Communicable Diseases Surveillance

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

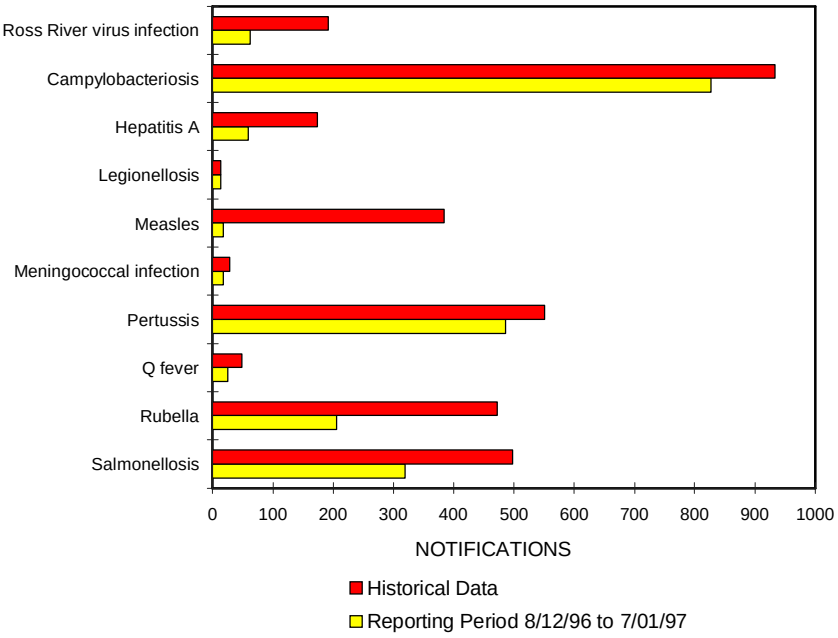
The National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) is conducted under the auspices of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand. The system coordinates the national surveillance of more than 40 communicable diseases or disease groups endorsed by the National Health and Medical 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 8 December 1996 to 7 January 1997 inclusive.

There were 3,243 notifications received for this four-week period (Tables 1, 2 and 3). The number of reports for selected diseases have been compared with average data for this period in the previous three years (Figure 1).

Eight hundred and twenty-seven notifications of campylobacteriosis were received this period. The 0-4 years age group accounted for 180 (22%) of these. Infection is the most frequently reported in this age group.

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



1. The historical data are the averages of the number of notifications in 9 previous 1-month 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 8 December 1996 to 7 January 1997

Disease[1,2]	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1996-97	This period 1995-96	Total notifications 1996	Total notifications 1995
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haemophilus influenzae type B	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	51	74
Measles	0	0	6	5	0	1	6	0	18	59	489	1324
Mumps	0	0	0	NN	0	0	1	1	2	7	122	153
Pertussis	10	1	1	71	183	6	210	4	486	295	4257	4297
Rubella	1	0	0	47	124	0	32	1	205	454	2747	4379
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	7

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 8 December 1996 to 7 January 1997

Disease[1,2]	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1996-97	This period 1995-96	Total notifications 1996	Total notifications 1995
Arbovirus Infection (NEC)[3,4]	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	99	67
Barmah Forest virus infection	0	0	-	14	1	0	0	-	15	22	778	756
Ross River virus infection	0	0	10	40	7	0	3	2	62	42	7763	2602
Dengue	0	0	0	2	0	-	0	0	2	3	42	34
Campylobacteriosis[5]	23	-	15	254	192	49	273	21	827	854	11985	10933
Chlamydial infection (NEC)[6]	8	NN	35	156	0	33	106	9	347	467	7343	6411
Donovanosis	0	NN	0	0	NN	0	0	0	0	10	46	85
Gonococcal infection[7]	1	0	66	71	0	0	16	11	165	303	3790	3259
Hepatitis A	4	0	8	10	9	0	25	3	59	159	2113	1600
Hepatitis B incident	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	16	190	322
Hepatitis C incident	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	0	3	36	69
Hepatitis C unspecified	23	NN	21	108	NN	19	204	7	382	544	8960	9601
Hepatitis (NEC)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	NN	1	1	18	12
Legionellosis	0	0	0	4	5	0	2	2	13	10	181	160
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	7	12	224	148
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	7	65	58
Malaria	1	0	0	34	2	0	10	0	47	37	832	625
Meningococcal infection	1	0	0	4	2	3	8	0	18	21	414	382
Ornithosis	0	NN	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	17	77	176
Q Fever	0	0	0	19	2	0	4	0	25	26	516	473
Salmonellosis (NEC)	8	0	21	158	42	15	65	11	320	377	5691	5895
Shigellosis[5]	1	-	18	13	6	1	4	2	45	37	662	734
Syphilis	1	0	38	11	0	0	1	2	53	93	1435	1829
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	4	1	0	34	1	41	92	1078	1073
Typhoid[8]	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	77	69
Yersiniosis (NEC)[5]	0	-	0	15	2	0	1	0	18	12	268	306

1. For HIV and AIDS, see Tables 4 and 5. For rarely notified diseases, see Table 3 .
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. Tas: includes Ross River virus and dengue.
4. NT, Vic and WA: includes Barmah Forest virus.
5. NSW: only as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.
6. WA: genital only.
7. NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.
8. NSW, Vic: includes paratyphoid.

