

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

This issue reports on infectious diseases notifications up to December 31, 1990. The figures are provisional — final figures will be published in the 1990 Infectious Diseases Annual Report.

- A 66-year-old man with no history of immunisation has been reported with tetanus. This was the second case notified to Epidemiology Branch during the year. The recommendations for routine 10-yearly immunisation against tetanus and diphtheria are repeated.
- Nine Public Health Units have managed measles outbreaks in the past month. During 1990 measles was notified at a rate of 6.7 cases/100,000 for NSW, while the Hunter AHS recorded a rate of 39.1 cases/100,000.
- December notifications for arboviral diseases, including Ross River fever, are inflated by 12 cases from interstate residents. Both South-West and Central-West Regions notified cases of Ross River fever in December. No arboviruses have been isolated in the sentinel chickens. Kunjin virus has been isolated in the mosquito trapping program.
- Notifications of food-borne diseases rose by 92.5 per cent in 1990 compared with 1989. This may be related to an increase in the number of fast-food outlets.
- Notification rates by medical practitioners vary between AHS/Regions from 21.1 to 240.7/100,000 population (a factor of 11.4). Notification rates by laboratories range from 20.8 to 686.3 (a factor of 33.0). Total notifications vary between AHS/Regions by a factor of 18.3.

TABLE 7

**TOTAL CONFIRMED HIV POSITIVE CASES IN NSW BY RISK GROUP AND SEX Cumulative to December 31, 1990**

Risk Group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	(%)
Homosexual/bisexual	5342	30	186	5558	(42.4)
Heterosexual	177	127	5	309	(2.4)
Injecting drug user (IDU)	172	51	14	237	(1.8)
Homo/bisexual + IDU	90	2	4	96	(0.7)
Heterosexual + IDU	28	31	1	60	(0.5)
Homosexual + transfusion	1	0	0	1	—
Transfusion	58	47	2	107	(0.8)
Haemophilia	57	0	0	57	(0.4)
Vertical transmission	11	4	2	17	(0.1)
Specified N.E.C.*	76	20	36	132	(1.0)
Unknown	4196	312	2037	6545	(49.9)
Total	10,208	624	2287	13,119	100

\*Not Elsewhere Classified

TABLE 6

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, NSW To the end of January, 1991**

CONDITION	Number of Cases Notified					
	Period			Cumulative		
	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	January 1991*	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	January 1991*
AIDS	25	12	—	305	318	—
Amoebiasis	2	—	—	9	9	—
Ancylostomiasis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arboviral infection (NOS)	—	1	—	1	4	—
Brucellosis	—	—	—	—	5	—
Campylobacter infection	106	143	5	1651	1917	5
Chancroid	1	—	—	1	—	—
Chlamydia infection (NOS)	7	34	—	70	448	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	1	—
Congenital rubella syndrome	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Donovanosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (NOS)	—	—	—	1	1	—
Food poisoning (NOS)	1	1	—	8	27	—
Genital herpes	73	43	—	709	972	—
Giardiasis	37	45	3	647	621	3
Gonococcal ophthalmia neo.	—	—	—	1	—	—
Gonorrhoea	48	18	—	569	403	—
Hepatitis A	1	4	1	57	36	1
Hepatitis B	22	24	3	438	426	3
Hepatitis C	N/A	3	—	N/A	41	—
Hepatitis unspecified	1	1	—	18	13	—
HIV	59	97	—	2287	1306	—
Hydatid disease	1	—	—	3	2	—
Infantile diarrhoea (NOS)	11	17	—	435	171	—
Legionnaires' disease	3	—	—	52	27	—
Leprosy	1	—	—	12	5	—
Leptospirosis	2	4	—	55	49	—
Lymphogranuloma venereum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	10	9	—	91	193	—
Measles	13	40	—	76	388	—
Meningococcal infection	9	4	—	60	84	—
Non specific urethritis	165	70	—	1612	1479	—
Ornithosis	—	—	—	4	1	—
Pertussis	27	8	1	195	149	1
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q fever	5	11	—	107	156	—
Rabies	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ross River fever	3	31	11	391	285	11
Rubella	5	—	—	12	5	—
Salmonella infection	45	161	6	1038	1486	6
Shigella infection	3	18	1	69	146	1
Syphilis	21	14	—	298	333	—
Tetanus	—	1	—	—	2	—
Trachoma	—	—	—	—	2	—
Tuberculosis	13	7	—	436	479	—
Typhoid & paratyphoid	1	11	1	24	44	1
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vibrio infection (NOS)	1	—	—	15	25	—
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yersinia infection	7	6	—	80	133	—

\* Preliminary data only

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## Infectious Diseases

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- Although pertussis notifications are lower than for the same period last year, four AHS/Regions reported cases in December. Wentworth AHS recorded a rate of 1.9 cases/100,000 population.

