

## NOTIFICATIONS

This month we highlight vaccine-preventable diseases, gonorrhoea, meningococcal diseases and influenza.

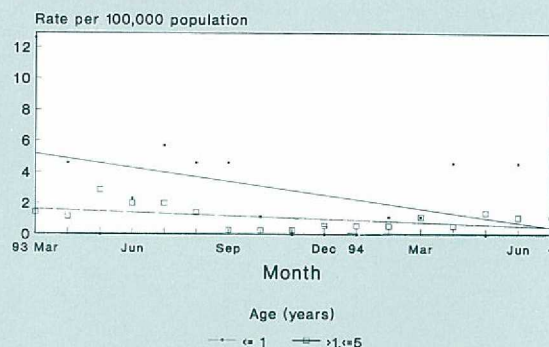
### HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE B (Hib)

A total of 45 notifications for Hib disease was received for the period January-July 1994, for a rate of 1.3/100,000 population. This compares with a notification rate of 2.2/100,000 for 1993.

For children aged less than five years, 28 notifications were received, compared with 82 for January-July 1993 (Figure 4). The notification rate has dropped from 23.9/100,000 population in 1993 to 10.8/100,000 population this year. This substantial decrease is directly attributable to the immunisation program for children under five years old.

FIGURE 4

HIB, NSW, <= FIVE YEARS OF AGE  
MARCH 1993-JULY 1994



### PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)

The notification rate for pertussis for January-July 1994 was 20.4/100,000 population, a decrease from 25.5/100,000 population for the same period in 1993.

Richmond Health District continued to receive a high rate of notifications, reaching 226.2/100,000 population.

In response to persistent high rates of notification of pertussis in the Richmond District, the North Coast Public Health Unit has advised immunisation providers to accelerate immunisation schedules and use chemoprophylaxis to minimise transmission of pertussis.

Children aged less than five years continued to account for 20 per cent of notifications. The mean age for notifications was 20.9 years (range one month to 87 years).

### MEASLES

The notification rate for January-July was 8.9/100,000 population. This compares with a rate of 10.5/100,000 population for the same period in 1993.

The mean age for notifications remains at 8.2 years (range three months to 64 years). Fourteen per cent of notifications were for infants ( $\leq$  one year of age). Fifty-six per cent of notifications were for children over the age of five years, while 22 per cent were for people 12 years and older.

### GONORRHOEA

A total of 178 notifications for gonorrhoea has been received this year, for a rate of 4.9/100,000 population.

Males accounted for 84 per cent of notifications. The male:female ratio was 4.8:1.

The age range for males was 13 to 62 years and for females 13 to 36 years. The mean age for males was 29.5 years (SD 9.6), while the mean age for females was 22.7 years (SD 5.2).

Only 30 per cent of notifications were for a specific site, with the lower genitourinary tract accounting for 22 per cent of all notifications and 72 per cent of site-specific notifications.

### MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

A total of 53 notifications for meningococcal disease has been received, for a rate of 1.5/100,000 population. This compares with the rate of 2.5/100,000 population for 1993.

The age of people notified with meningococcal disease has ranged from three months to 91 years. The mean age was 17.5 years (SD 23.8).

### INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Figure 5 shows that in late July influenza activity was at its highest level so far this year and greater than at any stage last year.

Reports of influenza-like illness (ILI) for July were received weekly in eight PHUs from a total of about 100 doctors and 13,000 patient consultations a week. The highest rate of ILI reports for NSW was 3.2 per cent of consultations in the latest reporting week, ending July 24, which is higher than the highest rate recorded last year of 2.3 per cent. The highest rate was reported from the South East PHU, with 5.2 per cent. In July Northern Districts and Central Coast PHUs reported increases to 4 per cent or more, and Western Sydney/Wentworth Areas have reported around 4 per cent since late May.

Surveillance of school absentee rates has intensified following the addition of four boarding schools to the sentinel network. Reports are now received from seven PHUs, covering 17 schools and more than 11,000 students. There is no clear upward trend in absentee rates.

Laboratory isolations of influenza virus and serological diagnoses increased during July. The Virology Laboratory of the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research (ICPMR) at Westmead Hospital has reported 13 isolations of influenza virus this year. All were influenza A (H3N2), a slight variant of the A Beijing/32/92 strain which is in the current vaccine. The ICPMR Serology Laboratory reported five recent serological diagnoses of influenza A, and the Prince of Wales Hospital Serology Laboratory reported increases of diagnoses of both influenza A and B.

FIGURE 5

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS NSW



Source: NSW Sentinel GP Network



# SCHOOL ENTRY CERTIFICATE SURVEY NORTHERN SYDNEY AREA

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The survey was conducted to determine the number of immunisation certificates marked as incomplete for medical contraindications. The first public school listed in the yellow pages from each of the 11 local government areas was selected (10.7 per cent of public schools). Each school was contacted by phone and asked to provide information from the immunisation certificates of children starting kindergarten for the first time in 1994.