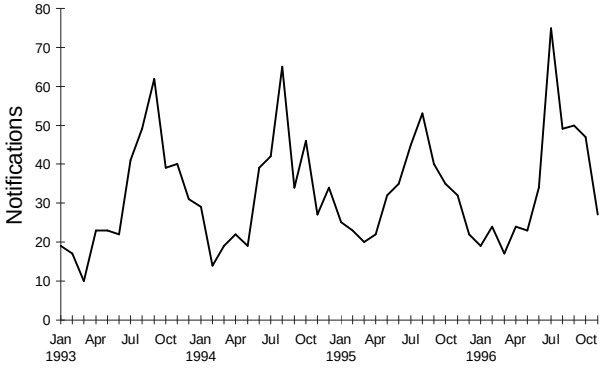
NN Not Notifiable.
NEC Not Elsewhere Classified.
- Elsewhere Classified.

Table 3. Notifications of rare[1] diseases received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 8 December 1996 to 7 January 1997

Disease[2]	Total this period	Reporting States or Territories	Total notifications 1996
Brucellosis	3	Qld	38
Chancroid			1
Cholera			4
Hydatid infection	3	Qld	45
Leprosy			9

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

Figure 2. Meningococcal infection notifications, 1993 to 1996, by month of onset



Gonococcal infection was reported for 165 persons this period. Persons in the 15-34 years age group represented 80% of the total notifications. The male: female ratio was 1.3:1.

There were 18 cases of meningococcal infection reported this period. Eight of these were in the 0-4 years age group. The peak in notifications for meningococcal disease is usually in the winter months (Figure 2).

Pertussis was reported for 478 persons this period. Numbers of notifications continue to be high, with 210 and 183 cases reported in Victoria and South Australia respectively. One hundred and eight and 124 cases were seen in the 5-9 and 10-14 years age groups respectively.

Rubella was reported for 205 persons this period, with 124 notifications from South Australia. The number of notifications has been high in recent months, following a seasonal pattern similar to that recorded during the last three years (Figure 3). One hundred and two cases (50%) were for adults aged 15-24 years. There was a predominance of males, with the male:female ratio being 2.9:1.

Salmonellosis was reported for 320 persons this period. One hundred and forty of the cases were in the 0-4 years age group. Included were apparent clusters of 3 or more cases in postcode regions of Queensland (6), Victoria (1), South Australia (1) and Tasmania (1). Notifications of salmonellosis are expected to rise in January and February.

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

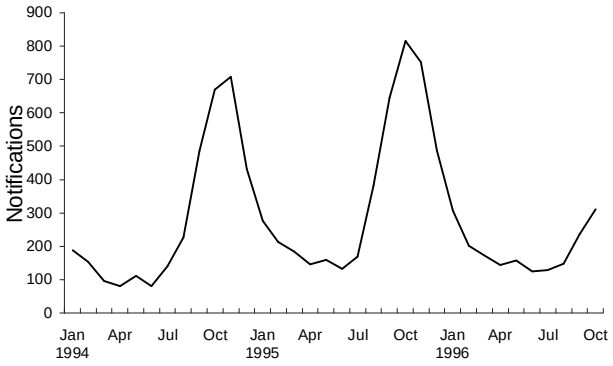


Table 4. New diagnoses of HIV infection, new diagnoses of AIDS and deaths following AIDS occurring in the period 1 to 31 August 1996, by sex and State or Territory of diagnosis

										Totals for Australia			
		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1996	This period 1995	Year to date 1996	Year to date 1995
HIV diagnoses	Female	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	3	50	60
	Male	0	23	0	13	5	1	15	2	59	68	516	526
	Sex not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
	Total[1]	0	24	0	13	6	1	15	4	63	71	571	596
AIDS diagnoses	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	24
	Male	0	7	0	2	0	0	1	0	10	66	250	481
	Total[1]	0	7	0	2	0	0	1	0	10	71	260	506
AIDS deaths	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	13	28
	Male	0	10	0	1	2	0	1	3	17	44	280	418
	Total[1]	0	10	0	1	2	0	1	3	17	46	293	447

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

Table 5. Cumulative diagnoses of HIV infection, AIDS and deaths following AIDS since the introduction of HIV antibody testing to 31 August 1996, by sex and State or Territory

