Queensland. For the current reporting period all but 3 notifications are in males and 71% are from the 20 to 44 year age groups.

It is likely that the high numbers are associated with the prolonged and heavy wet season in Far North Queensland this year. The floods that followed Cyclone Rona in the Innisfail-Ingham area have probably also contributed (personal communication, Dr Jeffrey Hanna, Tropical Public Health Unit, Cairns). An association between heavy rainfall and floods and an increased incidence of leptospirosis is well recognised.[1]

It presents a difficult public health problem as the prevailing conditions clearly cannot be controlled and leptospirosis infection can result in severe disease.[2] While education of at-risk workers is a possible intervention there is no guarantee that such intervention would change behaviour.

The 1997 population estimates for the Statistical Divisions mentioned in this report are:

Brisbane	1,548,346
Moreton	639,024
Far North Queensland	215,518

References

1. Trevejo, RT, Rigau-Perez JG, et al. Epidemic leptospirosis associated with pulmonary hemorrhage-Nicaragua, 1995. *J Inf Dis* 1998;178:1457-63.
2. Simpson, FG, Green KA, et al. Leptospirosis associated with severe pulmonary haemorrhage in Far North Queensland. *Med J Aust* 1998;169:151-3.

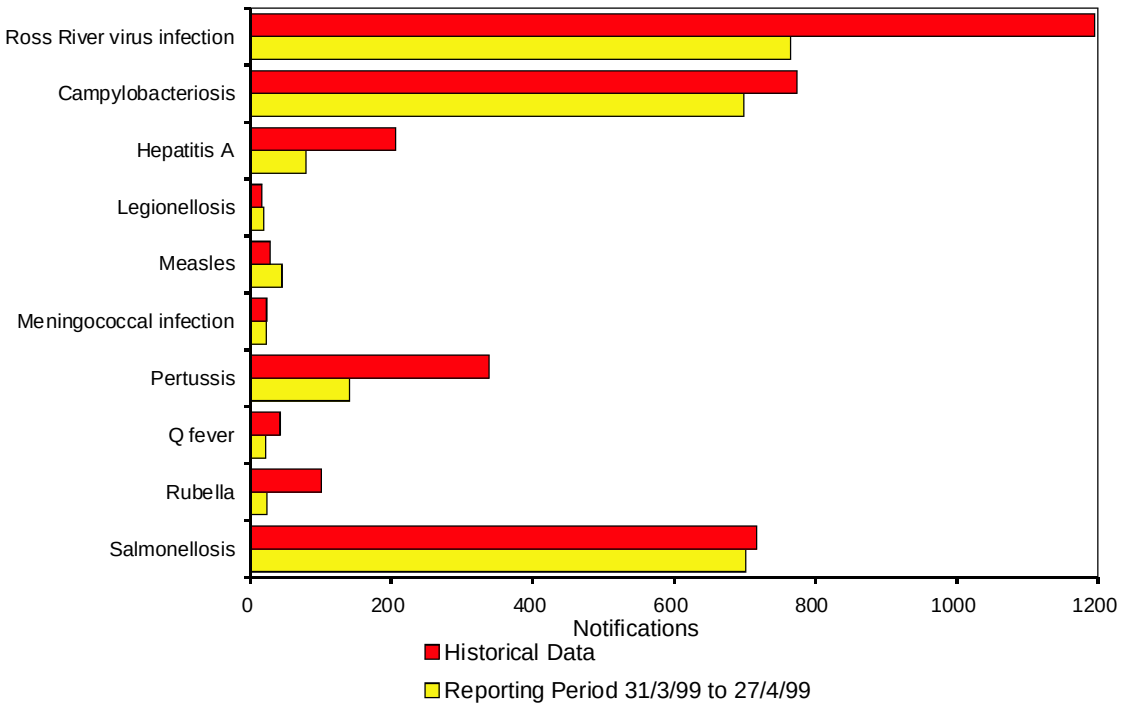
Tables

There were 5,560 notifications to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) in the four week period, 31 March to 27 April 1999 (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 1,403 reports received by the *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) in the four week period, 25 March to 21 April 1999 (Tables 3 and 4).

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) data for weeks 13 to 16, ending 25 April 1999, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 5).

