INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFICATIONS

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)

The pertussis notification rate for the State for the period January to November was 18.2/100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 12.4 for the first 10 months of the year. Central West Public Health Unit received notifications at a rate of 27.8/100,000 population. A major cluster has been identified in the Sutherland Local Government Area. Another cluster has been identified in Campbelltown (South Western Sydney Area).

A total of 987 notifications for pertussis has been received this year. This is more than five times the number of notifications for the same period in 1992.

The mean age for notifications was 18.1 years (range one month to 92 years). Eleven per cent of cases have been for infants and neonates (i.e. \leq one year of age); seventy-six per cent of notifications have been for people aged \geq five years. As the epidemic continues, there is a trend for more adolescents and adults to be affected (the mean age for the first 10 months of the year was 17.3 years).

The Communicable Diseases Standing Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has deferred the review of pertussis immunisation recommendations.

Immunisation providers are requested to consider the consequences of not offering whooping cough vaccine to infants and children at time when there is documented evidence of high levels of *Bordatella pertussis* throughout the State.

STATEMENT ON PERTUSSIS VACCINATION

The following statement was adopted by the National Health and Medical Research Council at its 116th session:

Council noted with concern the continued illness and preventable deaths due to whooping cough despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. The reported whooping cough immunisation rate of 71 per cent in the 1989-90 Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey was the lowest uptake of all individual routine childhood immunisations. The uptake of routine childhood immunisations ranged from 71 to 86 per cent. In Australia, 739 cases of whooping cough were notified in 1992 and 337 cases in 1991. At least 14 children died of whooping cough in Australia between 1982 and 1991.

Council acknowledged the continued fear of some health care workers and some members of the general public regarding the whooping cough vaccine but noted that these concerns are without scientific basis or legal precedent. Extensive studies have shown that the benefits of whooping cough vaccine outweigh any risks. The National Childhood Encephalopathy Study in the United Kingdom did not demonstrate an increased risk of permanent brain damage within seven days of whooping cough immunisation, nor did a large American study.

Council also noted that refusal to immunise children carries a serious risk of disease. Inadequately immunised one-yearold children had more than a one in six chance of developing whooping cough before the age of 10 years.

Mild reactions to whooping cough vaccine occur in about 50 per cent of infants and do not contraindicate further use. However, the effect of these minor reactions can be minimised by the routine use of paracetamol at the time of immunisation.

Whooping cough vaccine should not be given following a major reaction to a previous dose of diphtheria-tetanuspertussis vaccine (triple antigen); diphtheria-tetanus vaccine (CDT) should then be used. Major reactions include fever above 40°C, convulsions, persistent screaming, hypotonia, severe local reactions. The risk of brain damage after pertussis vaccination is negligible if it exists at all.

Council recommended that health professionals seek every opportunity to promote whooping cough vaccine as a safe and effective vaccine.

MEASLES

The annual notification rate for the State is 33.6/100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 22.6 for the first 10 months of the year.

Western Sydney Public Health Unit has received notifications at a rate of 111.05/100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 86.7 for the first 10 months of the year.

Measles notifications continue to rise. This increase began in week 23. Most measles notifications have been for the Blacktown Local Government Area. Other clusters have been identified in Fairfield (South Western Sydney Area), Shellharbour-Albion Park (Illawarra Region), Bingara (New England Region) and Coonamble (Orana and Far West Region).

The mean age for notifications was 8.7 years (range one month to 69 years). Nine per cent of notifications were for neonates and infants. Seventy per cent of notifications were for children over the age of five; 28 per cent of cases were for people over the age of 12 years. The proportion of notifications for adolescents and adults has increased from 24 per cent of total notifications for the first 10 months of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two hundred and ninety-six notifications have been received for 1993, for a rate of 5.5/100,000 population.

Only 70 notifications were for sputum smear positive cases - for a rate of 1.3/100,000 population.

Sites of infection for 1993 notifications are as follows:

TABLE 2		क्षमुख्य हा
SITE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Respiratory	161	55
Miliary	5	2
Primary	12	4
Genitourinary	8	3
Meningeal	5	2
Bone	6	2
Gastrointestinal	4	1
Other/unspecified	95	32

RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES)

There has been a resurgence of rubella activity in NSW since August. This increase in notifications began in week 31. The annual notification rate for the State is 8.1/100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 5.2/100,000







population for the same period in 1992. New England Public Health Unit has received notifications at a rate of 32.8/100,000 population. Another large cluster of notifications has been in the Blacktown Local Government Area. Some of these notifications may be for misclassified measles cases.

