

Data analysis by date of onset for NNDSS

From this issue onwards an additional set of summary tables presenting data by date of onset for each calendar month, will be included for the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Data for January 2000, by date of onset, are presented in Tables 1 and 2 of this issue and are discussed in the highlights section. Tables 3 and 4 present data by report date for the 4 week period, 2 to 29 February 2000, for information only.

Tables 1 and 2 include a comparison between the total January 2000 data and the totals for December and January 1999; and a 5 year mean which is calculated using December to February data for the previous 5 years (MMWR Weekly Feb 25, 2000:49(07);139-146). In subsequent editions year to date figures will also be included and compared to the mean for the year to date figures for the previous 5 years.

Where onset date data were not available the report date has been substituted by the National Centre of Disease Control as a proxy of the onset date.

Communicable Diseases Surveillance

Highlights

Communicable Diseases Surveillance consists of data from various sources. The National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) is conducted under the auspices of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand. The *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) is a sentinel surveillance scheme. The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) is a general practitioner-based sentinel surveillance scheme. In this report, data from the NNDSS are referred to as 'notifications' or 'cases', whereas those from ASPREN are referred to as 'consultations' or 'encounters' while data from the LabVISE scheme are referred to as 'laboratory reports'.

Vaccine preventable diseases

A total of 418 notifications were received with an onset date in January. Most of the notifications were the result of continuing pertussis activity in most States and Territories. Cases of pertussis were distributed across all age groups with a predominance in the 10-19 year age group

(Figure 1). There were 8 notifications of measles and 17 notifications of rubella in January, a decrease from the mean of the last five years (82 measles and 191 rubella notifications). Most measles cases were evenly distributed between decade age groupings up to 30 years of age, with 2 cases per grouping. Of the 2 cases under 10 years of age, 1 was a resident under 1 year and the other was a 4 year old visiting from overseas. Most rubella cases occurred in those aged between 20 and 29 years (8) with a female predominance (Figure 2). There was no increase in the number of notifications of other vaccine preventable diseases. Of interest, there was 1 case of tetanus reported from Queensland in a male aged over 70 years.

A total of 46 reports of meningococcal disease were received with an onset date in January, which is similar to numbers from the previous year but an increase compared with the mean for the months of December to February over the last 5 year period (25). Most cases occurred in those under 30 years of age and were spread evenly in decade age groupings, with a similar ratio overall of males to females (1.2:1). Overall there were 4 deaths reported in

Figure 1. Notifications of pertussis, January 2000, by age group and sex

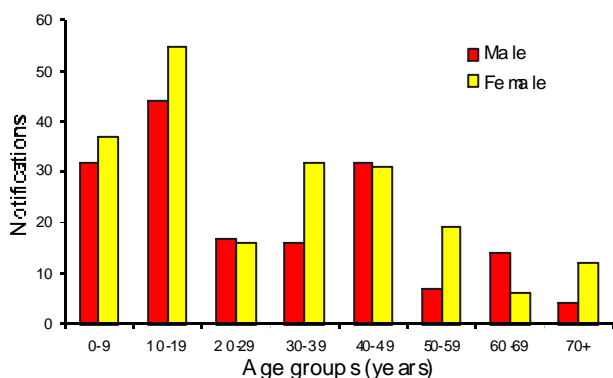


Figure 2. Notifications of rubella, January 2000, by age group and sex

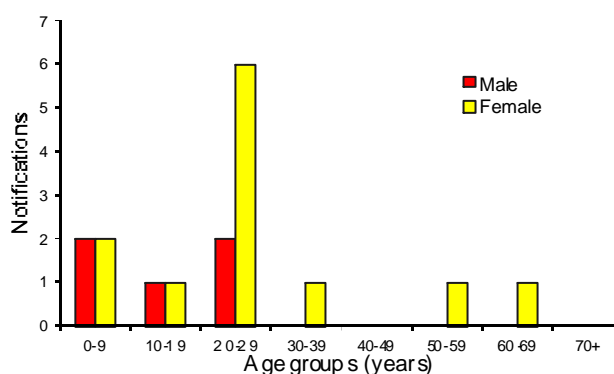


Figure 3. Notifications of salmonellosis, January 1991 to January 2000, by date of onset

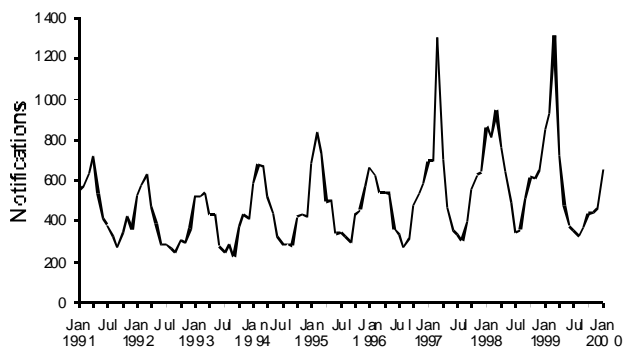


Figure 4. Notifications of dengue, January 1991 to January 2000, by date of onset