Figure 3. Selected National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reports, and historical data[1]



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 received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 31 March to 27 April 1999

Disease[1,2,3,4]	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1999	This period 1998	Year to date 1999	Year to date 1998[5]
Arbovirus infection (NEC)	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	4	11	62	28
Barmah Forest virus infection	0	21	0	46	0	0	2	4	73	67	248	247
Brucellosis	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	2	8	16
Campylobacteriosis[6]	22	-	14	207	144	21	208	83	699	675	4,137	3,724
Chancroid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chlamydial infection (NEC)[7]	2	NN	46	271	61	16	225	127	748	765	4,155	3,195
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Dengue	0	1	0	11	1	0	0	1	14	42	138	227
Donovanosis	0	NN	0	0	NN	0	0	0	0	2	5	19
Gonococcal infection[8]	1	60	60	66	17	0	58	67	329	400	1,757	1,594
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome[9]	NN	1	NN	0	0	0	NN	0	1	3	10	5
Hepatitis A	0	23	2	33	7	2	4	8	79	204	575	1,046
Hepatitis B incident	0	0	1	4	1	0	6	5	17	30	98	98
Hepatitis B unspecified[10]	7	140	0	69	0	3	63	10	292	453	1,886	2,250
Hepatitis C incident	3	2	0	-	2	0	1	3	11	16	95	80
Hepatitis C unspecified[5,10]	22	321	15	206	58	24	493	52	1,191	1,533	6,312	7,109
Hepatitis (NEC)[11]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NN	0	1	2	7
Hydatid infection	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	2	9	11
Legionellosis	1	3	0	1	1	0	9	4	19	18	111	73
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leptospirosis	0	3	0	47	0	0	1	0	51	8	149	46
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	15	23
Malaria	1	9	1	22	0	1	9	2	45	30	268	192
Meningococcal infection	0	10	1	2	0	2	6	2	23	25	115	72
Ornithosis	0	NN	0	0	1	1	11	0	13	3	29	9
Q Fever	0	6	0	14	0	0	2	0	22	42	149	167
Ross River virus infection	1	135	3	517	4	20	27	58	765	438	2,696	1,542
Salmonellosis (NEC)	3	132	38	236	59	24	129	80	701	689	3,772	3,280
Shigellosis[6]	1	-	13	12	7	0	8	4	45	41	225	221
SLTEC, VTEC[12]	NN	0	NN	NN	1	0	NN	NN	1	1	11	5
Syphilis[13]	0	29	26	41	0	0	0	1	97	89	569	410
TTP[14]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	26	1	5	1	4	35	3	75	86	450	406
Typhoid[15]	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	21	42
Yersiniosis (NEC)[6]	0	-	0	7	1	0	3	0	11	16	68	100

1. Diseases preventable by routine childhood immunisation are presented in Table 2.
2. For HIV and AIDS, see Tables 7 and 8.
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 1999 for the following rare diseases: lymphogranuloma venereum, plague, rabies, yellow fever, or other viral haemorrhagic fevers.
5. Data from Victoria for 1998 are incomplete.
6. Not reported for NSW because it is only notifiable as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.
7. WA: genital only.
8. NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.
9. Nationally reportable from August 1998.
10. Unspecified numbers should be interpreted with some caution as the magnitude may be a reflection of the numbers of testings being carried out.
11. Includes hepatitis D and E.
12. Infections with *Shiga*-like toxin (verotoxin) producing *E. Coli* (SLTEC/VTEC) became nationally reportable in August 1998.
13. Includes congenital syphilis.
14. Thromotic thrombocytopaenic purpura became nationally reportable in August 1998.
15. NSW, Qld: includes paratyphoid.

NN Not Notifiable.

NEC Not Elsewhere Classified.

\- Elsewhere Classified.

Table 2. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood immunisation, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 31 March to 27 April 1999

Disease[1,2]	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1999	This period 1998	Year to date 1999	Year to date 1998
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. influenzae type b infection	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	13	7
Measles	3	0	0	2	1	0	32	7	45	24	141	124
Mumps	0	1	0	3	0	0	7	3	14	14	42	62
Pertussis	6	43	0	17	8	1	64	2	141	350	1,112	3,014
Rubella[3]	3	1	0	7	2	2	7	2	24	44	109	223
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

NN. Not Notifiable

1. No notification of poliomyelitis has been received since 1978.
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.
3. Includes congenital rubella.

