INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)

The pertussis notification rate for NSW for the period January 1 to December 31, 1993, was 22.2/100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 23.6 for the first 11 months of the year. South Western Sydney Public Health Unit received notifications at a rate of 32.8/100,000 population.

A total of 1,346 notifications for pertussis was received in 1993. This is more than six times the number of notifications received for 1992.

Immunisation providers are asked to consider the consequences of not offering whooping cough vaccine to infants and children when there is documented evidence of high levels of *Bordatella pertussis* throughout the State.

MEASLES

The annual notification rate for the State was 38.5/100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 40.6 for the first 11 months of 1993.

Western Sydney Public Health Unit received notifications at a rate of 109.3/100,000 population.

Measles notifications in Western Sydney peaked in epiweek 44.

The mean age for notifications was 9.5 years (range one month to 69 years). Nine per cent of notifications were for neonates and infants. Seventy-two per cent were for children over the age of five; 28 per cent of cases were for people over the age of 12 years.

HEPATITIS E

A 23-year-old woman presented to a local hospital with a history of diarrhoeal illness and jaundice. Six weeks before onset of symptoms the patient had travelled in India and then middle Europe (Portugal and Spain). While in Spain she had sought medical advice for gastroenteritis but did not respond to treatment.

Serology results from Fairfield Hospital in Melbourne indicated Hepatitis E virus EIA antibody positive and past infection with Hepatitis B virus with probable immunity. Epidemics consistent with Hepatitis E virus have been identified in the Indian subcontinent (Benenson:211).

NEW YELLOW FEVER CLINIC

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NON-NOTIFIABLE STD SURVEILLANCE

The term non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) is usually used to describe sexually transmitted urethritis in males where *Neisseria gonorroeae* cannot be isolated. In North America and Europe the incidence of NGU has overtaken that of gonococcal urethritis in the past decade, partly because of decreases in the incidence of gonorrhoeal infection. A total of 323 cases of gonorrhoea was notified in NSW for 1993 by laboratories, and 1,050 cases of NGU by sexual health clinics. The most frequent known causes are *Chlamydia trachomatis* (30-50 per cent), *Ureaplasma urealyticum* (10-40 per cent), and rarely, herpes simplex virus (HSV), *Trichomonas vaginalis* and others. As with *N. gonorrhoeae,* asymptomatic infections are common. *N. gonorrhoea, C. trachomatis* and HSV are the usual causative agents of sexually transmitted urethritis in females, and a small number of cases of NGU was reported in females in 1993.

TABLE 1

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

AHS Infection		CSA[1]	SSA[2]	ESA[3]	SWS[3]	WSA[4] + WEN	NSA[1]	CCA[1]	ILL[5]	HUN[3]	NCR[1]	NER[1]	OFR[3]	CWR[6]	SWR[7]	SER[8]
Chlamydia trachomatis	Male	3	4	64	3	23	3	–	8	11	2	4	13	–	12	
	Female	1	5	52	6	16	1	1	4	32	2	14	13	–	27	
	Total	**4**	**9**	**116**	**9**	**39**	**4**	**1**	**12**	**43**	**4**	**18**	**26**	–	**39**	**4**
Donovanosis	Male	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
	Female	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
	Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
*Genital herpes	Male	10	13	222	3	35	12	7	7	21	5	3	3	–	3	
	Female	10	10	143	2	18	3	9	8	24	6	6	5	–	17	
	Total	**20**	**23**	**365**	**5**	**53**	**15**	**16**	**15**	**45**	**11**	**9**	**8**	–	**20**	**3**
*Genital warts	Male	47	77	490	57	155	33	31	62	93	41	16	20	–	2	
	Female	27	60	214	24	65	19	14	25	37	23	22	15	–	1	
	Total	**74**	**137**	**704**	**81**	**220**	**52**	**45**	**87**	**130**	**64**	**38**	**35**	–	**3**	**15**
Nongonococcal urethritis	Male	10	14	525	11	279	14	15	52	69	20	6	13	–	1	
	Female	2	–	–	3	3	4	5	–	–	4	–	1	–	–	
	Total	**12**	**14**	**525**	**14**	**282**	**18**	**20**	**52**	**69**	**24**	**6**	**14**	–	**1**	–
Lymphogranuloma venereum	Male	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
	Female	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
	Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

* First diagnosis; 1. 01/01/93-30/11/93; 2. 01/01/93-31/10/93; 3. 01/01/93-31/08/93; 4. 01/01/93-31/07/93; 5. 01/01/93-30/06/93;
6. No SHC in Region; 7. Laboratory and SHC data 01/01/93-30/11/93; 8. No SHC in Region. Data from GP network 01/01/93-31/10/93.