All schools surveyed had difficulty in gaining access to the immunisation certificates and were unable to provide the required information during the first phone call. Problems identified included schools attaching the certificates to pupil records and then needing to sort the records according to the completeness of the certificates. This inability to access records quickly could cause problems during an outbreak.

Of concern is the large number of children whose parents had not given the school a certificate (Table 3). In an outbreak of disease these children would have been considered unimmunised. Schools indicated that a percentage of the children with no certificate were under five years of age and had not had their prior to school entry booster. They could be issued with a certificate when their immunisation was complete.

Most medical contraindications for incomplete immunisation were associated with reaction to triple antigen. A small number of incomplete certificates was issued because of conscientious objection to all, or some components of, the immunisation schedule.

TABLE 3

	FREQUENCY	PER CENT
Complete certificates	546	79
Incomplete due to medical contraindications	14	2
Incomplete certificates	18	3
No certificate provided to school	112	16
Total number enrolled in kindergarten in 11 schools surveyed	690 <sup>1</sup>	100

1. Based on 1992 data this is about 13 per cent of kindergarten children in public schools in the Area.

TABLE 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS FOR 1994  
RECEIVED BY JULY 29, 1994

Condition	Freq	Percent
Adverse event after immunisation	20	0.2%
AIDS	175	1.7%
Arboviral infection	322	3.1%
Foodborne illness (NOS)	117	1.1%
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	108	1.0%
Gonorrhoea	178	1.7%
H influenzae epiglottitis	18	0.2%
H influenzae infection (NOS)	8	0.1%
H influenzae meningitis	10	0.1%
H influenzae septicaemia	9	0.1%
Hepatitis A - acute viral	289	2.8%
Hepatitis B - acute viral	51	0.5%
Hepatitis B - chronic/carrier	318	3.1%
Hepatitis B - unspecified	1,682	16.3%
Hepatitis C - acute viral	3	0.0%
Hepatitis C - unspecified	4,008	38.8%
Hepatitis D - unspecified	5	0.0%
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	2	0.0%
HIV infection	24	0.2%
Hydatid disease	8	0.1%
Legionnaires' disease	34	0.3%
Leprosy	2	0.0%
Leptospirosis	10	0.1%
Listeriosis	4	0.0%
Malaria	118	1.1%
Measles	321	3.1%
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	6	0.1%
Meningococcal meningitis	31	0.3%
Meningococcal septicaemia	16	0.2%
Mumps	2	0.0%
Mycobacterial atypical	185	1.8%
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	43	0.4%
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	144	1.4%
Pertussis	736	7.1%
Q fever	121	1.2%
Rubella	26	0.3%
Rubella - congenital	1	0.0%
Salmonella (NOS)	380	3.7%
Salmonella bovis moribificans	10	0.1%
Salmonella typhimurium	261	2.5%
Syphilis	514	5.0%
Tetanus	2	0.0%
Typhoid and paratyphoid	15	0.1%

TABLE 5

SELECTED INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS FOR 1994  
FOR NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED BY JULY 29, 1994  
BY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NC	ND	WD	CW	SW	SE	U/K	Total
Adverse event after immunisation	-	-	1	2	4	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	4	-	20
H. influenzae epiglottitis	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
H. influenzae meningitis	-	-	-	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	10
H. influenzae septicaemia	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	9
H. influenzae infection (NOS)	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	8
Measles	27	8	10	22	26	28	18	3	9	24	76	30	21	12	1	6	-	321
Mumps	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pertussis	16	53	48	45	66	27	38	12	33	41	296	13	17	15	4	12	-	736
Rubella	-	-	2	-	7	1	4	1	-	-	4	4	1	-	2	-	-	26
Rubella - congenital	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2