BRUCELLOSIS ALERT

Medical practitioners are alerted to the re-emergence of brucellosis as a health problem due to high rates of *Brucella suis* infection in feral pig populations. Feral pig hunters and consumers are at risk. Special concerns are held for







Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who consume large quantities of feral pig meat.

Symptoms of brucellosis can be acute or insidious onset of fever, headache, weakness, profuse sweating, arthralgia and weight loss.

Laboratory diagnosis is made by appropriate isolation of the infectious agent from blood, bone marrow or other discharges/tissues from the patient. Serology may also be a useful mode of confirming the diagnosis.

Control of human brucellosis depends on the elimination of Brucella from animal reservoirs.

TABLE 3

SUMMARY OF NSW INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS NOVEMBER 1993

Condition	Num Peri	ber of ca	ases notified Cumulative				
	Nov 1992	Nov 1993	Nov 1992	Nov 1993			
Adverse reaction	1	-	31	24			
AIDS Arbovical infaction	17	/	295	607			
Brucellosis	1		5	4			
Cholera	-	STALL.	-				
Diphtheria	-	-		-			
Foodborne illness (NOS)	11	4	182	107			
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	9	6	414	263			
Gonorrhoea	48	16	367	304			
H influenzae epigiottitis	0	1	40	52			
H influenzae B – meningitis	1		25	23			
H influenzae infection (NOS)	5		32	14			
Hepatitis A	52	22	526	523			
Hepatitis B	284	134	3,082	3,149			
Hepatitis C	367	195	3,982	4,949			
Hepatitis D	1	-	7	11			
Hepatitis E	N/A	1	N/A	1			
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	54		654	NIA			
Hvdatid disease		1	5	2			
Legionnaires' disease	3		90	53			
Leprosy	-	-	5	2			
Leptospirosis	-	-	19	13			
Listeriosis	-	1	15	12			
Malaria*	12	2	144	136			
Measles	266	3/8	/05	1,818			
Meningococcal meningitis	0	9	02	28			
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	2	2	12	11			
Mumps	1	1	21	8			
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	50	7	409	296			
Mycobacterial – atypical	31	3	469	249			
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	9	3	36	68			
Pertussis	43	83	192	987			
Plague	-		1.11				
Poliomyelitis	17	E	201	272			
Qifever	113	25	201	A37			
Salmonella infection (NOS)	58	44	799	786			
Syphilis	75	34	909	616			
Tetanus		1726	2	5			
Typhoid and paratyphoid	2		29	22			
Typhus	- 12.	191× -		-			
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	-		- 10	-			
Yellow fever	的設置	1.00	350 S - 1	1000			

TABLE 4												
INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIO BY SELECTED MONTH OF ONSET F	ONS OR 199	3										
Condition		Month										
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total							
Adverse event												
after immunisation	2	5	1		8							
AIDS	39	26	24	· /	96							
Arboviral infection	8	6	11		25							
Brucellosis	-	10	-	-	22							
Foodborne Illness (NOS)	2	10	24	4	62							
Gastroenteritis (Instit.)	22	24	24	16	00							
Gonorrnoea	32	14	20	10	90							
H influenzae epigiotutis	4	-	1	I.S.	1							
H influenzae meningitis	- 7	2	2	1	13							
H influenzae conticaemia	3	1	2		6							
Honotitis A soute viral	28	41	13	22	144							
Hopatitis B – acute viral	5	5	EF S	22	15							
Hepatitis B – unspecified	347	307	295	132	1 081							
Hepatitis C – acute viral	2	2	3	-	7							
Hepatitis C – unspecified	585	529	478	195	1 787							
Hepatitis D – unspecified	1	1	2	-	4							
Hepatitis E – unspecified	1	8 E_		5.1	1							
Hepatitis acute viral (NOS)	1	1			2							
HIV infection			-	100-	28 I							
Hydatid disease				1	1							
Legionnaires' disease	3	5	3		11							
Leprosv	1	1		(199 <u>)</u>	2							
Leptospirosis	1	1	1	2.42	3							
Listeriosis	-	-	5	1	6							
Malaria	22	16	3	2	43							
Measles	175	376	477	378	1,406							
Meningococcal meningitis	13	17	17	9	56							
Meningococcal septicaemia	8	3	4	5	20							
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	1	1	2	- 16	4							
Mumps	1	4	1	1	7							
Mycobacterial – atypical	12	9	3	3	27							
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	31	22	16	7	76							
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	4	15	13	3	35							
Pertussis	126	181	246	83	636							
Q fever	40	30	23	5	98							
Rubella	46	82	101	25	254							
Salmonella (NOS)	39	21	35	40	135							
Salmonella bovis morbificans	3	1	10		6							
Salmonella typnimurium	7	15	16	24	100							
Syphills	/6	43	46	54	199							
Timbaid and same haid			-		0							
Typholo and paratypholo	1 000	1 0 2 4	4		0							
Iotal	1,698	1,831	1,930	986	0,451							

