

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORT, JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2002

TRENDS

Notifications of communicable diseases through to November are noteworthy for the expected seasonal declines in **influenza**, **invasive pneumococcal disease**, and **meningococcal disease** (Figure 1, Table 1). However, declines in notifications of gonorrhoea and pertussis depicted in Figure 1 probably owe more to reporting delays than to real declines in incidence.

With the onset of summer, NSW can expect a marked increase in disease caused by the mosquito-borne arboviruses **Ross River virus** and **Barmah Forest virus**, mainly in rural areas and possibly in the bushland areas on the outskirts of Sydney. It is therefore timely to remind

people living in those areas, or who plan to visit those areas in the holidays, to protect themselves against infection by:

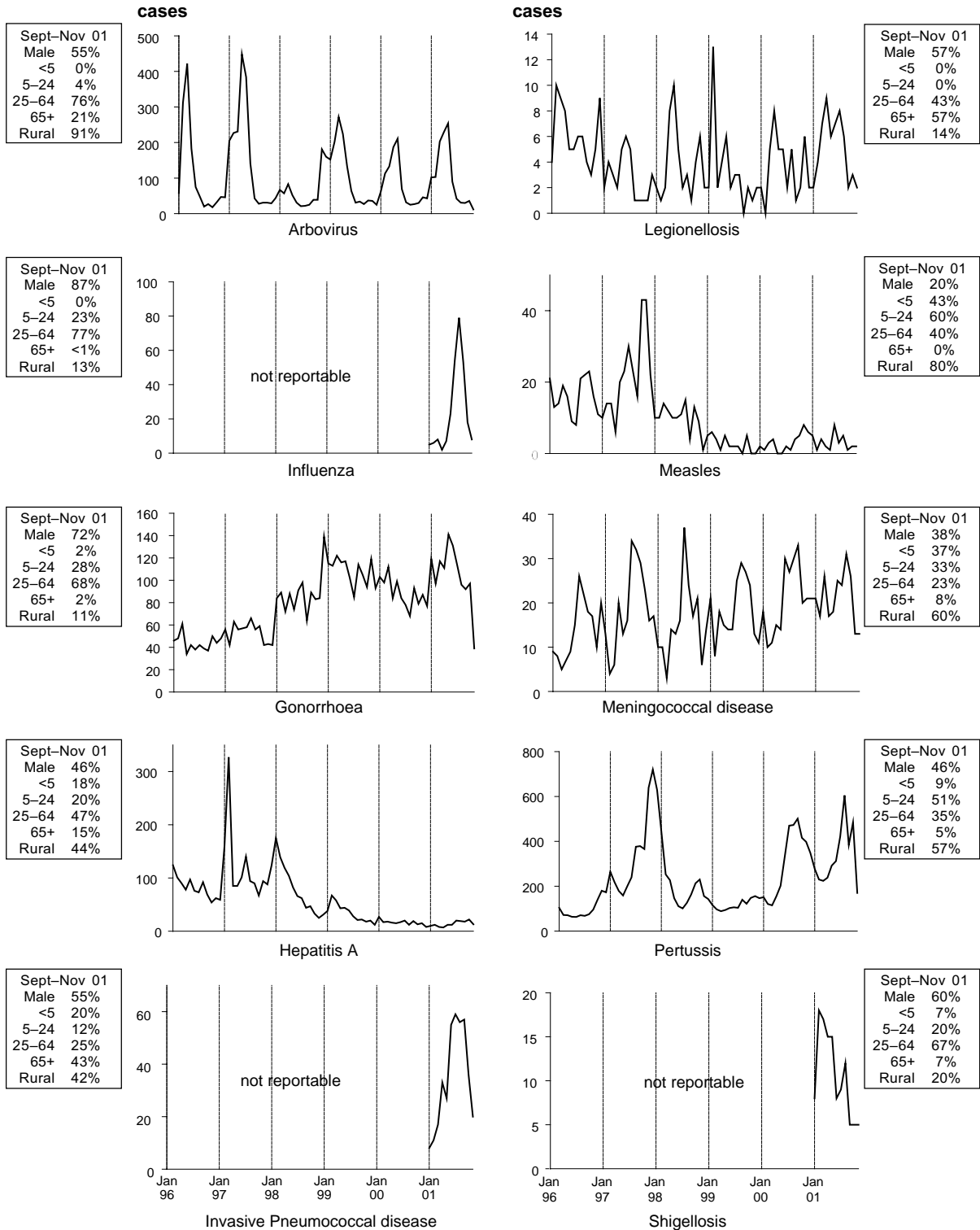
- ensuring that screens on their windows and doors are in good repair to protect against insects;
- avoiding going outdoors when mosquitoes are common (especially around dusk and dawn) unless they are protected against mosquito bites;
- protecting themselves against mosquito bites by wearing loose fitting clothes that cover their arms, legs and feet; and by applying insect repellent to exposed skin;
- using insect sprays to kill any mosquitos in the house before going to bed. ☼

