

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

MEASLES

During the first half of 1993 all Area Health Services and Regions except South Eastern Region, representing 97 per cent of the NSW population, received notifications for measles.

The annual notification rate for the State is 8.7 per 100,000 population. Orana and Far West Region received notifications at a rate of 47.1 per 100,000 population.

Measles notifications peaked in epiweeks 6 to 10 and again in epiweeks 17 and 18.

Only 11 of 276 notifications (4 per cent) were laboratory confirmed. The ages of these notifications ranged from 11 months to 21 years (mean age of 7.6 years). Nine of the

eleven notifications (82 per cent) were for individuals older than the recommended age of immunisation (12 months).

WHOOPING COUGH

In the first half of 1993 all Area Health Services and Regions except South Eastern Region, representing 97 per cent of the NSW population, received notifications for whooping cough.

The spring/summer epidemic of 1992/93 continued through to mid-February, with lower levels of transmission through to the end of May.

The annual notification rate for the State is 6.7 per 100,000 population. Central West Region received notifications at a rate of 20.2 per 100,000 population. Northern Sydney Area received notifications at a rate of 10.9 per 100,000 population.

A total of 139 cases (69 per cent) occurred in individuals aged over five years, indicating the morbidity of this disease in older children and adults, and the reservoir of disease in these age groups.

GERMAN MEASLES (RUBELLA)

By June 30 all Area Health Services and Regions except Orana and Far West, representing 98 per cent of the NSW population, had received notifications for rubella.

Notifications for rubella have continued to decrease since the first four weeks of the year. Forty-eight per cent of the year's notifications were for January.

The notification rate for the State for 1993 is 4.5 per 100,000 population. The notification rate for females between 15-44 years of age is 4.6 per 100,000.

ADVERSE EVENT FOLLOWING IMMUNISATION

Notification rates for this condition are half those received for 1992. The rate of notification for this condition is calculated on a denominator of the birth cohort divided by two, multiplied by five (the number of immunisation services recommended in the two years of life).

The notification rate for Adverse Event Following Immunisation was 5.5 per 100,000 immunisation services per year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The apparent decrease in the number of notifications for tuberculosis in 1993 is due to delayed notification and data entry. These two aspects of tuberculosis surveillance have received particular attention. Improvements in reporting are expected in the coming months.

The Hunter Area Health Service has received notifications at a rate of 3.7 per 100,000 population.

LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE

A total of 37 notifications for Legionnaires' disease has been received for 1993, for a rate of 1.3 notifications per 100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 2.4 notifications per 100,000 population for the same period in 1992.

Four notifications were received for each of epiweeks 9, 13 and 15.

L. pneumophila was identified in 24 of 30 notifications (80 per cent), *L. longbeachii* in five (17 per cent) and *L. micdadeii* in one (3 per cent).

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF NSW INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS
JUNE 1993

Condition	Number of cases notified			
	Period		Cumulative	
	June 1992	June 1993	June 1992	June 1993
Adverse reaction	3	—	24	12
AIDS	27	6	179	117
Arboviral infection	12	8	294	549
Brucellosis	1	—	1	3
Cholera	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Foodborne illness (NOS)	4	11	131	80
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	20	17	172	103
Gonorrhoea	33	18	124	173
H influenzae epiglottitis	10	1	24	20
H influenzae B – meningitis	13	1	53	30
H influenzae B – septicaemia	2	—	14	13
H influenzae infection (NOS)	3	—	15	6
Hepatitis A	87	24	609	306
Hepatitis B	321	93	1651	1501
Hepatitis C	405	179	1995	2195
Hepatitis D	—	1	5	4
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	1	1	11	4
HIV infection	49	31	399	269
Hydatid disease	1	1	5	1
Legionnaires' disease	4	—	72	37
Leprosy	—	—	4	—
Leptospirosis	1	—	15	9
Listeriosis	1	—	8	5
Malaria	17	23	81	125
Measles	31	33	217	276
Meningococcal meningitis	6	4	21	21
Meningococcal septicaemia	1	1	4	13
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	—	1	4	6
Mumps	2	—	16	—
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	49	6	276	88
Mycobacterial – atypical	36	2	212	99
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	3	3	26	32
Pertussis	9	8	72	201
Plague	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Q fever	27	11	92	155
Rubella	1	3	29	136
Salmonella infection (NOS)	44	20	524	488
Syphilis	100	11	498	283
Tetanus	—	—	1	3
Typhoid and paratyphoid	2	—	17	12
Typhus	—	—	—	—
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	—	—	—	—
Yellow fever	—	—	—	—

THE HARRY WINDSOR MEDICAL RESEARCH GRANTS AND POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Community Health and Anti-Tuberculosis Association (CHATA) offers medical research grants and postgraduate scholarships to support research into tuberculosis, respiratory disease (particularly community aspects) and community health (not necessarily restricted to respiratory disease). The closing date for grants beginning January 1, 1994 is August 30, 1993. Further details can be obtained from CHATA, 169 Albion St, Surry Hills NSW 2010.

NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-NOTIFIABLE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES JANUARY-JUNE 1993

In recent years NSW has been developing a comprehensive network of public sexual health services as part of its State HIV/AIDS strategy. The Central Western, South Western and South Eastern Regions will be opening sexual health services during 1993. This sentinel network, complemented by data from laboratories and GP sentinel practice networks, has the potential to provide useful insights into the pattern of non-notifiable STDs in NSW.

Figures in Table 3 to a large extent represent variations attributable to differing service levels in each Area and Region. Streamlined reporting systems and new services should provide more useful data in future. The following observations can be made from the table:

- NSW enjoys good control of the non-notifiable bacterial STDs, including donovanosis, lymphogranuloma venereum and (not presented here) chancroid. Because donovanosis is endemic in remote parts of Australia, as the rural sexual health services are further developed, it is possible that some cases will appear in future reports.
- Only a limited proportion (less than 15 per cent) of male cases of nongonococcal urethritis (NGU) is attributable to *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection. Most cases of NGU are of obscure aetiology.
- Clinical genital warts and genital herpes are the most common symptomatic viral STDs.

TABLE 2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS
MARCH 1993 TO MAY 1993
BY MONTH OF ONSET

Condition	Month			
	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Adverse event				
after immunisation	3	5	1	9
AIDS	29	11	14	54
Arboviral infection	161	55	24	240
Brucellosis	—	1	1	2
Foodborne illness (NOS)	21	18	18	57
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	3	—	47	50
Gonorrhoea	44	40	24	108
H influenzae epiglottitis	4	4	6	14
H influenzae meningitis	7	9	4	20
H influenzae septicaemia	4	3	3	10
H influenzae infection (NOS)	3	—	—	3
Hepatitis A – acute viral	48	46	63	157
Hepatitis B – acute viral	9	5	9	23
Hepatitis B – unspecified	322	252	275	849
Hepatitis C – acute viral	1	2	—	3
Hepatitis C – unspecified	449	395	425	1269
Hepatitis D – unspecified	1	1	1	3
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	—	1	1	2
HIV infection	66	47	37	150
Hydatid disease	—	—	—	—
Legionnaires' disease	7	12	7	26
Leptospirosis	3	1	1	5
Measles	37	29	38	104
Meningococcal meningitis	1	7	4	12
Meningococcal septicaemia	1	4	4	9
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	1	2	—	3
Mycobacterial – atypical	36	11	7	54
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	16	12	10	38
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	5	10	6	21
Pertussis	37	31	20	88
Q fever	31	29	27	87
Rubella	24	13	8	45
Salmonella (NOS)	70	54	51	175
Salmonella bovis moribundans	1	1	—	2
Salmonella typhimurium	24	30	20	74
Syphilis	65	50	44	159
Tetanus	—	—	1	1
Typhoid and paratyphoid	2	2	—	4
Total	1536	1196	1203	3934

TABLE 3

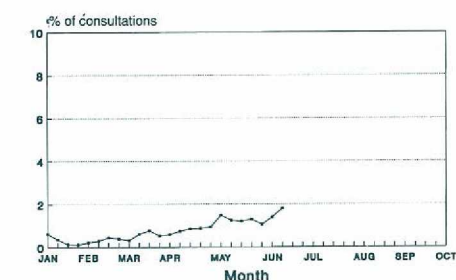
NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-NOTIFIABLE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES JANUARY-JUNE 1993
(Diagnoses from sexual health centres unless otherwise stated in footnote)

AHS Infection	CSA + SSA ¹	ESA ²	SWS ³	WSA + WEN	NSA ⁵	CCA ⁵	ILL ¹	HUN ⁵	NCR ⁵	NER ⁵	OFR ⁵	CWR ⁶	SWR ⁷	SER ⁸
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>														
Male	—	31	3	—	—	—	2	8	2	2	10	—	4	
Female	1	24	3	—	1	—	2	16	—	7	6	—	8	
Total	1	55	6	—	1	—	4	24	2	9	16	—	12	2
Donovanosis														
Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Genital herpes														
Male	2	94	2	—	9	—	1	13	2	2	—	—	1	
Female	1	75	2	—	3	3	3	17	3	3	2	—	9	
Total	3	169	4	—	12	3	4	30	5	5	2	—	10	2
*Genital warts														
Male	28	267	1	—	11	15	23	70	18	9	12	—	—	
Female	15	106	1	—	12	8	11	23	4	13	10	—	—	
Total	43	373	2	—	23	23	34	93	22	22	22	—	—	10
Nongonococcal urethritis														
Male	5	289	8	—	7	8	20	45	5	1	6	—	1	
Female	—	—	3	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	5	289	11	—	8	13	20	45	5	1	6	—	1	—
Lymphogranuloma venereum														
Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* First diagnosis; 1. 01/01/93-31/03/93; 2. 01/01/93-30/04/93; 3. 01/04/93-31/05/93; 4. No data yet received for 1993; 5. 01/01/93-31/05/93; 6. No SHC in Region; 7. No SHC in Region. Laboratory data 01/01/93-31/05/93; 8. No SHC in Region. Data from GP network 01/01/93-20/06/93.