* from Malaria Register

TABLE 5																	
RARELY NOTIFIED INFECTIO BY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT CUMULATIVE 1993	OUS DISEA	SES															
Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	Total
Brucellosis Hepatitis E – unspecified Hydatid disease Leprosy Leptospirosis Listeriosis	1 - - 2	1	- - - - 1	- - 1 2	- - 1 2		1 - - 1	11111		- - - 2 4	1 - - 4 -		- - - 1 -				4 1 2 13 12

TABLE 6

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS BY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT, CUMULATIVE 1993

					13. 545					August States	The second	in Lines		S. C. Sand				
Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	U/K	Total
Adverse event after	1253										753.1018		ale tak					100
immunisation	1	3	1	-	6	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	-	5	2	-	-	24
AIDS	55	8	108	15	14	8	30	3	3	6	29	1	2	5	7	-	-	294
Arboviral Infection	1	1	2	1	1	3	4	1	1	30	55	29	106	14	354	4	-	607
Brucellosis	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Foodborne Illness (NOS)	6	4		22	24	10	-	3	6	-	-	2	11	14	5	-	-	107
Gastroenteritis (Instit)	69	6	-	11	14	29	1	21	-	39	-	17	4	20	32	-	-	263
Gonorrhoea	51	17	106	15	20	5	22	6	3	6	12	10	18	7	2	4	-	304
H. influenzae epiglottitis	1	7	1	2	-	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	1	-	2	3	-	32
H. influenzae infection (NOS)	-	-	2	-	2	1	3	2	-	· 3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	14
H. influenzae meningitis	4	4	-	9	3	3	5	2	8	1	3	3	1	3	2	1	-	52
H. influenzae septicaemia	1	3	1	9	1	-	2	-	2	2	=	2	-	-	-		-	23
Hepatitis A – acute viral	43	21	41	51	113	20	48	12	18	14	46	67	6	5	13	5	-	523
Hepatitis B – acute viral	6	5	20	2	7	2	-	1	-	-	27	4	-		2	2	-	78
Hepatitis B – unspecified	484	404	13	885	491	41	438	41	44	72	53	40	16	15	24	10		3,071
Hepatitis C – acute viral	1				4			2	1	-	2	5	1	1	-	3		20
Hepatitis C – unspecified	6/9	367	613	516	521	111	544	224	301	374	298	85	26	80	122	68	-	4,929
Hepatitis D – unspecified	2	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-		11
Hepatitis E – unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		-	=	-	-	-	1
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	-	-	2	-	-		-	-	-	1	-		1	2	-	-		1
Hiv infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	101	-
Logioppairos' disease	-	-	2	14	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		2
Legionnaires disease	9			14	15	-	4	2	3	3	1	-				1		55
Leptospirosis		-								2	-	-	1		2		- <u>(</u>	12
Listeriosis	2		1	2	2		1			4	1	-			3	Star Ist		12
Malaria	12	14	20	6	20	4	20	2	4	13	2	10	2		3	Ā	- C.	136
Measles	102	116	44	229	623	193	70	42	95	50	46	80	79	9	25	15	1 E -	1 818
Meningococcal meningitis	3	5	4	15	11	3	4	3	6	4	7	3	6	ž	-1	7		84
Meningococcal septicaemia	4	8	3	2	2	3	5	-	ž	2	ż	3	1 I	1		1		38
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	1	ĩ		-	4	1			_	11
Mumps	1	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-		-	-	_	8
Mycobacterial – atypical	50	19	22	15	24	6	29	4	9	29	24	10	2	1	4	1	13.12	249
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	31	36	27	68	46	8	34	9	7	13	2	3	3	6	2	1		296
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	16	2	1	2	3	-	21	3	8	2	6	1	1	-	2	-	-	68
Pertussis	36	105	117	138	108	57	149	15	39	34	60	24	41	50	5	9	_	987
Q fever	-	1	1	1	5	1	2	1	1	23	64	105	86	12	4	16	-	323
Rubella	7	15	14	81	86	37	25	7	10	20	30	77	-	5	12	11		437
Salmonella (NOS)	22	53	53	62	26	9	56	26	12	69	48	47	27	7	12	10	all same	539
Salmonella bovis morbificans	1	5	2	2	2	(e.) -	3	-	-	10	-	- 14	728-	1	1			27
Salmonella typhimurium	18	26	21	20	17	12	20	4	3	22	9	9	15	4	13	7	-	220
Syphilis	83	36	98	152	23	7	30	7	6	8	45	38	65	6	9	3	-	616
Tetanus	-	1	-	-		-	-	-	-	18 T	2	-	1	G916 -		1	- C	5
Typhoid and paratyphoid	1	2	4	3	1	2	3	-	-	1	2	- 10	-	3	-	1.11-1	16	22