Table 3. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory[1] for the reporting period 25 March to 21 April 1999, and total reports for the year

	State or Territory[1]								Total this period	Total reported in *CDI* in 1999
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA		
Measles, mumps, rubella										
Measles virus					3		46	4	53	101
Mumps virus								2	2	18
Rubella virus		1			3		2		6	27
Hepatitis viruses										
Hepatitis A virus			7	8	10			13	38	149
Hepatitis D virus					1				1	2
Arboviruses										
Ross River virus		5	4	99	10		8	48	174	743
Barmah Forest virus		2	1	14			1	3	21	55
Dengue not typed								4	4	21
Murray Valley encephalitis virus								1	1	1
Kunjin virus								1	1	2
Flavivirus (unspecified)				2					2	13
Adenoviruses										
Adenovirus type 1					1		1		2	12
Adenovirus type 2							1		1	7
Adenovirus type 3					2		2		4	17
Adenovirus type 5					2				2	3
Adenovirus type 37							4		4	8
Adenovirus type 40								2	2	20
Adenovirus not typed/pending		3		3	58		4	12	80	441
Herpes viruses										
Cytomegalovirus				10	81		8	11	110	421
Varicella-zoster virus		2	2	10	44	1	21	15	95	615
Epstein-Barr virus		2	3	28	174		7	32	246	975

Table 3. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory[1] for the reporting period 25 March to 21 April 1999, and total reports for the year (continued)

	State or Territory[1]								Total this period	Total reported in *CDI* in 1999
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA		
Other DNA viruses										
Papovavirus group							1		1	1
Parvovirus				2	4		12	4	22	136
Picorna virus family										
Echovirus type 2					1				1	2
Echovirus type 6		2			1				3	12
Echovirus type 7							1		1	1
Echovirus type 9		3							3	20
Echovirus type 11		5							5	30
Echovirus type 22		1							1	12
Echovirus type 30		1							1	19
Poliovirus type 2 (uncharacterised)					1				1	10
Rhinovirus (all types)					10		2	3	15	128
Enterovirus not typed/pending			3	1			3	30	37	264
Ortho/paramyxoviruses										
Influenza A virus		1		1	25		2	4	33	227
Influenza A virus H3N2							2		2	3
Influenza B virus					9			1	10	38
Parainfluenza virus type 1					7				7	16
Parainfluenza virus type 2		1			6			1	8	16
Parainfluenza virus type 3					23		2	5	30	278
Respiratory syncytial virus		1		12	25		1	21	60	333
Other RNA viruses										
HTLV-1								2	2	6
Rotavirus		1						24	25	311
Calici virus							1		1	1
Norwalk agent							1		1	30
Other										
Chlamydia trachomatis not typed		4	5	29	76	2		34	150	948
Chlamydia psittaci							10		10	30
Chlamydia species				2					2	5
Mycoplasma pneumoniae			3	9	24		33	1	70	452
Mycoplasma hominis		1							1	2
Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)				4			2	1	7	55
Bordetella pertussis		1		5			32		38	209
Legionella pneumophila					1				1	6
Legionella longbeachae					2			1	3	23
Cryptococcus species		2							2	3
TOTAL		39	28	239	604	3	210	280	1,403	7,278

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 25 March to 21 April 1999

State or Territory	Laboratory	Reports
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	18
	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown	10
Queensland	Queensland Medical Laboratory, West End	243
	Townsville General Hospital	18
South Australia	Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide	604
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	3
Victoria	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	68
	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield	141
Western Australia	PathCentre Virology, Perth	209
	Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth	33
	Western Diagnostic Pathology	56
TOTAL		1,403

Table 5. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network reports, weeks 13 to 16, 1999

Week number	13		14		15		16	
Week ending on	4 April 1999		11 April 1999		18 April 1999		25 April 1999	
Doctors reporting	50		49		51		49	
Total encounters	5411		5993		6817		6563	
Condition	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters
Influenza	11	2.0	16	2.7	14	2.1	13	2.0
Rubella	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Measles	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chickenpox	8	1.5	15	2.5	11	1.6	6	0.9
New diagnosis of asthma	8	1.5	17	2.8	8	1.2	5	0.8
Post operative wound sepsis	10	1.8	3	0.5	8	1.2	5	0.8
Gastroenteritis	30	5.5	62	10.3	68	10.0	46	7.0

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 1999;23:55.

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 1999;23:58.

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 1999. CDI reports the consultation rates for seven of these. For further information, including case definitions, see CDI 1999;23:55-56.