		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Australia
HIV diagnoses	Female	15	571	3	102	45	4	169	76	985
	Male	171	10159	84	1647	582	76	3437	778	16934
	Sex not reported	0	2048	0	0	0	0	42	0	2090
	Total[1]	186	12786	87	1754	627	80	3657	856	20033
AIDS diagnoses	Female	5	138	0	30	18	2	48	17	258
	Male	76	3887	26	668	284	32	1373	293	6639
	Total[1]	81	4035	26	700	302	34	1428	312	6918
AIDS deaths	Female	2	104	0	24	13	2	37	11	193
	Male	50	2815	21	470	197	21	1084	220	4878
	Total[1]	52	2925	21	496	210	23	1127	232	5086

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

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 (Australian Capital Territory, 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 August 1996, as reported to 30 November 1996, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Tables 4 and 5).

Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) comprises 99 sentinel general practitioners from throughout the country. 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.

Data for weeks 50, 51 and 52 ending 15, 22 and 29 December 1996 respectively are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 6). The consultation rate for influenza-like illness has remained at 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 the current reporting weeks are higher than rates reported during winter and spring. The numbers of reported cases of rubella and pertussis have remained low. Four cases of measles were reported, compared with only three cases in the previous eight months.

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 CDI 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 1,099 reports received in this period (Tables 7 and 8).

Sixty-two reports of Ross River virus were received this period. The total number of laboratory reports received during 1996 were the highest on record (3,208). The majority of reports were between January and May (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Ross River virus laboratory reports, 1994 to 1996, by month of specimen collection

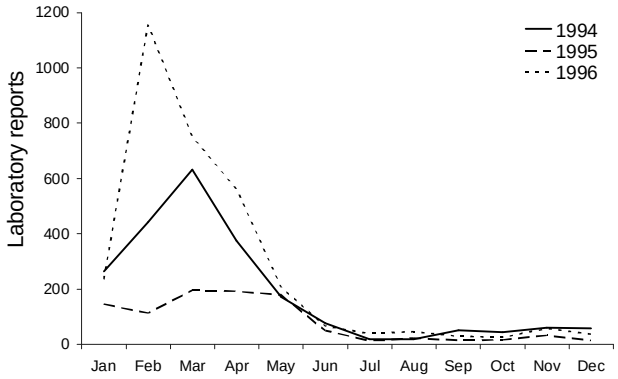


Table 6. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network reports, weeks 50, 51 and 52, 1996

Condition	*Week 50, to 15 December 1996* Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	*Week 51, to 22 December 1996* Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	*Week 52, to 29 December 1996* Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters
Influenza	18	2.3	14	1.7	15	3.4
Rubella	9	1.2	2	0.2	1	0.2
Measles	3	0.4	1	0.1	0	0.0
Chickenpox	37	4.7	28	3.5	22	5.0
Pertussis	7	0.9	3	0.4	5	1.1
Gastroenteritis	150	19.2	146	18.1	96	21.8

Figure 5. *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* laboratory reports, 1992 to 1996, by month of specimen collection

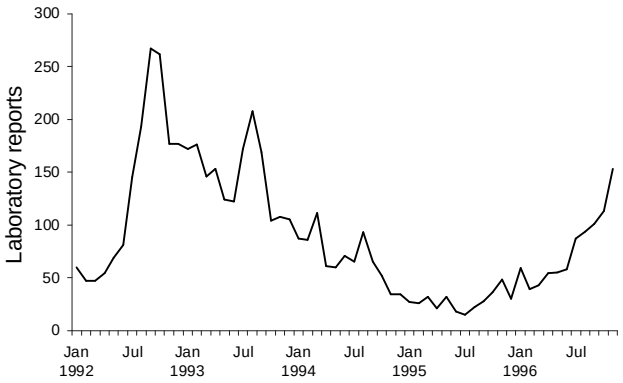
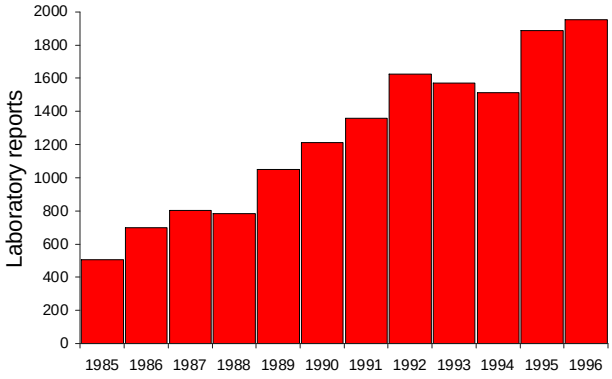


Figure 6. Epstein-Barr virus laboratory reports, 1985 to 1996, by month of specimen collection



Reports of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* continued to increase during November (Figure 5). A total of 93 reports were received this period with diagnosis by IgM detection (41), single high titre (34), total antibody detection (12), four-fold rise in titre (4), IgA detection (one) and virus isolation (one). The majority of reports (59%) were for children under 15 years of age.

