

Foodborne disease

A marked increase in the number of notifications of listeriosis (14) occurred for this period compared with the previous period (3) and the same period for 1998 (2). Overall there was a slight increase in the number of year to date notifications (50) compared with the previous year to date figure (44). The increase in notifications may

represent the beginning of the recently reported listeriosis outbreak. Of the notifications, 50% (7) was reported from New South Wales, and 21% (3) from Western Australia. Cases were mostly aged from 17 to 65 years with a mean of 45 years (SD=18 years), median of 39 years and a mode of 32 years. Three cases were aged less than 1 year. Of those cases where gender has been reported there were 4 males and 8 females.

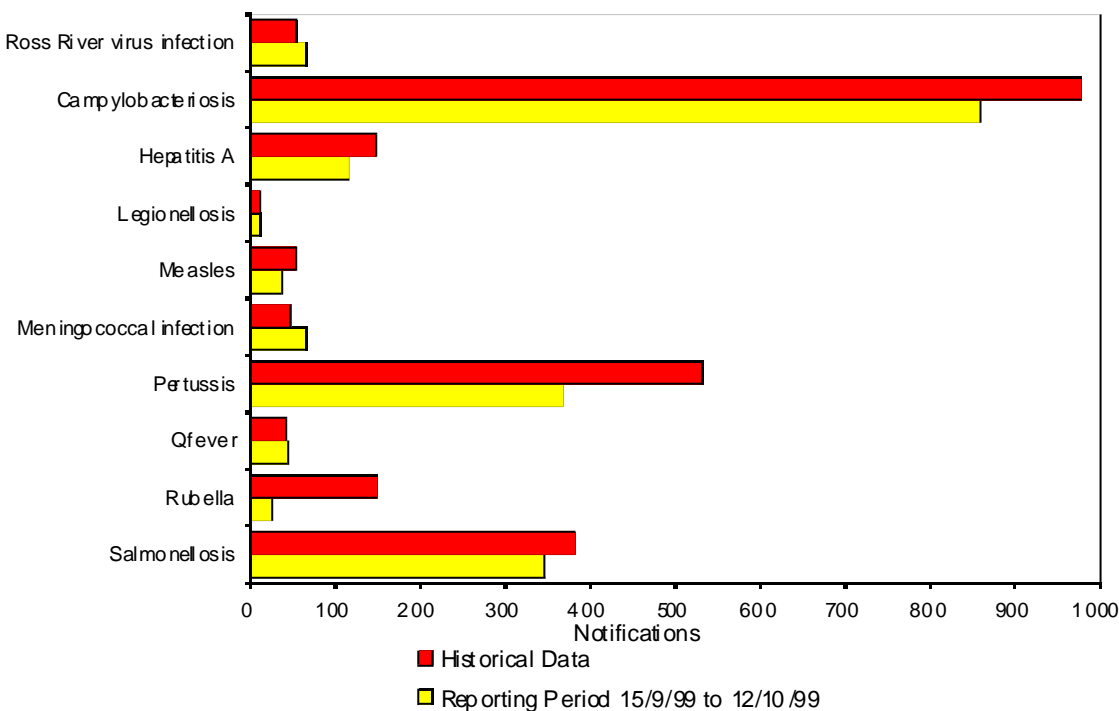
Tables

There were 5,374 notifications to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) in the four week period, 15 September to 12 October 1999 (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 4,310 reports received by the *CDI*/Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) in the four week period, 9 September to 6 October 1999 (Tables 3 and 4).

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) data for weeks 37 to 40, ending 10 October 1999, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 5).

Figure 1. Selected National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reports, and historical data¹



1. The historical data are the averages of the number of notifications in the corresponding 4 week periods of the last 3 years and the 2 week periods immediately preceding and following those.

Table 1. Notifications of diseases received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 15 September to 12 October 1999

