluenza virus type 4								1	1	1
Parainfluenza virus typing pending						1			1	5
Respiratory syncytial virus		22		5	57	2	7	16	109	4,797

Table 3. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 5 November to 2 December 1998, and total reports for the year (continued).

	State or Territory ¹								Total this period	Total reported in CDI in 1998
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA		
Other RNA viruses										
HTLV-1								1	1	19
Rotavirus	1	98			23	10	16	2	150	1,325
Astrovirus							1		1	10
Norwalk agent							1		1	38
Other										
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed		33	16	95	18	3	7	78	250	3,332
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>							10	1	11	64
<i>Chlamydia</i> species		1		5					6	58
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>		20	1	25	10		33	9	98	1,314
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)		10		10	1		6	1	28	137
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>		4	1	36			34	3	78	968
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>								1	1	6
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i>					1			3	4	33
TOTAL	2	343	46	439	231	19	209	345	1,634	23,237

1. State or Territory of postcode, if reported, otherwise State or Territory of reporting laboratory.

Table 4. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 5 November to 2 December 1998.

State or Territory	Laboratory	Reports
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	81
	New Children's Hospital, Westmead	52
	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown	60
	South West Area Pathology Service, Liverpool	120
Queensland	Queensland Medical Laboratory, West End	478
	Townsville General Hospital	20
South Australia	Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide	230
Tasmania	Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart	16
Victoria	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	123
	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield	89
Western Australia	PathCentre Virology, Perth	314
	Western Diagnostic Pathology	51
TOTAL		1,634

Table 5. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network reports, weeks 44 to 47, 1998

Week number	44		45		46		47	
Week ending on	8 November 1998		15 November 1998		22 November 1998		29 November 1998	
Doctors reporting	53		57		58		53	
Total encounters	6560		7401		6854		6546	
Condition	Rate per 1,000		Rate per 1,000		Rate per 1,000		Rate per 1,000	
	Reports	encounters	Reports	encounters	Reports	encounters	Reports	encounters
Influenza	2.8	17	2.6	9	1.2	16	2.3	14
Rubella	0.1	2	0.3	3	0.4	1	0.1	0
Measles	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Chickenpox	2.0	13	2.0	13	1.8	15	2.2	14
Pertussis	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
HIV testing (patient initiated)	1.6	7	1.1	10	1.4	12	1.8	10
HIV testing (doctor initiated)	0.4	2	0.3	7	0.9	3	0.4	0
Td (ADT) vaccine	7.0	41	6.3	51	6.9	39	5.7	45
Pertussis vaccination	6.1	43	6.6	56	7.6	54	7.9	36
Reaction to pertussis vaccine	0.1	1	0.2	1	0.1	1	0.1	2
Ross River virus infection	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1	2
Gastroenteritis	9.0	85	13.0	98	13.2	103	15.0	86

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 1998;22:4-5.

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 every four weeks. 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 1998;22:8.

ASPREN currently comprises about 100 general practitioners from throughout the country. Up to 9,000 consultations are reported each week, with special attention to 12 conditions chosen for sentinel surveillance in 1998. CDI reports the consultation rates for all of these. For further information, including case definitions, see CDI 1998;22:5-6.

Additional Reports

HIV and AIDS Surveillance

National surveillance for HIV disease is coordinated by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR), in collaboration with State and Territory health authorities and the Commonwealth of Australia. Cases of HIV infection are notified to the National HIV Database on the first occasion of diagnosis in Australia, by either the diagnosing laboratory (ACT, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria) or by a combination of laboratory and doctor sources (Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia). Cases of AIDS are notified through the State and Territory health authorities to the National AIDS Registry. Diagnoses of both HIV infection and AIDS are notified with the person's

date of birth and name code, to minimise duplicate notifications while maintaining confidentiality.

Tabulations of diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS are based on data available three months after the end of the reporting interval indicated, to allow for reporting delay and to incorporate newly available information. More detailed information on diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS is published in the quarterly Australian HIV Surveillance Report, available from the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, 376 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010. Telephone: (02) 9332 4648 Facsimile: (02) 9332 1837.

HIV and AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS reported for 1 to 31 July 1998, as reported to 31 October 1998, are included in this issue of CDI (Tables 6 and 7).

Table 6. New diagnoses of HIV infection, new diagnoses of AIDS and deaths following AIDS occurring in the period 1 to 31 July 1998, by sex and State or Territory of diagnosis.

		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Totals for Australia			
										This period 1998	This period 1997	Year to date 1998	Year to date 1997
HIV diagnoses	Female	0	7	0	2	0	0	1	4	14	5	52	39
	Male	0	29	0	8	1	0	5	4	47	62	375	431
	Sex not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	11
	Total ¹	0	36	0	10	1	0	6	8	61	68	433	482
AIDS diagnoses	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	7	19
	Male	0	4	0	1	0	0	3	0	8	21	110	186
	Total ¹	0	5	0	1	0	0	3	0	9	24	117	205
AIDS deaths	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	9
	Male	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	15	58	141
	Total ¹	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	17	63	151

1. Persons whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the totals.

Table 7. Cumulative diagnoses of HIV infection, AIDS and deaths following AIDS since the introduction of HIV antibody testing to 31 July 1998, by sex and State or Territory.

		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Australia
HIV diagnoses	Female	22	559	7	130	54	4	195	94	1,065
	Male	183	10,366	98	1,840	637	77	3,712	864	17,777
	Sex not reported	0	259	0	0	0	0	25	0	284
	Total ¹	205	11,203	105	1,976	691	81	3,945	961	19,167
AIDS diagnoses	Female	8	160	0	45	20	2	64	23	322
	Male	82	4,388	32	766	324	41	1,551	337	7,521
	Total ¹	90	4,559	32	813	344	43	1,622	362	7,865
AIDS deaths	Female	2	113	0	28	15	2	46	16	222
	Male	62	3,062	23	533	220	27	1,213	241	5,381
	Total ¹	64	3,182	23	563	235	29	1,265	258	5,619

1. Persons whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the totals.