

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## NOTIFICATIONS

The current list of scheduled medical conditions relates only to those notifiable by medical practitioners. It is noteworthy that even under this arrangement laboratories contribute 52.3 per cent of the total notifications for the State. Six areas/regions already register a higher laboratory notification rate than medical practitioner notification rate.

With the proposed innovations for Statewide laboratory-based communicable diseases surveillance, as approved by the Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee, notification rates can be expected to better reflect the pattern of infectious diseases-related morbidity experienced in NSW.

The following important findings have been obtained from the notifications for the calendar month of September.

- Notifications for some enteric infections are higher than those received in the same period last year: campylobacter 200 per cent, salmonella 425 per cent.
- Pertussis notifications continue to decline to the lowest level since August 1988. This is probably a result of the cyclical nature of whooping cough in Australia. Having experienced a major epidemic in the past 12 months, NSW can expect fewer notifications in the coming year, as we enter an inter-epidemic period. Indications are that the publicity associated with the previous outbreaks stimulated pertussis immunisation programs; with the threat 'waning' immunisation rates have, in the past, lost momentum. The net result is our present situation, where the epidemiology of this potentially fatal disease is unaltered.
- The zoonoses leptospirosis and Q fever continue to be a source of morbidity among meat workers. Q fever will soon be preventable with the impending release of a vaccine, for at-risk individuals.
- Epidemiology and Health Services Evaluation Branch is aware of major outbreak of measles in the Hunter Area Health Service. Investigations revealed that 64 cases of measles had been diagnosed during September yet only three cases had been notified. This level of under-reporting highlights the difficulty in determining the true incidence and determinants of communicable diseases under the current arrangements.
- The number of hepatitis B notifications has fallen by about 23 per cent compared to 1989, this condition has been reported from all areas and regions throughout the year with Orana & Far West Region having the highest notification rate of 38.1 per 100,000 population.

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TABLE 1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE  
NOTIFICATIONS, NSW  
September 1990

CONDITION	Number of Cases Notified			
	Period		Cumulative	
	01-09-90 to 30-09-90	01-09-89 to 30-09-89	1990	1989
AIDS	12	27	191	226
Amoebiasis	1	2	9	6
Ancylostomiasis	-	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-
Arboviral infection (NOS)	-	-	1	-
Brucellosis	-	-	5	-
Campylobacter infection	120	60	1304	1353
Chancroid	-	-	-	-
Chlamydia infection (NOS)	10	9	193	27
Cholera	-	-	1	-
Congenital rubella syndrome	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Donovanosis	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis (NOS)	-	-	1	1
Food poisoning (NOS)	-	-	21	7
Genital herpes	50	57	564	531
Giardiasis	23	30	470	537
Gonococcal ophthalmia neo.	-	-	-	1
Gonorrhoea	11	38	315	463
Hepatitis A	1	1	18	53
Hepatitis B	25	33	266	345
Hepatitis C	-	N/A	9	N/A
Hepatitis unspecified	-	1	3	12
HIV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hydatid disease <sup>1</sup>	-	-	2	1
Infantile diarrhoea (NOS)	19	78	106	340
Legionnaires' disease	1	-	23	47
Leprosy	-	1	5	9
Leptospirosis	2	2	34	43
Lymphogranuloma venereum	-	-	-	-
Malaria	8	15	132	64
Measles	12	7	71	21
Meningococcal infection	10	5	71	44
Non specific urethritis	85	90	1164	1287
Ornithosis	-	-	-	4
Pertussis	5	22	117	77
Plague	-	-	-	-
Polio myelitis	-	-	-	-
Q fever	4	4	113	81
Rabies	-	-	-	-
Ross River fever	1	13	244	378
Rubella	-	-	1	-
Salmonella infection	68	16	1076	922
Shigella infection	2	-	103	57
Syphilis	13	28	258	240
Tetanus	-	-	-	-
Trachoma	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis	16	34	304	310
Typhoid & paratyphoid	2	5	25	18
Typhus	-	-	-	-
Vibrio infection (NOS)	1	-	9	14
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	-	-	-	-
Yellow fever	-	-	-	-
Yersinia infection	5	2	95	66

NOS - Not Otherwise Specified

<sup>1</sup> The previously published cumulative total of 4 cases to August 1990 was due to duplicate notification and has been corrected.