Disease ^{1,2,3}	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1999	This period 1998	Year to date 1999 ⁴	Year to date 1998
Arbovirus infection (NEC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	70	57
Barmah Forest virus infection	0	7	0	8	0	0	1	1	17	32	543	467
Brucellosis	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	3	36	33
Campylobacteriosis ⁵	22	-	20	212	136	18	355	96	859	1,078	9,847	9,418
Chancroid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	1
Chlamydial infection (NEC) ^{6,7}	13	114	98	333	70	10	206	116	960	852	10,962	8,535
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	166	395
Donovanosis ⁷	0	0	0	0	NN	0	0	0	0	3	14	29
Gonococcal infection ⁸	0	66	101	84	19	0	56	63	389	402	4,424	4,134
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome ⁹	NN	0	0	0	0	0	NN	0	0	0	13	10
Hepatitis A	0	25	8	16	10	0	30	27	116	122	1,321	2,189
Hepatitis B incident	1	4	1	1	4	0	6	6	23	20	230	210
Hepatitis B unspecified ¹⁰	6	166	0	67	0	1	212	26	478	563	5,590	5,029
Hepatitis C incident	1	2	0	-	7	0	0	8	18	23	241	236
Hepatitis C unspecified ¹⁰	17	401	21	266	74	14	385	74	1,252	1,533	15,869	15,092
Hepatitis (NEC) ¹¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NN	0	3	28	15
Hydatid infection	0	NN	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	24	35
Legionellosis	1	0	2	4	0	0	4	1	12	10	215	186
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
Leptospirosis	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	7	17	296	134
Listeriosis	0	7	0	2	1	0	1	3	14	2	50	44
Malaria	0	7	22	10	2	1	4	1	47	25	631	589
Meningococcal infection	0	24	0	7	0	2	23	10	66	54	462	362
Ornithosis	0	NN	0	NN	0	0	3	1	4	0	64	27
Q Fever	0	14	0	23	1	0	2	4	44	57	435	443
Ross River virus infection	0	5	2	49	0	0	1	9	66	43	4,116	2,455
Salmonellosis (NEC)	7	55	16	112	43	3	74	36	346	443	6,258	6,119
Shigellosis ⁵	0	-	10	4	6	0	13	8	41	30	460	475
SLTEC, VTEC ¹²	NN	0	0	NN	0	0	NN	NN	0	0	20	9
Syphilis ¹³	1	33	24	53	1	0	0	5	117	139	1,598	1,236
TTP ¹⁴	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	15	1	8	0	1	0	4	29	63	725	756
Typhoid ¹⁵	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	6	5	67	57
Yersiniosis (NEC) ⁵	0	-	0	7	1	0	2	0	10	12	126	176

1. Diseases preventable by routine childhood immunisation are presented in Table 2.

2. No HIV and AIDS tables this issue.

3. No notifications have been received during 1999 for the following rare diseases: lymphogranuloma venereum, plague, rabies, yellow fever, or other viral haemorrhagic fevers.

4. 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.

5. Not reported for NSW because it is only notifiable as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.

6. WA: genital only.

7. Notifications from NSW have been received since September 1998, and were first reported in *CDI* in Issue 23(9).

8. NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.

9. Nationally reportable from August 1998.

10. Unspecified numbers should be interpreted with some caution as the magnitude may be a reflection of the numbers of testings being carried out.

11. Includes hepatitis D and E.

12. Infections with *Shiga*-like toxin (verotoxin) producing *E. Coli* (SLTEC/VTEC) became nationally reportable in August 1998.

13. Includes congenital syphilis.

14. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura became nationally reportable in August 1998.

15. NSW, Qld: includes paratyphoid.

NN Not Notifiable.

NEC Not Elsewhere Classified.

- Elsewhere Classified.

Table 2. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood immunisation, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 15 September to 12 October 1999

Disease ¹	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1999	This period 1998	Year to date 1999 ²	Year to date 1998
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	42	26
Measles	1	0	3	1	0	1	28	3	37	14	273	269
Mumps	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	9	8	141	147
Pertussis	4	100	0	46	15	132	69	2	368	395	3,086	5,289
Rubella ³	0	1	0	10	0	1	11	2	25	76	312	654
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5

NN. Not Notifiable

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.

Table 3. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 9 September to 6 October 1999, and total reports for the year

	State or Territory ¹								Total this period	Total reported in 1999 ^{2,3}
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA		
Measles, mumps, rubella										
Measles virus						1	5	5	11	154
Mumps virus								6	6	46
Rubella virus		3		52		1		2	58	122
Hepatitis viruses										
Hepatitis A virus			16	21			3	24	64	327
Hepatitis D virus				1					1	5
Arboviruses										
Ross River virus		7	12	96		1		3	119	1,252
Barmah Forest virus		1		21			1		23	144
Dengue not typed		1						3	4	44
Flavivirus (unspecified)			1				1		2	17
Adenoviruses										
Adenovirus type 1							2		2	20
Adenovirus type 2							1		1	14
Adenovirus type 3							1		1	29
Adenovirus type 4							1		1	14
Adenovirus type 5							1		1	4
Adenovirus type 40								4	4	63
Adenovirus not typed/pending		3		11			29	53	96	986
Herpes viruses										
Cytomegalovirus		9		56		1	42	18	126	931
Varicella-zoster virus		11	10	165	1	1	17	29	234	1,354
Epstein-Barr virus		12	6	310		4	15	23	370	1,882
Other DNA viruses										
Contagious pustular dermatitis								1	1	9
Parvovirus		1		33		5	19	16	74	382

