

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'.

Meningococcal disease

The number of notifications of meningococcal disease has increased again this reporting period. However, the

number of cases reported to date in 1998 (248) remains lower than for the same period in 1997 (273).

Vaccine preventable diseases

The number of pertussis notifications remains low in most States, although a relatively high number continue to be reported from Queensland. There has been a decrease in the number of cases for Australia (by onset date) in each successive month from October 1997 to July 1998.

With the exception of a relatively high number of rubella cases in Queensland the number of notifications for all other vaccine preventable diseases also remains low.

The total number of measles notifications for 1998 has been revised downwards because of a reclassification of 79 cases previously notified as measles by Victoria. These cases have been reclassified as not measles following results of serology.

Tables

There were 3,368 notifications to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) for this four week period, 22 July to 18 August 1998 (Tables 1 and 2). The numbers of reports for selected diseases have been compared with historical data for corresponding periods in the previous three years (Figure 1).

There were 2,563 reports received by the *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) this four week period, 16 July to 12 August 1998 (Tables 3 and 4).

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) data for weeks 28 to 31 ending 9 August 1998 are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 5).

Table 1. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood immunisation, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 22 July to 18 August 1998

Disease ^{1,2}	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1998	This period 1997	Year to date 1998	Year to date 1997
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b infection	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	22	33
Measles ³	2	8	0	6	0	4	3	5	28	62	236	371
Mumps	1	3	1	4	1	1	2	2	15	9	107	125
Pertussis	3	72	0	83	37	3	66	5	269	794	4,556	4,861
Rubella ⁴	3	5	0	44	2	1	10	4	69	85	487	868
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	7

NN. Not Notifiable

1. No notification of poliomyelitis has been received since 1986.

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. The total number of measles notifications for 1998 has been revised downwards because of a reclassification of 79 cases previously notified as measles by Victoria. These cases have been reclassified as 'not measles' following results of serology.

4. Includes congenital rubella.