TABLE 2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS,  
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION, NSW,  
FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1990

CONDITION	CSA	ESA	SSA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	IS	U/K	TOTAL
AIDS	2	5	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	12
Amoebiasis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Campylobacter inf.	10	8	9	10	11	25	7	3	1	7	4	12	2	1	-	-	8	2	120
Chlamydia inf.	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Genital herpes	-	43	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Giardiasis	-	1	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	2	10	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	23
Gonorrhoea	-	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	11
Hepatitis A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hepatitis B	-	-	1	12	1	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	25
Infantile diarr. (NOS)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Legionnaires' dis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Malaria	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
Measles	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Meningococcal inf.	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Mumps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nonspecific urethritis	1	71	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	85
Pertussis	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Q Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ross River virus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Salmonella inf.	2	4	7	10	6	2	10	2	7	3	-	9	2	1	2	1	-	-	68
Shigella inf.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Syphilis	-	9	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Tuberculosis	2	2	1	1	-	1	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	16
Typhoid & paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Vibrio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parahaemolyticus	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yersinia inf.	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

TABLE 3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS,  
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION, NSW,  
January 1, 1990 to September 30, 1990

CONDITION	CSA	ESA	SSA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	IS	OS	U/K	TOTAL
AIDS	45	85	14	5	5	4	18	1	-	-	3	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	5	191
Amoebiasis	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Arboviral inf. (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brucellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Campylobacter inf.	79	71	215	127	134	178	140	29	14	30	87	117	13	14	5	7	29	2	13	1304
Chlamydia inf.	1	40	2	5	3	-	-	-	25	10	54	42	3	-	2	1	-	-	5	193
Cholera	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Encephalitis (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning (NOS)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	21
Genital herpes	1	359	-	14	5	19	2	2	15	21	68	42	6	5	1	-	2	-	2	564
Giardiasis	13	19	45	17	23	24	36	25	-	28	185	30	6	7	-	2	1	-	9	470
Gonorrhoea	11	187	5	15	6	3	1	4	1	11	27	19	16	4	1	1	-	-	3	315
Hepatitis A	1	2	-	-	2	1	5	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	18
Hepatitis B	5	24	6	60	13	5	12	6	5	4	32	30	53	3	3	3	2	-	-	266
Hepatitis C	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Hepatitis Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hydatid disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Infantile diarr. (NOS)	-	-	-	4	4	16	-	-	13	1	57	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	106
Legionnaires' dis.	-	1	4	3	2	-	4	-	1	3	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	23
Leptosy	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Leptospirosis	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	4	2	5	4	-	1	4	3	2	-	4	34
Malaria	9	18	3	5	9	2	37	3	4	7	4	4	1	4	6	1	1	13	-	132
Measles	-	-	17	3	2	1	1	2	-	6	33	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	71
Meningococcal inf.	4	1	9	8	5	4	3	1	-	5	11	13	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	71
Nonspecific urethritis	1	827	2	126	3	1	2	1	85	83	14	8	3	-	1	1	1	-	5	1164
Pertussis	15	2	8	12	8	14	9	10	-	4	9	18	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	117
Q Fever	-	3	-	-	4	-	1	1	2	1	24	22	7	39	4	1	2	-	2	113
Ross River virus	1	4	1	-	-	1	2	1	5	26	95	46	14	7	23	-	12	1	5	244
Rubella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Salmonella inf.	72	54	87	133	118	83	140	25	45	47	77	64	34	17	27	23	18	0	12	1076
Shigella inf.	4	14	3	8	3	2	11	2	3	18	11	8	4	1	-	-	6	1	1	103
Syphilis	12	101	11	24	1	-	3	-	6	9	13	11	62	-	2	-	-	-	3	258
Trachoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis	51	53	35	39	37	7	31	3	10	14	1	8	3	3	2	2	1	-	4	304
Typhoid & paratyphoid	1	6	1	1	1	-	3	-	3	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	25
Vibrio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parahaemolyticus	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Vibrio SPP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Vibrio Vulnificus	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Yersinia inf.	14	5	9	12	6	3	19	1	1	1	16	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	95

Abbreviations used in this Bulletin:

