*Communicable Diseases Intelligence*, Year , Volume

Publication date:

<http://health.gov.au/cdi>

Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

*Reporting period 1 January to 31 March 2023*

Monica M Lahra and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

The reference laboratories of the National Neisseria Network, Australia report data on invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) cases confirmed by culture and/or molecular techniques for the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme (AMSP). Culture-positive cases and molecular-based diagnoses are defined as IMD by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia National Guidelines for Public Health Units.1 Data contained in the quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the number of cases by jurisdiction and serogroup, when known. Some minor corrections to data in Table 1 may be made in subsequent reports if additional data are received.

IMD notifications in Australia in the first quarter of 2023 were greater than in the corresponding period in 2022 but still below the 36 IMD cases reported in quarter one of 2019 (prior to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic).2 Notably, the predominance of N. meningitidis serogroup B (MenB) IMD continued in the first quarter of 2023 (21/23, 91.3% of notifications), showing an increase from 84% in the fourth quarter of 2022.3 In contrast, between 2019 and 2021, 50–62% of IMD was attributable to MenB.4 A full analysis of laboratory-confirmed cases of IMD in each calendar year is contained in the AMSP annual report published in Communicable Diseases Intelligence.

# Author details

Monica M Lahra 1, 2
Tiffany R Hogan 1

1. The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for STI and AMR and Neisseria Reference Laboratory. NSW Health Pathology, Microbiology, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, NSW, 2031, Australia
2. The School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Kensington, NSW, 2052, Australia

## Corresponding author

Professor Monica M Lahra

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for STI and AMR and Neisseria Reference Laboratory, Microbiology Department, NSW Health Pathology, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, NSW, 2031, Australia

Telephone: +61 2 9382 3678

Facsimile: +61 2 9382 3720

Email: monica.lahra@health.nsw.gov.au

Table 1: Number of laboratory confirmations of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 January to 31 March 2023, by serogroup and state or territory

| Jurisdiction |  | Serogroup |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | A | B | C | W | Y | ND a | All |
| Q1 | ytd b | Q1 | ytd | 1 | ytd | Q1 | ytd | Q1 | ytd | Q1 | ytd | Q1 | ytd |
| Australian Capital Territory | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New South Wales | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Northern Territory | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Queensland | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| South Australia | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Tasmania | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Victoria | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Western Australia | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| **Australia** | **2023** | **0** | **0** | **21** | **21** | **0** | **0** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **23** | **23** |
| **2022** | **0** | **0** | **13** | **13** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **2** | **16** | **16** |

a ND: not determined.

b ytd: year to date, data from 1 January to 31 March 2023.

# References

1. Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA). Invasive Meningococcal Disease: CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units. Canberra: Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care; 4 July 2017. Available from: https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/02/invasive-meningococcal-disease-cdna-national-guidelines-for-public-health-units.pdf.
2. Lahra MM, Shoushtari M, Hogan TR. Meningococcal Surveillance Australia: Reporting period 1 January to 31 March 2020. Commun Dis Intell (2018). 2020:44. doi: https://doi.org/10.33321/cdi.2020.44.65.
3. Lahra MM, Hurley SM, Hogan TR. Meningococcal Surveillance Australia: Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2022. Commun Dis Intell (2018). 2023:47. doi: https://doi.org/10.33321/cdi.2023.47.23.
4. Lahra MM, George RCR, Hogan TR. Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme Annual Report, 2021. Commun Dis Intell (2018). 2022:46. doi: https://doi.org/10.33321/cdi.2022.46.46.

**Communicable Diseases Intelligence**

ISSN: 2209-6051 Online

**Communicable Diseases Intelligence (CDI) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the Office of Health Protection, Department of Health and Aged Care. The journal aims to disseminate information on the epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases of relevance to Australia.**

**Editor:** Christina Bareja

**Deputy Editor:** Simon Petrie

**Design and Production:** Kasra Yousefi

**Editorial Advisory Board:** David Durrheim, Mark Ferson, Clare Huppatz, John Kaldor, Martyn Kirk, Meru Sheel and Steph Williams

**Website**: <http://www.health.gov.au/cdi>

**Contacts**CDI is produced by the Office of Health Protection, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, GPO Box 9848, (MDP 6) CANBERRA ACT 2601

**Email:** cdi.editor@health.gov.au

**Submit an Article**You are invited to submit your next communicable disease related article to the Communicable Diseases Intelligence (CDI) for consideration. More information regarding CDI can be found at: <http://health.gov.au/cdi>.

Further enquiries should be directed to: cdi.editor@health.gov.au.

This journal is indexed by Index Medicus and Medline.

Creative Commons Licence - Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives CC BY-NC-ND

© 2023 Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Health and Aged Care

This publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International Licence from <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode> (Licence). You must read and understand the Licence before using any material from this publication.

**Restrictions**The Licence does not cover, and there is no permission given for, use of any of the following material found in this publication (if any):

* the Commonwealth Coat of Arms (by way of information, the terms under which the Coat of Arms may be used can be found at [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/));
* any logos (including the Department of Health and Aged Care’s logo) and trademarks;
* any photographs and images;
* any signatures; and
* any material belonging to third parties.

**Disclaimer**Opinions expressed in Communicable Diseases Intelligence are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care or the Communicable Diseases Network Australia. Data may be subject to revision.

**Enquiries**Enquiries regarding any other use of this publication should be addressed to the Communication Branch, Department of Health and Aged Care, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, or via e-mail to: copyright@health.gov.au

**Communicable Diseases Network Australia**Communicable Diseases Intelligence contributes to the work of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia.
<http://www.health.gov.au/cdna>