

Table 9. Percentage of children immunised at 1 year of age, preliminary results by disease and State for the birth cohort 1 July 1996 to 30 September 1996; assessment date 30 September 1997.

	State or Territory								Australia
	ACT	NSW	NT ¹	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	
Total number of children	1,123	22,756	886	12,461	4,844	1,737	15,869	6,519	42,684
Vaccine									
DTP (%)	82.7	77.6	59.1	81.5	80.9	80.7	81.6	72.0	78.9
OPV (%)	82.3	77.2	59.4	81.9	80.8	81.6	81.7	72.3	78.9
Hib (%)	81.3	76.8	66.6	82.5	80.8	80.9	81.7	72.4	79.0
Fully Immunised (%)	80.6	74.7	55.0	79.4	78.9	79.2	79.9	70.5	76.7
Change in fully immunised since last quarter (%)	+3.2	+1.5	-6.7	-1.1	+2.0	+3.2	-0.1	+3.6	+0.9

1. Some data from the Northern Territory were not included on the ACIR at the time of these calculations. Northern Territory calculations, using a local database, indicate that the proportions of children immunised at 12 months of age are as follows: DTP - 80.0%, Polio 79.8%, Hib 86.0%, fully immunised - 77.0%.

Acknowledgment: These figures were provided by the Health Insurance Commission (HIC), to specifications provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services. For further information on these figures or data on the ACIR please contact the Immunisation Section of the HIC: Telephone 02 6203 6185.

Dengue overseas

Source: World Health Organization and the Pacific Public Health Network

Many parts of south-east Asia (Malaysia, Taiwan [China], Cambodia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar), the western Pacific (Guam, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Kiribati) and Latin America (Brazil, Venezuela, Columbia) have been experiencing unusually high levels of dengue/dengue haemorrhagic fever activity. Although there is often a seasonal increase in dengue in some of these places at this time of the year, the level of activity in 1998 is considerably higher than in previous years. Changes in weather patterns as a result of the El Nino phenomenon are thought to be a major contributing factor.

Unless more effective measures are taken to control the main vector, *Aedes aegypti*, in these and other countries/areas, dengue will continue to be a growing problem in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Essential elements of an effective program are integrated mosquito control with community and intersectoral involvement, vector surveillance for monitoring and evaluation, emergency preparedness, capacity building and training, and applied research.

Viet Nam. A total of 16,647 cases of dengue/dengue haemorrhagic fever with 55 deaths (case fatality rate = 0.3%) has been reported since the beginning of 1998. The incidence has more than doubled compared with the same period last year. As the traditional peak season for dengue (June to November) has only just started a major epidemic is expected to occur. While dengue 2 virus was the most

prevalent strain in 1997, early data suggests that dengue 3 virus predominates this year.

Malaysia. Since the beginning of 1998 there has been a total of 5,337 cases (including 194 cases of dengue haemorrhagic fever) and five deaths reported. The number of cases is similar to that reported for the same period last year.

Indonesia. There has been a rapid increase recently in dengue/dengue haemorrhagic fever cases and all provinces of the country are now affected. As of 5 May a total of 32,665 cases with 774 deaths had been reported. This number of cases is considerably higher than for the same period last year. It is expected that cases will continue to increase during the peak season of May to July.

Brazil. This year Brazil is experiencing the highest levels of dengue transmission in its history. A total of 234,828 cases was reported during the first four months of 1998, compared with 159,965 cases during the same period in 1997. There have been 60 cases of dengue haemorrhagic fever reported and eight deaths. Both dengue 1 and dengue 2 viruses are circulating.

Tonga. Since February 1998 the Ministry of Health in Tonga has reported a total of 438 suspected cases of dengue. Of these 220 were serologically tested and 70 confirmed. Included was a six year old child with confirmed dengue who died. There is little evidence of dengue in outer islands. The number of cases has fallen in recent weeks. The virus has been identified as dengue virus type 2.