

- residents and staff of facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities;
- inmates and staff of correctional facilities;
- health care workers;
- embalmers;
- staff of emergency departments and services.

PREVENTING SPREAD

To prevent the spread of hepatitis B infection:

- use condoms if you are having sex with new sexual partners or with partners infected with hepatitis B;
- if you are pregnant, you should have a blood test for hepatitis B; infants born to hepatitis B infected mothers should be given hepatitis B immunoglobulin and vaccine within 12 hours after birth;
- do not share injecting equipment;
- do not share personal items that may have blood on them, (for example, razors or toothbrushes);

- if having a tattoo or your body pierced, make sure that the practitioner uses disposable and sterile equipment.

If you are infected:

- do not donate blood, organs or tissue if you have hepatitis B;
- advise your doctor and dentist that you are infected;
- be very careful to make sure that other people are not exposed to your blood or body fluids. Clean up any spills with a paper towel and clean thoroughly with detergent and water until no obvious stains are left. If a large blood spill occurs on carpet, it may need to be shampooed or steam cleaned;
- cover your wounds with a waterproof bandage;
- use condoms with new sexual partners.

For further information please contact your local Public Health Unit, Community Health Centre, or doctor.

September 2001. ☒

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NSW: SEPTEMBER 2001

TRENDS

Reports of **influenza** began to increase in late June. The majority of cases of influenza diagnosed by major laboratories in NSW have been influenza A, while a small proportion have been influenza B.

Following a promising decline in notifications earlier in the year, **pertussis** has re-emerged (Figure 1). Almost 2,000 cases have been reported this year across the state through to July 2001. The highest rates of infection remain in children of school age. This increase is particularly concerning because, historically, cases rise in spring, which begins this month.

Six cases of **Legionnaires** disease were reported in July. Three were due to *Legionella longbeachae*, thought to be transmitted largely by breathing in dust from soil or potting mix. Three were due to *Legionella pneumophila*, thought to be transmitted largely by breathing in aerosols of contaminated water. These cases were unrelated.

Twenty-four cases of **meningococcal** disease were notified across the state in July (Table 1), which is in line with seasonal expectations. **Hepatitis A** notifications increased slightly in July with 21 cases notified. ☒

FIGURE 1

REPORTS OF SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NSW, JANUARY 1996 TO JULY 2001, BY MONTH OF ONSET

These are preliminary data: case counts for recent months may increase because of reporting delays. Laboratory-confirmed cases, except for measles, meningococcal disease and pertussis.