TABLE 2

FOODBORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS BY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT, CUMULATIVE 1993

Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	Total
Foodborne Illness (NOS)	7	4	–	24	24	10	–	3	6	3	–	2	15	14	5	–	117
Gastroenteritis (Instit)	80	6	–	19	16	29	1	21	–	114	–	17	4	20	32	–	359
Hepatitis A – Acute Viral	48	22	42	55	116	20	52	12	19	16	56	72	6	5	16	6	563
Listeriosis	2	–	1	3	2	–	1	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	13
Salmonella (NOS)	27	58	56	77	31	10	64	28	12	73	79	49	31	7	17	13	632
Salmonella bovis morbificans	1	5	2	2	2	–	3	–	–	11	–	–	–	1	2	–	29
Salmonella typhimurium	18	27	21	20	18	13	20	4	3	22	11	11	18	4	14	10	234
Typhoid and paratyphoid	1	2	4	3	2	2	6	–	–	1	2	–	–	3	–	–	26

TABLE 3

SUMMARY OF NSW INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS DECEMBER 1993

Condition	Number of cases notified			
	Period		Cumulative	
	Dec 1992	Dec 1993	Dec 1992	Dec 1993
Adverse reaction	–	1	31	29
AIDS	16	21	311	372
Arboviral infection	9	8	344	647
Brucellosis	1	–	4	4
Cholera	–	1	–	1
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–
Foodborne illness (NOS)	10	2	193	117
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	4	4	418	359
Gonorrhoea	37	14	504	326
H influenzae epiglottitis	7	3	56	34
H influenzae B – meningitis	9	1	107	54
H influenzae B – septicaemia	3	2	28	25
H influenzae infection (NOS)	–	–	32	14
Hepatitis A	48	17	983	563
Hepatitis B	204	109	3,286	3,599
Hepatitis C	314	276	4,295	6,280
Hepatitis D	1	–	8	11
Hepatitis E	N/A	–	N/A	1
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	–	–	17	6
HIV infection	31	18	683	512
Hydatid disease	–	–	5	3
Legionnaires' disease	10	2	103	61
Leprosy	–	–	5	3
Leptospirosis	3	1	22	16
Listeriosis	1	1	16	13
Malaria*	20	4	164	159
Measles	125	237	830	2,269
Meningococcal meningitis	9	8	91	96
Meningococcal septicaemia	–	3	17	42
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	–	–	12	11
Mumps	2	2	23	12
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	35	9	424	330
Mycobacterial – atypical	27	–	371	265
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	2	3	38	74
Pertussis	30	87	222	1,346
Plague	–	–	–	–
Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–
Q fever	15	9	216	366
Rubella	61	15	340	683
Salmonella infection (NOS)	60	29	860	895
Syphilis	47	29	948	710
Tetanus	–	–	2	5
Typhoid and paratyphoid	2	–	29	26
Typhus	–	–	–	–
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	–	–	–	–
Yellow fever	–	–	–	–

* from Malaria Register

TABLE 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS BY SELECTED MONTH OF ONSET FOR 1993

Condition	Month				
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Adverse event after immunisation	8	1	–	1	10
AIDS	33	36	22	21	112
Arboviral infection	6	15	15	8	44
Brucellosis	1	–	–	–	1
Cholera	–	–	–	1	1
Foodborne illness (NOS)	16	2	11	2	31
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	24	24	62	4	114
Gonorrhoea	14	28	25	14	81
H influenzae epiglottitis	–	1	–	3	4
H influenzae meningitis	3	2	1	1	7
H influenzae septicaemia	1	2	–	2	5
H influenzae infection (NOS)	3	1	–	–	4
Hepatitis A – acute viral	43	46	37	17	143
Hepatitis B – acute viral	8	3	8	1	20
Hepatitis B – unspecified	361	344	355	108	1,168
Hepatitis C – acute viral	2	3	5	–	10
Hepatitis C – unspecified	621	626	740	276	2,263
Hepatitis D – unspecified	1	2	–	–	3
HIV infection	39	33	34	18	124
Hydatid disease	–	–	2	–	2
Legionnaires' disease	5	4	5	2	16
Leprosy	1	–	–	–	1
Leptospirosis	1	2	1	1	5
Listeriosis	–	5	1	1	7
Malaria	16	3	7	4	30
Measles	378	491	583	237	1,689
Meningococcal meningitis	18	17	12	8	55
Meningococcal septicaemia	3	4	5	3	15
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	1	2	–	–	3
Mumps	4	1	3	2	10
Mycobacterial – atypical	15	7	7	–	29
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	25	22	14	9	70
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	12	16	10	3	41
Pertussis	205	292	281	87	865
Q fever	31	28	25	9	93
Rubella	124	143	116	15	398
Salmonella (NOS)	21	36	87	22	166
Salmonella bovis morbificans	1	1	1	1	4
Salmonella typhimurium	15	16	10	6	47
Syphilis	50	55	80	29	214
Typhoid and paratyphoid	3	5	1	–	9
Total	2,113	2,319	2,566	916	7,918

Continued on page 12 ▶

Abbreviations used in this Bulletin:
CSA Central Sydney Health Area, SSA Southern Sydney Health Area, ESA Eastern 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 and Far West Health Region, CWR Central West Health Region, SWR South West Health Region, SER South East Health Region, OTH Interstate/Overseas, U/K Unknown, 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.

