Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2021

Monica M. Lahra, Masoud Shoushtari and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

The reference laboratories of the National Neisseria Network, Australia, report laboratory data on invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) cases confirmed by laboratory testing using culture- and non-culture-based techniques for the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme (AMSP). Culture-positive cases, where Neisseria meningitidis is grown from a normally sterile site or from skin lesions, and non-culture-based diagnoses (nucleic acid amplification testing), are defined as IMD by the Public Health Laboratory Network definitions. Data contained in quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the numbers of cases by jurisdiction and serogroup, where known. Some minor corrections to data in Table 1 may be made in subsequent reports if additional data are received. However, it is noted that there has been a continued reduction in the number of IMD laboratory-confirmed cases in 2021 compared to 2020, coinciding with the public health measures in place during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. 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 Lahra1, 2   
Masoud Shoushtari1   
Tiffany R Hogan1

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. NSW Health Pathology, Microbiology, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, NSW, 2031, Australia

Telephone: +61 2 9382 9054

Facsimile: +61 2 9382 9098

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

Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 October to 31 December 2021, by serogroup and state or territory

| Jurisdiction | Year | Serogroup | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | | B | | C | | Y | | W | | ND/othera | | All | |
| Q4 | *ytdb* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* |
| Australian Capital Territory | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| New South Wales | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 18 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 21 |
| Northern Territory | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Queensland | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 14 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 27 |
| South Australia | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 12 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Tasmania | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Victoria | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Western Australia | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 |
| **Australia** | **2021** | **0** | **0** | **12** | **35** | **0** | **0** | **2** | **13** | **5** | **15** | **0** | **4** | **19** | **67** |
| **2020** | **0** | **0** | **17** | **54** | **1** | **1** | **4** | **14** | **1** | **16** | **0** | **2** | **23** | **87** |

a ND: not determined. Serogroups A, B, C, W and Y not detected.

b year to date (ytd): data as from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

**Communicable Diseases Intelligence**

ISSN: 2209-6051 Online

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

**Editor:** Jennie Hood and Noel Lally

**Deputy Editor:** Simon Petrie

**Design and Production:** Kasra Yousefi

**Editorial Advisory Board:** David Durrheim, Mark Ferson, John Kaldor, Martyn Kirk and Linda Selvey

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

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

**Email:** [cdi.editor@health.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:cdi.editor@health.gov.au).

This journal is indexed by Index Medicus and Medline.

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

© 2022 Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Health

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’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 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, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, or via e-mail to: [copyright@health.gov.au](mailto: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>