### COMMENTARY

HIV statistics for NSW are now available from the three State reference laboratories up to December 31, 1990. Cases diagnosed throughout 1990 and in December 1990 are presented in Table 6, and a more detailed breakdown of HIV exposure categories is given in Table 7. A total of 13,119 cases have been identified: 429 (3.3 per cent) from Prince of Wales (POW), 1628 (12.4 per cent) from Westmead (WMH) and 11,062 (84.3 per cent) from St Vincent's Hospital (SVH).

The figures given are an over-estimate. The laboratories at POW and WMH were able to report data after matching test results on patient identifier codes, and also exclude reported previous positive HIV tests, thus avoiding

duplicate results. New software at the SVH laboratory now matches tests on patient identifier but needs modification to identify properly reported previous HIV testing history. Using earlier estimates of previous positive reporting rates, our best estimate of the total repeat positive tests at SVH is 2795. Subtracting this from the total positive HIV tests (13,119) gives an estimate of confirmed HIV antibody positive cases for NSW of 10,324: 429 (4.2 per cent) from POW, 1628 (15.8 per cent) from WMH and 8267 (80.0 per cent) from SVH, at December 31, 1990. Further refinements using both computerised and manual matching procedures are under way to obtain more accurate estimates of HIV positive individuals identified by the SVH laboratory.

The exposure categories used by the three laboratories are being standardised in order to produce uniform statistics. At present bisexual and homosexual exposures are differentiated by only two of the three laboratories, and haemophilia and transfusion-acquired cases are also differentiated by only two laboratories. Attempts to define multiple risk groups and heterosexual exposures more accurately are also under way.

TABLE 8

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS\*  
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION, NSW  
January 1 to December 31, 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	317	95.1	158	47.4	475	142.5
Eastern Sydney Area	778	240.7	2218	686.3	2996	927.0
Southern Sydney Area	381	72.4	323	61.4	704	133.8
South Western Sydney Area	509	83.0	288	47.0	797	130.0
Western Sydney Area	312	53.0	337	57.2	649	110.2
Wentworth Area	198	74.1	396	148.3	594	222.4
Northern Sydney Area	385	53.0	342	47.1	727	100.1
Central Coast Area	107	49.5	43	19.9	150	69.4
Illawarra Region	223	75.1	112	37.7	335	112.9
Hunter Region	529	111.1	99	20.8	628	131.9
North Coast Region	360	105.5	813	238.2	1173	343.7
New England Region	236	95.9	524	213.0	760	308.9
Orana & Far West	231	166.1	101	72.6	332	238.7
Central West Region	66	40.1	95	57.7	161	97.8
South West Region	53	21.1	74	29.5	127	50.7
South East Region	49	25.8	48	25.2	97	51.0
Unknown	25	0.4	1330	23.3	1355	23.8
Total†	4759	83.5	7301	128.1	12060	211.6

† Notifications on interstate and overseas residents visiting NSW accounted for an additional 138 cases

\*\* Rate per 100,000 population

**TABLE 9**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS,  
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION  
For month of December, 1990**

CONDITION	CSA	ESA	SSA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	IS	U/K	TOTAL
AIDS	3	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	13
Arboviral infection (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Campylobacter inf.	13	7	20	9	7	28	7	-	-	5	6	11	13	1	10	-	-	3	143
Chlamydia inf.	-	24	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	34
Food poisoning (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Genital herpes	-	18	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	6	5	2	1	-	-	-	2	43
Giardiasis	1	1	3	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	26	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Gonorrhoea	-	12	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	45
Hepatitis A	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Hepatitis B	-	5	2	5	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	24
Hepatitis C	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Hepatitis unspecified	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
HIV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	97
Infantile diarr. (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Malaria	-	-	3	1	1	3	2	4	-	10	3	4	-	-	-	9	-	-	40
Measles	-	3	1	1	3	2	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Meningococcal inf.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	
Nonspecific urethritis	-	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	
Pertussis	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	-	-	-	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	
Q Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	
Ross River virus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	-	19	-	31	
Salmonella inf.	5	6	20	16	22	7	17	1	5	7	14	11	7	3	3	10	3	4	161
Shigella inf.	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	6	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	18
Syphilis	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	14
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Typhoid & paratyphoid	-	3	4	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Yersinia inf.	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6