CSA Central Sydney Health Area, ESA Eastern Sydney Health Area, SSA Southern Sydney Health Area, SWS South Western Sydney Health Area, WSA Western Sydney Health Area, WEN Wentworth Health Area, NSA Northern Sydney Health Area, CCA Central Coast Health Area, ILL Illawarra Health Area, HUN Hunter Health Area, NCR North Coast Health Region, NER New England Health Region, OFR Orana & Far West Health Region, CWR Central West Health Region, SWR South West Health Region, SER South East Health Region, IS Interstate, U/K Unknown, OS Overseas, NOS Not Otherwise Stated



**TABLE 4**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS\***  
**BY HEALTH AREA & REGION, NSW,**  
**January 1 to September 30, 1990**

HEALTH AREA/REGION	DOCTOR NOTIFICATIONS	RATE** PER 100,000	LABORATORY NOTIFICATIONS	RATE** PER 100,000	TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS	RATE** PER 100,000
Central Sydney Area	247	74.1	97	29.1	344	103.2
Eastern Sydney Area	625	193.4	1257	388.9	1882	582.3
Southern Sydney Area	274	52.1	206	39.1	480	91.2
South Western Sydney Area	415	67.7	210	34.3	625	102.0
Western Sydney Area	211	35.8	194	32.9	405	68.8
Wentworth Area	144	53.9	227	85.0	371	138.9
Northern Sydney Area	276	38.0	209	28.8	485	66.8
Central Coast Area	91	42.1	26	12.0	117	54.1
Illawarra Region	186	62.7	56	18.9	242	81.5
Hunter Region	252	52.9	71	14.9	323	67.8
North Coast Region	234	68.6	618	181.1	852	249.6
New England Region	182	74.0	332	134.9	514	208.9
Orana & Far West	158	113.6	83	59.7	241	173.3
Central West Region	63	38.3	57	34.6	120	72.9
South West Region	40	16.0	57	22.7	97	38.7
South East Region	23	12.1	28	14.7	51	26.8
Unknown	29	0.5	61	1.1	90	1.6
<b>Total†</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>3789</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>7239</b>	<b>127.0</b>

† Notifications on interstate and overseas residents visiting NSW accounted for an additional 88 cases

\* Excludes HIV

\*\* Rate per 100,000 population

**TABLE 5**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS\***  
**BY HEALTH AREA & REGION, NSW,**  
**FOR SEPTEMBER 1990**

HEALTH AREA/REGION	DOCTOR NOTIFICATIONS	RATE** PER 100,000	LABORATORY NOTIFICATIONS	RATE** PER 100,000	TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS	RATE** PER 100,000
Central Sydney Area	15	4.5	5	1.5	20	6.0
Eastern Sydney Area	27	8.4	130	40.2	157	48.6
Southern Sydney Area	18	3.4	7	1.3	25	4.8
South Western Sydney Area	37	6.0	14	2.3	51	8.3
Western Sydney Area	7	1.2	15	2.5	22	3.7
Wentworth Area	6	2.2	26	9.7	32	12.0
Northern Sydney Area	21	2.9	19	2.6	40	5.5
Central Coast Area	4	1.9	2	0.9	6	2.8
Illawarra Region	15	5.1	3	1.0	18	6.1
Hunter Region	16	3.4	5	1.0	21	4.4
North Coast Region	12	3.5	33	9.7	45	13.2
New England Region	8	3.3	34	13.8	42	17.1
Orana & Far West	0	0.0	4	2.9	4	2.9
Central West Region	2	1.2	2	1.2	4	2.4
South West Region	0	0.0	3	1.2	3	1.2
South East Region	3	1.6	2	1.1	5	2.6
Unknown	1	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.1
<b>Total†</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>8.7</b>

† Notifications on interstate and overseas residents visiting NSW accounted for an additional 9 cases

\* Excludes HIV

\*\* Rate per 100,000 population

## UPDATES

The Computer Section of Epidemiology Branch has devised a set of relational databases to facilitate the entry of disease notifications and monitor public health responses. Public Health Unit staff are urged to take advantage of this development. Please contact Gavin Stewart for more information on (02) 391-9212.

The proposed new Public Health Act contains provisions for laboratory-based infectious disease notification. The list of notifiable conditions has been reduced from 53 to 21.

The NSW Department of Health is collaborating with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to devise strategies to maximise education of general practitioners on the new notification procedures.