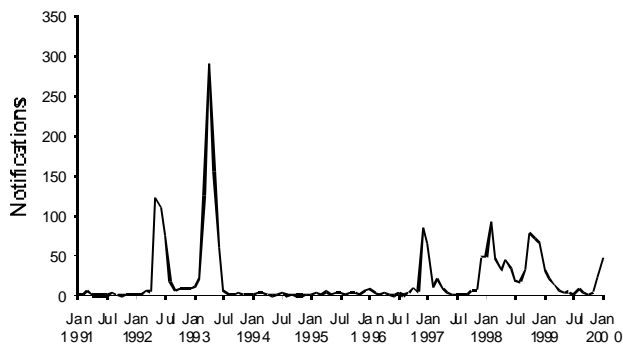
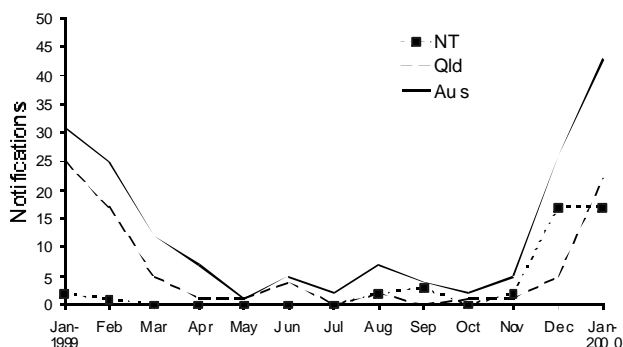


Figure 5. Notifications of dengue, January 1999 to January 2000, for Northern Territory, Queensland and Australia, by month of onset



this period. Serotype information was provided for 78% of cases. Of those with serogroup details available 55% (20) were serotype B, 42% (15) were serotype C, and 3% (1) was serotype Y.

Bloodborne diseases

There were 1,493 notifications of hepatitis C diagnosed in January 2000 that were not already recorded on the State and Territory notifiable diseases databases. This was an increase from December 1999 (1,337) and from the mean of the last 5 years (1,215), but was less than for January last year (1,601). Of these, 13 were identified as incident cases. The majority of notifications were in the 20-39 year age group (62%) and the male to female ratio was 1.7:1.

Gastrointestinal diseases

There were 659 notifications of salmonellosis with an onset month of January 2000. This was an increase from December 1999 (462) but was less than for January last year (852) and for the mean of the last 5 years (702) (Figure 3). The majority of notifications were in the 0-10 year age group (45%) with a male to female ratio of 1.1:1. Salmonellosis notifications demonstrate marked periodicity, with summer peaks and winter troughs.

There were 10 notifications of listeriosis with an onset month of January 2000. This was twice the number of notifications as for the previous month (5), January last year (6) and for the mean of the last 5 years (7). Of these cases, 2 were in women of child bearing age and 1 was in a child less than 1 year old.

There were 7 notifications of typhoid with an onset month of January 2000. Of the four States reporting SLTEC/VTEC there were 4 cases, all from South Australia. There was also 1 case of haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) in New South Wales.

Quarantinable diseases

There were no cases of cholera, plague, rabies, yellow fever or viral haemorrhagic fever with an onset month of January 2000.

Sexually transmissible diseases

There were 505 notifications of gonococcal infection with an onset month of January 2000, which was an increase from December 1999 (323), January last year (481) and for the mean for the last 5 years (373). The majority of notifications were in the 20-29 year age group (39%) with a male to female ratio of 2.5:1.

Vectorborne diseases

There were 47 notifications of dengue with an onset month of January 2000. This was an increase from December 1999 (23), January last year (31) and from the mean for the last 5 years (33) (Figure 4). The majority of notifications were in the 20-39 year age group (47%) with a male to female ratio of 2.0:1. The increase was in Queensland and the Northern Territory. The Queensland cases comprised both imported cases and local transmission whereas all of the Northern Territory cases

were imported (the vector is exotic to the Northern Territory) (Figure 5).

There were 512 notifications of Ross River virus infection with an onset month of January 2000, which was an increase from December 1999 (242), but was similar to the figures for January last year (519) and for the mean for the last 5 years (558). The majority of notifications were in Queensland and Western Australia (81%). Sixty-seven per cent of all notifications were in the 20- 49 year age group with a male to female ratio of 0.9:1.

Other diseases

There were 22 notifications of legionellosis with an onset month of January 2000, with the majority being in Victoria (59%). This was similar to the notifications for December 1999 (15), January last year (24) and for the mean for the last 5 years (19). The age for the notifications ranged from 30 to 79 years and the male to female ratio was 2.6:1.

Tables

There were 7,514 notifications to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) with an onset date in January 2000 (Tables 1 and 2) and 6,537 notifications in the 4 week period, 2 to 29 February 2000 (Tables 3 and 4). The number of reports for selected diseases have been compared with a 5 year mean, calculated using December to February data for the previous 5 years (Figure 6).

There were 1,559 reports received by the *CDI*/Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabWISE) in the 4 week period, 27 January to 23 February 2000 (Tables 5 and 6).

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) data for weeks 4 to 7, ending 20 February 2000, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 7).

Table 1. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood vaccination, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 1 to 31 January 2000, by date of onset

Disease ¹	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total Jan 2000 ²	Total Dec 1999 ²	Total Jan 1999 ²	Last 5 years mean
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b infection	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	3	4	5
Measles	0	2	0	2	0	0	4	0	8	4	10	82
Mumps	2	2	0	0	2	0	3	4	13	11	9	11
Pertussis	8	129	1	85	18	45	86	4	376	415	350	580
Rubella ³	0	4	0	6	1	0	5	1	17	17	27	191
Tetanus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

1. No notification of poliomyelitis has been received since 1978.
2. Totals comprise data from all States and Territories. Cumulative figures are subject to retrospective revision, so there may be

discrepancies between the number of new notifications and the increment in the cumulative figure from the previous period.

3. Includes congenital rubella.