FIGURE 1

REPORTS OF SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NSW, JANUARY 1996 TO NOVEMBER 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%



* For definition, see NSW Public Health Bulletin, April 2000

TABLE 1 REPORTS OF NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS RECEIVED IN NOVEMBER 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 Nov [†]	To date [†]
Blood-borne and sexually transmitted																				
AIDS	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	99
Chancroid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chlamydia (genital)*	30	25	40	17	1	4	19	15	63	23	14	6	10	4	3	9	4	4	295	4,076
Gonorrhoea*	13	8	3	1	-	-	1	-	53	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	84	1,210
Hepatitis B - acute viral*	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	74
Hepatitis B - other*	43	39	6	9	1	9	5	10	56	3	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	189	4,147
Hepatitis C - acute viral*	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	178
Hepatitis C - other*	90	46	17	39	81	34	47	38	78	26	22	7	7	6	-	13	8	26	589	8,048
Hepatitis D - unspecified*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12
HIV infection*	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	382
Syphilis	7	4	9	3	-	1	-	4	19	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	54	690
Vector-borne																				
Barmah Forest virus infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	10	384
Other arboviral infections*	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	62
Ross River virus infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	12	754
Malaria*	-	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	138
Zoonoses																				
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brucellosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	65
Lyssavirus*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	32
Q fever*	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	3	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	16	141
Respiratory and other																				
Blood lead level*	-	1	-	1	-	-	13	8	2	-	1	-	1	-	5	1	-	-	33	473
Influenza*	-	2	1	2	1	-	4	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	264
Invasive pneumococcal infection*	-	4	6	3	-	2	6	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	7	-	-	32	380
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i> infection*	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	27
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i> infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Legionnaires' disease (other)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Meningococcal infection (invasive)	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	14	237
Tuberculosis	4	5	5	-	3	-	-	1	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	354
Vaccine-preventable																				
Adverse event after immunisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	86
H.influenzae b infection (invasive)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Measles	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	35
Mumps*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	27
Pertussis	16	42	42	42	26	10	83	19	41	68	12	6	29	24	3	19	9	-	491	3,936
Rubella*	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	63
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Faecal-oral																				
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cryptosporidiosis*	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	151
Food borne illness (not otherwise specified)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Gastroenteritis (in an institution)	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	450
Giardiasis*	-	8	10	4	-	1	10	5	11	2	7	4	-	-	3	1	-	-	66	907
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Hepatitis A*	1	3	6	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	164
Hepatitis E*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Listeriosis*	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	13
Salmonellosis (not otherwise specified)*	5	8	1	7	-	2	8	4	18	15	9	1	3	2	1	6	3	-	93	1,507
Shigellosis*	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	118
Typhoid and paratyphoid*	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	40
Verotoxin producing E. coli*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* lab-confirmed cases only

† includes cases with unknown postcode

CSA = Central Sydney Area
NSA = Northern Sydney Area
WSA = Western Sydney AreaWEN = Wentworth Area
SWS = South Western Sydney Area
CCA = Central Coast AreaHUN = Hunter Area
ILL = Illawarra Area
SES = South Eastern Sydney AreaNRA = Northern Rivers Area
MNC = North Coast Area
NEA = New England AreaMAC = Macquarie Area
MWA = Mid Western Area
FWA = Far West AreaGMA = Greater Murray Area
SA = Southern Area
CHS = Corrections Health Service