FIGURE 3

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS NSW 1993



INFLUENZA

Influenza activity in June continued at levels substantially lower than for the same period last year. Eleven PHUs are now carrying out influenza surveillance, including GP sentinel surveillance in nine. Two more PHUs are now monitoring school absentee rates, bringing the total to five, and covering 12 schools in both metropolitan and rural NSW. The State average level of influenza-like illness (ILI) is still below 2 per cent of consultations, a relatively low level for this time of year. School absentee rates have not increased noticeably during the year in those schools where it is being measured, and there was only a small number of isolations of influenza virus, predominantly influenza A, by laboratories in the Eastern Sydney Area laboratory surveillance system during May. The national ASPREN GP surveillance network also reports low levels of ILI activity in May (<1 per cent of consultations).

TABLE 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS
BY HEALTH AREA AND REGION
CUMULATIVE 1993

Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	U/K	Total
Adverse event after immunisation	1	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	12
AIDS	19	1	55	6	3	-	8	-	2	1	12	1	2	3	4	-	-	117
Arboviral infection	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	21	45	18	98	13	338	4	-	549
Foodborne illness (NOS)	6	2	-	15	20	12	-	1	5	9	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	80
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	30	2	-	9	10	3	-	-	-	3	-	16	2	20	8	-	-	103
Gonorrhoea	23	8	72	7	9	2	10	3	3	6	8	6	7	5	1	3	-	173
H. Influenzae epiglottitis	1	4	1	-	-	2	3	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	20
H. Influenzae meningitis	1	2	-	3	2	3	2	2	5	1	3	3	1	1	-	1	-	30
H. Influenzae septicaemia	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	13
H. Influenzae infection (NOS)	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
Hepatitis A — acute viral	29	10	23	29	84	13	26	5	9	7	32	23	6	4	3	3	-	306
Hepatitis B — acute viral	2	1	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	22	2	-	-	1	1	-	36
Hepatitis B — unspecified	239	159	10	436	230	17	232	15	13	34	30	17	11	8	9	5	-	1465
Hepatitis C — acute viral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	2	-	7
Hepatitis C — unspecified	346	147	300	232	234	36	238	116	55	192	156	34	16	24	34	28	-	2188
Hepatitis D — unspecified	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	4
HIV infection	45	3	94	9	5	3	23	5	1	8	5	-	-	-	1	1	66	269
Hydatid disease	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Legionnaires' disease	4	1	-	11	13	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	37
Malaria	6	11	10	7	12	6	25	3	8	8	3	10	-	1	2	6	7	125
Meningococcal meningitis	-	1	-	5	1	-	1	2	-	2	4	-	1	-	1	3	-	21
Meningococcal septicaemia	3	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	13
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	6
Mycobacterial atypical	22	5	3	-	17	2	9	-	4	19	11	4	1	-	2	-	-	99
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	10	12	10	-	13	3	13	8	1	10	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	88
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	9	3	-	-	-	-	12	2	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	32
Q fever	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	13	30	43	56	3	1	4	-	155
Salmonella (NOS)	14	34	33	25	11	2	35	23	5	51	37	29	19	5	7	7	-	337
Salmonella bovis moribicans	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Salmonella typhimurium	16	19	11	14	5	6	14	2	-	21	5	5	11	-	2	5	-	136
Syphilis	26	9	36	88	10	3	16	3	4	3	27	15	39	2	1	1	-	283
Typhoid and paratyphoid	1	1	4	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

TABLE 5

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS
BY HEALTH AREA AND REGION
CUMULATIVE 1993

Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	U/K	Total
Measles	34	23	5	40	51	20	9	9	12	19	17	1	33	2	1	-	-	276
Pertussis	9	5	8	24	25	22	41	1	8	10	13	4	11	17	3	-	-	201
Rubella	5	11	10	10	15	14	21	3	1	8	17	10	-	2	3	6	-	136
Tetanus	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3

TABLE 6

RARELY NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
BY HEALTH AREA AND REGION
CUMULATIVE 1993

Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	U/K	Total
Brucellosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	3	-	-	9
Listeriosis	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5