NEWS AND COMMENT

NSW SENTINEL PRACTICE NETWORKS AWARDED ASSESSMENT POINTS

Illawarra Public Health Unit (PHU) has successfully applied to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) on behalf of the NSW Sentinel GP Networks for consideration for Practice Assessment Quality Assurance point allocation. The RACGP has indicated it will award 15 practice assessment points per triennium.

GPs are required to be credited at least 20 practice assessment points every three years, as well as points for continuing medical education, as part of the Quality Assurance (QA) program of the RACGP. GPs fulfilling these requirements are entered on the Vocational Register, which qualifies them for higher medicare rebates.

Point allocation for participation in the NSW Sentinel Practice Networks depends on the following:

- each GP must participate in the project for the full triennium (1993-95);
- the RACGP requires a list from each PHU of the names, addresses and QA reference numbers of all participating GPs;
- each GP must submit a final report of the project to the RACGP in November 1995; and
- should individual GPs enter or leave the project during the triennium they will be considered for adjusted point allocation (e.g. five points a year).

SECOND NSW PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK CONFERENCE

The second NSW Public Health Network Conference will be held at Westmead Hospital on March 29 and 30 this year. Registration forms and a draft program for the conference, titled Promoting Public Health – Achievements and Initiatives, are available from Public Health Units. More than 60 papers will be presented, and there will be plenary sessions, workshops and interactive sessions. Registration fees are $80 for attendance on both days, or $50 for one day. Registrations close on March 4.

ADDENDUM: NSW MIDWIVES DATA COLLECTION REPORT 1992

Table 20 (page 23) should include the following footnote: Vaginal tears for John Hunter Hospital include first, second and third degree tears.

Infectious diseases

► *Continued from page 9*

TABLE 6

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS BY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT, 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	3	2	–	7	–	1	–	1	2	1	4	–	5	2	–	–	29
AIDS	81	14	126	18	19	14	40	4	5	6	29	1	2	5	8	–	–	372
Arboviral Infection	1	1	2	1	1	4	8	1	1	35	72	30	111	15	360	4	–	647
Brucellosis	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
Cholera	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Gonorrhoea	55	18	108	18	22	6	24	6	3	8	13	11	20	7	3	4	–	326
H. influenzae epiglottitis	1	7	1	3	–	2	4	1	2	3	2	2	1	–	2	3	–	34
H. influenzae meningitis	4	4	–	9	3	3	5	3	8	1	4	3	1	3	2	1	–	54
H. influenzae septicaemia	1	3	1	10	1	–	2	–	2	2	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	25
H. influenzae infection (NOS)	–	–	2	–	2	1	3	2	–	3	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	14
Hepatitis B – acute viral	7	5	21	2	9	1	–	1	–	–	33	5	3	–	2	3	–	92
Hepatitis B – unspecified	538	450	24	1,070	540	45	476	43	52	82	70	43	19	17	27	11	–	3,507
Hepatitis C – acute viral	1	–	–	–	4	–	–	2	1	3	2	6	3	1	–	3	–	26
Hepatitis C – unspecified	756	415	811	685	579	121	655	247	335	423	781	89	29	89	140	99	–	6,254
Hepatitis D – unspecified	2	1	3	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	11
Hepatitis E – unspecified	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	6
HIV infection	72	12	201	15	13	8	38	8	3	13	12	1	1	–	5	2	108	512
Hydatid disease	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	3
Legionnaires' disease	11	1	–	14	14	1	4	2	3	5	1	–	1	2	1	1	–	61
Leprosy	–	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Leptospirosis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	5	3	1	–	3	–	–	16
Malaria	14	15	22	7	19	5	32	4	4	13	4	10	2	1	3	4	–	159
Measles	122	149	75	305	694	222	81	48	111	61	124	83	129	15	25	25	–	2,269
Meningococcal meningitis	3	6	4	16	12	3	7	6	8	5	7	3	6	2	1	7	–	96
Meningococcal septicaemia	4	8	3	4	2	4	5	–	2	3	2	3	1	–	–	1	–	42
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	2	1	1	–	–	4	1	–	–	–	11
Mumps	1	3	–	4	1	–	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12
Mycobacterial – atypical	54	20	22	15	24	7	33	7	8	33	24	10	2	1	4	1	–	265
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	33	45	27	68	51	9	40	8	8	17	6	3	3	6	5	1	–	330
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	20	1	2	2	5	–	23	3	9	2	3	1	1	–	2	–	–	74
Pertussis	51	156	133	212	127	65	171	18	48	55	144	31	66	55	5	9	–	1,346
Q fever	–	1	1	2	6	2	2	1	2	26	75	125	91	12	4	16	–	366
Rubella	7	15	15	86	101	46	132	12	11	98	51	80	1	5	12	11	–	683
Syphilis	97	42	99	170	48	7	34	7	6	8	55	40	77	6	9	5	–	710
Tetanus	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–	–	1	–	5