

Quarterly report

Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2024

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The reference laboratories of the National Neisseria Network, Australia report data on invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) confirmed by culture and/or molecular techniques for the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme (AMSP). Culture-positive cases and molecular-based diagnoses are defined as IMD by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia National Guidelines for Public Health Units.¹ Data contained in the quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the number of cases by jurisdiction and serogroup, when known, and expanded in 2024 to include antimicrobial resistance data for ceftriaxone, penicillin, ciprofloxacin and rifampicin. Some minor corrections to data in Table 1 may be made in subsequent reports if additional data are received.

IMD notifications in Australia for the fourth quarter and year-to date notifications of 2024 were similar to those reported in the corresponding periods of 2023 (Table 1).² In this quarter there were

33 notifications, and for 31/33 (94%), the serogroup was determined at the time of reporting. Notably, the predominance of *N. meningitidis* serogroup B (MenB) IMD reported in 2022³ continues, accounting for 81% of notifications (25/31) in this quarter. In contrast, between 2019 and 2021, the proportion of IMD attributable to MenB was 50–62%.⁴ The remaining IMD this quarter was caused by six MenY notifications (6/31; 19%), with the proportion of MenY totalling 18 notifications year-to-date 2024 (18/129; 14.0%). These 18 MenY IMD notifications mostly involved infections in older age groups (≥ 45 years). There have not been any MenA IMD cases reported in Australia for many years and there were no MenC or MenW IMD cases detected in the fourth quarter of 2024. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing data on the 23 IMD cases diagnosed by culture showed all were susceptible to ceftriaxone. There was no resistance detected to penicillin, ciprofloxacin, and rifampicin.



A full analysis of laboratory-confirmed cases of IMD in each calendar year is contained in the AMSP annual report published in *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*.

Table 1: Number of laboratory confirmations of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 October to 31 December 2024, by serogroup and state or territory

Jurisdiction	Year	Serogroup																	
		B			C			W			Y			ND ^a			All		
		Q4	ytd ^b	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd
Australian Capital Territory	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
New South Wales	2024	3	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	23
	2023	4	23	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	30
Northern Territory	2024	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Queensland	2024	10	37	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	2	2	2	5	15	48	
	2023	7	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	10	41	
South Australia	2024	6	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	28	
	2023	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	
Tasmania	2024	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	2023	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	
Victoria	2024	3	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	3	3	19	
	2023	8	20	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	10	10	26	
Western Australia	2024	2	10	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	
	2023	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	
Australia	2024	25	108	0	1	0	2	0	6	18	6	2	2	6	33	135			
	2023	25	106	0	0	2	11	3	11	6	11	2	2	6	32	134			

a ND: not determined.

b ytd: year to date, data from 1 January to 31 December 2024.

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