**TABLE 10**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS,  
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION  
For January, 1990-December, 1990**

CONDITION	CSA	ESA	SSA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	IS	OS	U/K	TOTAL
AIDS	64	123	19	7	12	7	44	3	5	11	6	3	-	1	2	1	-	-	10	318
Aeromonas Hydroph.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Amoebiasis	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	
Arboviral inf. (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Brucellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Campylobacter inf.	119	110	315	161	208	288	173	41	37	51	119	173	21	36	6	8	45	2	4	1917
Chlamydia inf.	1	255	2	5	3	4	2	-	26	15	69	51	8	-	3	1	-	-	3	448
Cholera	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Encephalitis (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Food Poisoning (NOS)	1	-	-	-	-	9	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	27	
Genital herpes	2	680	1	19	9	38	3	3	15	26	94	51	13	9	2	-	5	-	2	972
Giardiasis	19	26	58	19	28	29	39	28	-	34	259	57	13	7	-	2	1	-	621	
Gonorrhoea	14	224	11	24	11	7	5	4	2	14	32	26	20	4	1	1	-	3	403	
Hepatitis A	1	5	-	-	5	6	7	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	3	1	-	3	36	
Hepatitis B	8	95	14	73	26	8	31	6	7	6	39	34	63	3	6	4	2	-	1	426
Hepatitis C	2	-	-	-	4	1	22	1	-	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	
Hepatitis unspecified	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	
HIV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1306	1306	
Hydatid disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Infantile diarr. (NOS)	-	-	-	5	4	16	-	-	21	2	73	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	171	
Influenza Type A	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Legionnaires' disease	-	1	4	3	4	-	4	-	1	3	3	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	27	
Leprosy	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Leptospirosis	-	1	1	-	3	-	1	-	5	3	9	8	-	2	8	3	3	2	49	
Malaria	15	27	10	9	16	4	51	2	10	16	10	6	2	4	6	1	1	2	193	
Measles	1	13	19	6	6	4	10	2	14	186	69	29	-	1	28	-	-	1	388	
Meningococcal inf.	6	1	10	8	10	4	4	1	-	9	12	13	3	2	-	-	-	1	84	
Mumps	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Nonspecific urethritis	1	1080	2	158	3	1	2	1	90	105	15	9	5	-	1	2	1	-	1479	
Ornithosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Pertussis	15	2	8	16	10	29	10	10	-	5	11	21	6	3	1	1	1	-	149	
Q Fever	-	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	2	3	36	42	12	41	5	1	2	1	156	
Ross River virus	1	4	1	1	-	1	2	1	5	26	96	49	18	11	32	1	4	-	285	
Rubella	-	82	130	172	175	118	201	34	61	67	113	80	45	23	31	36	23	-	5	1486
Salmonella inf.	90	5	19	4	11	7	5	17	2	5	5	27	17	8	5	1	7	1	-	146
Shigella inf.	5	19	4	11	7	5	1	1	-	6	9	28	12	86	-	2	-	1	-	333
Syphilis	16	120	14	27	1	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Trachoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	
Tuberculosis	70	85	61	50	63	11	55	7	15	21	8	10	4	4	5	3	3	4	479	
Typhoid & paratyphoid	1	9	5	2	7	2	3	1	4	3	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	44	
Vibrio Parahaemolyticus	-	1	3	3	9	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	
Vibrio spp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Vibrio Vulnificus	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
Yersinia inf.	22	13	12	15	9	5	25	1	2	1	17	6	2	-	-	1	2	-	133	

**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

Please note that the data contained in this Bulletin are provisional and subject to change because of late reports or changes in case classification. Data are tabulated where possible by area of residence and by the disease onset date and not simply the date of notification or receipt of such notification.