NSW population	
Male	50%
<5	7%
5-24	28%
25-64	52%
65+	13%
Rural*	42%

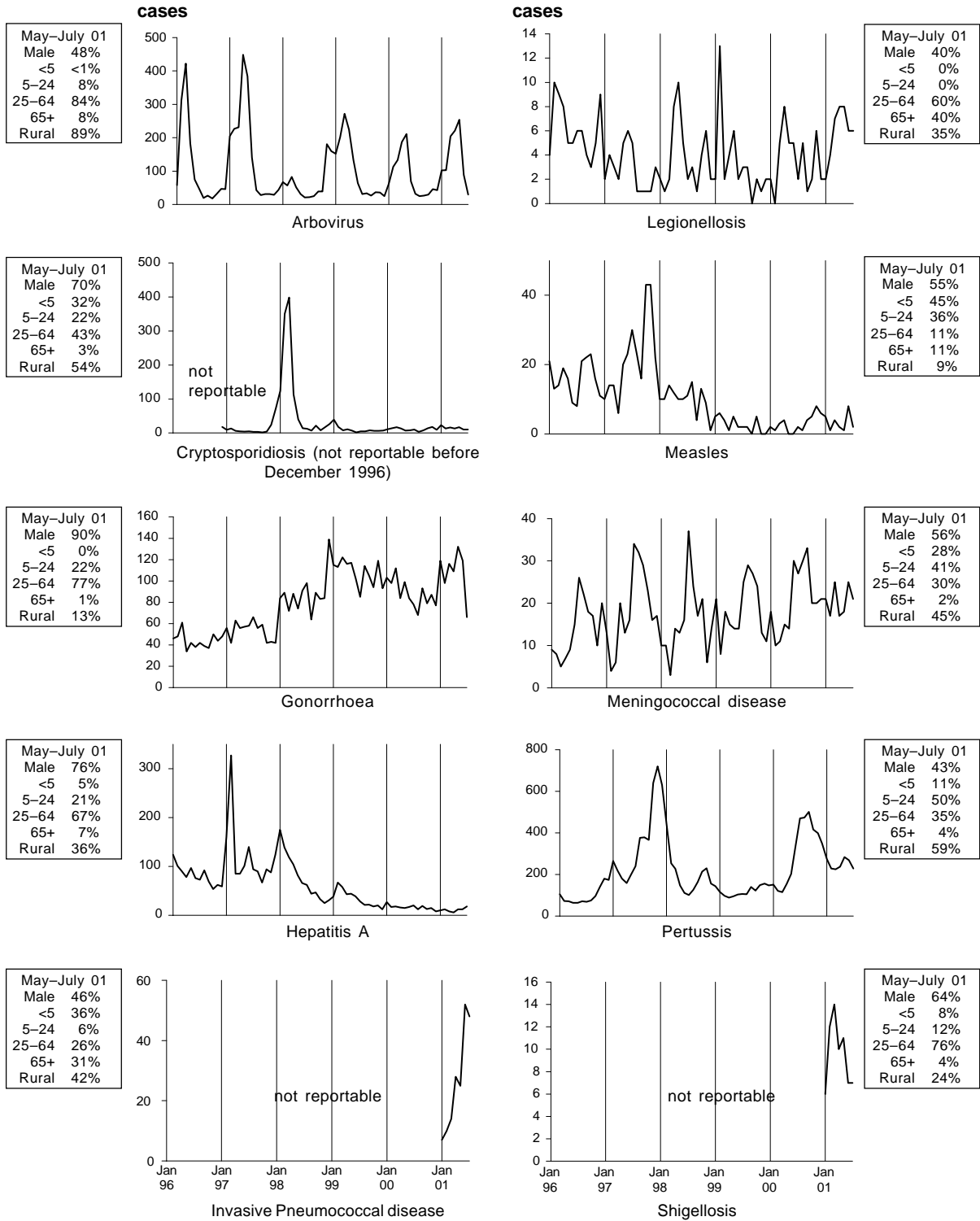


TABLE 1 REPORTS OF NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS RECEIVED IN JULY 2001 BY AREA HEALTH SERVICES

Condition	Area Health Service (2001)																	Total		
	CSA	NSA	WSA	WEN	SWS	CCA	HUN	ILL	SES	NRA	MNC	NEA	MAC	MWA	FWA	GMA	SA	CHS	for July†	To date†
Blood-borne and sexually transmitted																				
AIDS	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	61
Chancroid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chlamydia (genital)*	15	49	44	17	-	9	26	9	95	19	17	18	7	15	2	19	5	2	371	2,509
Gonorrhoea*	17	6	7	2	-	1	1	-	50	4	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	94	795
Hepatitis B - acute viral*	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	49
Hepatitis B - other*	58	44	95	9	2	8	6	14	77	3	5	6	1	1	2	3	1	3	339	2,382
Hepatitis C - acute viral*	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	5	90
Hepatitis C - other*	44	48	200	31	-	33	50	41	92	26	36	10	5	24	4	11	8	35	703	5,000
Hepatitis D - unspecified*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11
HIV infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	144
Syphilis	7	2	4	1	-	1	1	1	18	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	39	309
Vector-borne																				
Arboviral infection (BFV)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	8	14	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	28	319
Arboviral infection (Other)*	-	3	1	1	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	41
Arboviral infection (RRV)*	-	1	3	1	1	2	1	-	-	7	8	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	30	704
Malaria*	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	86
Zoonoses																				
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brucellosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis*	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	43
Lyssavirus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16
Q fever*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	7	89
Respiratory and other																				
Blood lead level*	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	3	1	4	-	-	-	19	274
Influenza	-	-	3	-	-	1	2	-	9	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	24	40
Invasive pneumococcal infection	-	11	12	5	-	8	3	5	9	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	57	179
Legionnaires' longbeachae*	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	21
Legionnaires' pneumophila*	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	20
Legionnaires' (Other)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infection (invasive)	2	2	3	-	1	1	-	3	8	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	24	148
Tuberculosis	4	4	5	-	-	1	2	1	6	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	27	211	
Vaccine-preventable																				
Adverse event after immunisation	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	52	-
H.influenzae b infection (invasive)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Measles	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	24
Mumps*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	17
Pertussis	3	41	29	26	19	8	13	29	22	26	25	24	16	14	2	41	1	339	1,966	
Rubella*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Faecal-oral																				
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cryptosporidiosis*	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	13	106
Food borne illness (not otherwise specified)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Gastroenteritis (in an institution)	5	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	258
Giardiasis*	4	9	7	5	-	-	1	-	14	4	1	2	1	2	-	2	-	52	594	
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Hepatitis A*	3	3	2	-	1	-	1	3	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	21	87
Hepatitis E*	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9
Listeriosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Salmonellosis (not otherwise specified)*	6	13	19	1	1	2	6	6	16	6	-	1	2	7	-	3	-	89	1,085	
Shigellosis	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	63
Typhoid and paratyphoid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	22
Verotoxin producing E. coli*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* lab-confirmed cases only

† includes cases with unknown postcode

CSA = Central Sydney Area
 NSA = Northern Sydney Area
 WSA = Western Sydney Area

WEN = Wentworth Area
 SWS = South Western Sydney Area
 CCA = Central Coast Area

HUN = Hunter Area
 ILL = Illawarra Area
 SES = South Eastern Sydney Area

NRA = Northern Rivers Area
 MNC = North Coast Area
 NEA = New England Area

MAC = Macquarie Area
 MWA = Mid Western Area
 FWA = Far West Area

GMA = Greater Murray Area
 SA = Southern Area
 CHS = Corrections Health Service