



Australian Government

**Department of Health
and Aged Care**

2023 · Volume 47

Communicable Diseases Intelligence

Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2022

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

<https://doi.org/10.33321/cdi.2023.47.23>

Electronic publication date: 27/4/2023

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

Communicable Diseases Intelligence

ISSN: 2209-6051 Online

This journal is indexed by Index Medicus and Medline.

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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.

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Quarterly report

Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2022

Monica M Lahra, Siobhan M Hurley 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.

During 2022, IMD notifications in Australia have increased and by the fourth quarter the annual total was almost double the annual cases reported in 2021; however, this is still considerably lower than the 202 IMD cases reported in 2019 prior to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Notably, in 2022 there was a marked increase in *N. meningitidis* serogroup B (MenB) infections, accounting for 84% of national disease. In contrast, between 2019 and 2021, 50–62% of IMD was attributable to MenB.^{2,3} 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*.

Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 October to 31 December 2022, by serogroup and state or territory

| Jurisdiction | Year | Serogroup | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----|----|--|
| | | A | | B | | C | | Y | | W | | ND ^a | | All | | | | | |
| | | Q4 | ytd ^b | Q4 | ytd | Q4 | ytd | Q4 | ytd | Q4 | ytd | Q4 | ytd | Q4 | ytd | Q4 | ytd | | |
| Australian Capital Territory | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| New South Wales | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 33 | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 18 | |
| Northern Territory | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Queensland | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 31 | | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 14 | | |
| South Australia | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 14 | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 12 | | |
| Tasmania | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | |
| Victoria | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 | | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | | |
| Western Australia | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 19 | | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 | | |
| Australia | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 99 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 32 | 118 | | | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 19 | 67 | | | |

a ND: not determined.

b ytd: year to date, data from 1 October to 31 December 2022.

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