Table 3. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 9 September to 6 October 1999, and total reports for the year (continued)

	State or Territory ¹								Total this period	Total reported in 1999 ^{2,3}	
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA			
Picornavirus family											
Coxsackievirus A16		3					1			4	16
Coxsackievirus B2							1			1	1
Coxsackievirus B5							1			1	5
Echovirus type 11		11	2							13	132
Echovirus type 22		1								1	19
Rhinovirus (all types)		7					5	6		18	358
Enterovirus type 71 (BCR)							2			2	17
Enterovirus not typed/pending			1	11			1	45		58	669
Ortho/paramyxoviruses											
Influenza A virus		8	5	138		2	83	134		370	1,680
Influenza A virus H3N2							2			2	29
Influenza B virus		6	1	14			16	14		51	224
Parainfluenza virus type 1				1			3	1		5	40
Parainfluenza virus type 2							5	1		6	101
Parainfluenza virus type 3		5		30			19	53		107	652
Parainfluenza virus type 4								1		1	4
Respiratory syncytial virus		14	2	166		23	235	164		604	2,753
Other RNA viruses											
Rotavirus		60	1			16	78	86		241	1,747
Norwalk agent							6			6	66
Other											
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed		45	78	418		5	16	61		623	2,548
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>							3			3	76
<i>Chlamydia</i> species		2		4						6	17
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>		5	1	141		3	63	7		220	966
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)		8	1	54			1	3		67	170
<i>Rickettsia</i> spp - other								1		1	11
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A		5	21	132						158	200
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>				1						1	10
<i>Brucella</i> species				3						3	5
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>		3		159		2	12	5		181	574
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>								2		2	19
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i>								1		1	32
<i>Leptospira</i> species		2		14						16	31
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>		8	208	120						336	432
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>				1				1		2	3
Total		241	366	2,173	1	65	691	773		4,310	21,406

1. State or Territory of postcode, if reported, otherwise State or Territory of reporting laboratory.

2. In 1999, data from the Institute of Clinical Pathology & Clinical Research, Westmead were under reported up to September.

3. Totals comprise data from all laboratories. 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.

Table 4. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 9 September to 6 October 1999

State or Territory	Laboratory	Reports
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	129
Queensland	Queensland Medical Laboratory, West End	2,646
	Townsville General Hospital	16
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	58
Victoria	Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne	303
	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	207
	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield	171
Western Australia	PathCentre Virology, Perth	588
	Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth	192
TOTAL		4,310

Table 5. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network reports, weeks 37 to 40, 1999

Week number	37		38		39		40	
Week ending on	19 September 1999		26 September 1999		3 October 1999		10 October 1999	
Doctors reporting	51		44		45		42	
Total encounters	6,989		5,406		5,675		5,181	
Condition	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1,000 encounters
Influenza	39	5.6	16	3.0	21	3.7	14	2.7
Rubella	1	0.1	3	0.6	1	0.2	1	0.2
Measles	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chickenpox	1	1.6	10	1.8	11	1.9	8	1.5
New diagnosis of asthma	1	1.6	6	1.1	2	0.4	6	1.2
Post operative wound sepsis	2	0.3	3	0.6	10	1.8	5	1.0
Gastroenteritis	69	9.9	54	10.0	61	10.7	55	10.6

The NNDSS is conducted under the auspices of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand. The system coordinates the national surveillance of more than 40 communicable diseases or disease groups endorsed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Notifications of these diseases are made to State and Territory health authorities under the provisions of their respective public health legislations. De-identified core unit data are supplied fortnightly for collation, analysis and dissemination. For further information, see CDI 1999;23:55.

LabVISE is a sentinel reporting scheme. Twenty-one laboratories contribute data on the laboratory identification of viruses and other organisms. Data are collated and published in Communicable Diseases Intelligence every four weeks. These data should be interpreted with caution as the number and type of reports received is subject to a number of biases. For further information, see CDI 1999;23:58.

ASPREN currently comprises about 100 general practitioners from throughout the country. Up to 9,000 consultations are reported each week, with special attention to 12 conditions chosen for sentinel surveillance in 1999. CDI reports the consultation rates for seven of these. For further information, including case definitions, see CDI 1999;23:55-56.