There were 97 reports of Epstein-Barr virus received this period with diagnosis by IgM detection (91), total antibody detection (5) and antigen detection (one). The total number of laboratory reports received for 1996 is the highest on record (Figure 6).

Laboratory reports of parvovirus may be declining after peaking in November (Figure 7), only one report was received this period.

Figure 7. Parvovirus laboratory reports, 1993 to 1996, by month of specimen collection

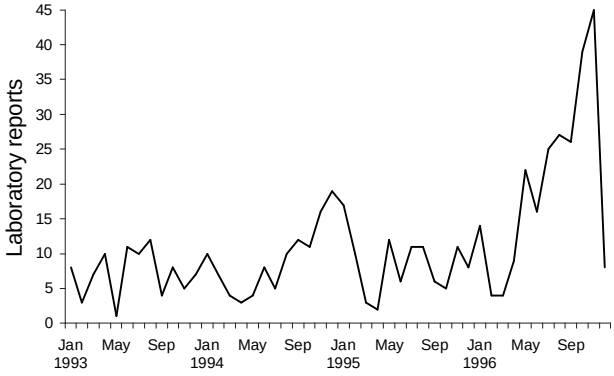


Table 7. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory[1] for the reporting period 12 December 1996 to 1 January 1997, historical data[2], and total reports for the year

	State or Territory[1]										
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total this fortnight	Historical data[2]	Total 1996
Measles, mumps, rubella											
Measles virus				2					2	24.7	60
Rubella virus				5	19		1	9	34	62.8	821
Hepatitis viruses											
Hepatitis A virus			5		5			12	22	18.7	415
Hepatitis D virus					2				2	.7	22
Arboviruses											
Ross River virus			6	8	2			46	62	20.0	3236
Barmah Forest virus			1	5				3	9	8.3	227
Dengue not typed								1	1	.2	17
Adenoviruses											
Adenovirus type 40								1	1	.0	34
Adenovirus not typed/pending		3		32	6		7	12	60	67.3	1426
Herpes viruses											
Cytomegalovirus		2		12	2		10	5	31	67.2	1518
Varicella-zoster virus		4		6	10		3	14	37	48.8	1209
Epstein-Barr virus		12		4	25		12	44	97	87.2	2217
Other DNA viruses											
Parvovirus					1				1	6.5	258
Picorna virus family											
Coxsackievirus B2		1							1	.8	15
Coxsackievirus B4		1							1	.0	8
Echovirus type 7							2		2	.0	16
Poliovirus type 1 (uncharacterised)		1							1	.7	14
Poliovirus not typed/pending								1	1	.0	2
Rhinovirus (all types)		5		12				8	25	37.7	755
Enterovirus not typed/pending		1		18				25	44	43.0	880
Ortho/Paramyxoviruses											
Influenza A virus		1		41					42	9.0	1580
Influenza B virus				6	5			3	14	3.5	80
Influenza virus - typing pending								1	1	.0	21
Parainfluenza virus type 1					2			3	5	1.0	319
Parainfluenza virus type 2				6				1	7	1.2	79
Parainfluenza virus type 3		11		24	3		14	5	57	45.8	863
Respiratory syncytial virus		1		2			4	1	8	36.7	4124
Other RNA viruses											
Rotavirus		3			20	2	5	5	35	61.2	1640
Norwalk agent							1		1	2.8	43
Other											
Chlamydia trachomatis not typed		25	54		25	1	10	74	189	100.2	3975
Chlamydia species		1							1	2.8	53
Mycoplasma pneumoniae		19	1	8	4	1	26	34	93	16.7	987
Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)		6		16				2	24	12.2	218
Bordetella pertussis							164	11	175	26.5	951
Legionella longbeachae								3	3	.3	20
Cryptococcus species								1	1	1.0	21
Leptospira pomona				4					4	.2	8
Leptospira hardjo				3	1				4	.5	24
Leptospira species		1							1	1.0	64
TOTAL		98	67	214	132	4	259	325	1,099	817.0	28,211

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 8. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 12 December 1996 to 1 January 1997

State or Territory	Laboratory	Reports
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	44
	Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Camperdown	6
	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown	23
	South West Area Pathology Service, Liverpool	24
Queensland	State Health Laboratory, Brisbane	216
South Australia	Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide	131
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	4
Victoria	Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne	10
	Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne	30
	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	219
Western Australia	PathCentre Virology, Perth	197
	Royal Perth Hospital	6
	Western Diagnostic Pathology	189
TOTAL		1099