*HIV data not available

TABLE 7

NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-NOTIFIABLE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1993 (Diagnoses from sexual health centres unless otherwise stated in footnote) AHS CSA¹ SSA¹ ESA² SWS² WSA³ + WEN NSA⁴ CCA⁵ ILL⁶ HUN² NCR⁴ Infection Chlamydia Male 2 3 64 3 23 3 8 11

Chlamydia	Male	2	3	64	3		23	3		8	11	2	4	13	RUS - 27	12	
trachomatis	Female	1	4	52	6		16	1	1	4	32	2	13	13	1. Jul	27	
	Total	3	7	116	9		39	4	1	12	43	4	17	26	-	39	4
Donovanosis	Male	-	- S	-	<u></u>	C. S. Carl	-		-	-	-	1000-10	10 m	-	四十二	-	
	Female	-	÷	-	-		-		-	S		-					
	Total		-	-	- of the second		-	-	-	-	111-2	19 29	QQ2			480 <u>-</u>	-
*Genital herpes	Male	8	12	222	3		35	12	7	7	21	3	2	3	643. <u>12</u> 960	3	1920
	Female	9	7	143	2		18	3	8	8	24	4	6	5	NEW COL	17	
	Total	17	19	365	5		53	15	15	15	45	7	8	8	1 - 10	20	3
*Genital warts	Male	31	74	490	57		155	31	25	62	93	36	16	20		2	12
	Female	22	52	214	24		65	18	14	25	37	20	19	15	128	1	
	Total	53	126	704	81		220	49	39	87	130	56	35	35	101 - 11	3	15
Nongonococcal	Male	9	12	525	11		279	12	13	52	69	17	5	13	60. <u>–</u> 10. –	1	- Paris
urethritis	Female	2	-	-	3		3	4	5	유민들의	日本自己	4	1992	1	1420 <u>2</u> 04	4 12-10	
	Total	11	12	525	14		282	16	18	52	69	21	5	14	-	1	
Lymphogranuloma	Male	0.00-25		-	-		-	-17	-	2 ² 1	14. J 14		- 1	100 - 10	-	-	
venereumFemale	Total	-	-	-			1	121		-	-	Ξ.		-	1		-11-

* First diagnosis; 1. 01/01/93-30/09/93; 2. 01/01/93-31/08/93; 3. 01/01/93-31/07/93; 4. 01/01/93-31/10/93; 5. 01/01/93-30/11/93; 6. 01/01/93-30/06/93; 7. No SHC in Region; 8. Laboratory and SHC data 01/01/93-30/11/93; 9. No SHC in Region. Data from GP network 01/01/93-31/10/93.

Abbreviations used in this Bulletin: CSA Central Sydney Health Area, SSA Southern Sydney Health Area, ESA Eastern Sydney Health Area, SWS South Western Sydney Health Area, WSA Western Sydney Health Area, WEN Wentworth Health Area, NSA Northern Sydney Health Area, CCA Central Coast Health Area, ILL Illawarra Health Area, HUN Hunter Health Area, NCR North Coast Health Region, NER New England Health Region, OFR Orana and Far West Health Region, CWR Central West Health Region, SWR South West Health Region, SER South East Health Region, OTH Interstate/Overseas, U/K Unknown, NOS Not Otherwise Stated.

Please note that the data contained in this Bulletin are provisional and subject to change because of late reports or changes in case classification. Data are tabulated where possible by area of residence and by the disease onset date and not simply the date of notification or receipt of such notification.

NER⁴ OFR² CWR⁷

SWR⁸ SER⁹