TABLE 6

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS FOR 1994  
FOR NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED BY JULY 29, 1994  
BY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Condition	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NC	ND	WD	CW	SW	SE	U/K	Total
Adverse event after immunisation	—	—	1	2	4	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	4	—	20
AIDS	26	8	60	8	27	14	11	2	6	1	9	2	—	1	—	—	—	175
Arboviral infection	—	3	2	—	—	—	6	3	5	34	188	50	19	1	9	2	—	322
Foodborne illness (NOS)	1	10	7	19	14	8	5	13	1	3	24	—	2	7	2	1	—	117
Gastroenteritis (instit)	23	2	—	3	18	19	1	1	—	1	10	—	—	30	—	—	—	108
Gonorrhoea	19	11	73	7	9	1	8	3	5	6	3	9	11	3	6	4	—	178
H. influenzae epiglottitis	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
H. influenzae meningitis	—	—	—	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	10
H. influenzae septicaemia	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	9
H. influenzae infection (NOS)	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	8
Hepatitis A – acute viral	15	8	29	34	23	5	20	3	3	15	29	33	4	14	53	1	—	289
Hepatitis B – acute viral	4	2	21	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	8	2	3	1	—	3	—	51
Hepatitis B – chronic/carrier	—	—	164	1	83	4	12	11	—	15	12	8	1	5	—	2	—	318
Hepatitis B – unspecified	237	256	52	521	211	12	242	13	36	37	27	7	4	2	21	4	—	1,682
Hepatitis C – acute viral	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Hepatitis C – unspecified	410	233	747	391	340	79	380	137	185	245	476	77	21	81	107	99	—	4,008
Hepatitis D – unspecified	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
HIV infection	41	15	97	16	12	3	11	3	2	6	3	—	—	—	—	1	48	258
Hydatid disease	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	8
Legionnaires' disease	3	2	1	7	8	—	7	—	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	34
Leprosy	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Leptospirosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	10
Listeriosis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Malaria	11	7	12	9	9	2	30	2	5	4	7	7	—	2	4	7	—	118
Measles	27	8	10	22	26	28	18	3	9	24	76	30	21	12	1	6	—	321
Meningococcal meningitis	3	3	2	4	3	1	—	3	—	5	2	1	—	1	1	2	—	31
Meningococcal septicaemia	—	2	—	3	2	—	3	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Mumps	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Mycobacterial atypical	37	9	58	5	5	5	29	5	1	17	9	2	—	1	2	—	—	185
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	18	25	18	30	19	2	11	1	3	8	3	3	1	—	2	—	—	144
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	4	2	3	—	2	1	21	1	—	1	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	43
Pertussis	16	53	48	45	66	27	38	12	33	41	296	13	17	15	4	12	—	736
Q fever	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	20	17	41	35	—	3	—	—	121
Rubella	—	—	2	—	7	1	4	1	—	—	4	4	1	—	2	—	—	26
Rubella – congenital	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Salmonella (NOS)	17	33	24	31	32	19	38	14	9	23	55	29	21	11	19	5	—	380
Salmonella bovis moribificans	—	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Salmonella typhimurium	20	21	13	10	51	10	31	13	15	18	9	10	7	10	21	2	—	261
Syphilis	76	33	140	69	31	3	37	10	6	3	27	22	47	4	4	2	—	514
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Typhoid and paratyphoid	3	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	2	—	15

TABLE 7

SURVEILLANCE OF NON-NOTIFIABLE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES  
JANUARY-JULY 1994  
(Diagnoses from sexual health centres unless otherwise stated in footnote)

\* First diagnosis; 1. 01/01/94-30/04/94; 2. 01/01/94-31/01/94; 3. 01/01/94-31/03/94;  
4. 01/01/94-31/07/94; 5. 01/01/94-30/06/94; 6. 01/01/94-31/05/94; 7. No SHC in Region;  
8. Laboratory and SHC data 01/01/94-31/05/94; 9. No data yet received for 1994.

AHS Infection	CSA <sup>1</sup>	SSA <sup>2</sup>	ESA <sup>3</sup>	SWS <sup>2</sup>	WSA <sup>3</sup> + WEN	NSA <sup>4</sup>	CCA <sup>4</sup>	ILL <sup>5</sup>	HUN <sup>6</sup>	NC <sup>5</sup>	ND <sup>5</sup>	WD <sup>5</sup>	CW <sup>7</sup>	SW <sup>8</sup>	SE <sup>9</sup>	Total
Chlamydia	1	—	23	1	6	2	1	3	8	—	5	6	—	—	—	56
trachomatis	1	—	27	1	7	1	1	4	12	1	17	14	—	5	—	91
Total	2	—	50	2	13	3	2	7	20	1	22	20	—	5	—	147
Donovanosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Genital herpes	3	1	108	—	12	8	11	—	13	6	2	1	—	4	—	169
Male	4	3	49	—	9	6	8	2	14	5	7	4	—	4	—	115
Female	7	4	157	—	21	14	19	2	27	11	9	5	—	8	—	284
Total	7	4	157	—	21	14	19	2	27	11	9	5	—	8	—	284
*Genital warts	11	6	278	19	74	17	30	28	64	25	4	6	—	5	—	567
Male	8	6	134	9	37	17	16	6	24	8	13	13	—	5	—	299
Female	19	12	412	28	111	34	46	34	88	33	20	19	—	10	—	866
Total	19	12	412	28	111	34	46	34	88	33	20	19	—	10	—	866
Nongonococcal urethritis	3	1	215	12	55	11	22	9	35	12	6	5	—	3	—	389
Male	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	9
Female	3	1	215	12	58	13	22	9	35	12	6	7	—	5	—	398
Total	3	1	215	12	58	13	22	9	35	12	6	7	—	5	—	398
Lymphogranuloma venereum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



TABLE 8

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS FOR 1994  
FOR NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED BY JULY 29, 1994  
BY SELECTED MONTH OF ONSET

Condition	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Adverse event after immunisation	5	2	2	-	9
AIDS	26	11	10	7	54
Arboviral infection	55	62	31	4	152
Foodborne illness (NOS)	65	16	8	-	89
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	48	15	21	3	87
Gonorrhoea	32	21	20	9	82
H influenzae epiglottitis	2	4	4	-	10
H influenzae meningitis	2	1	4	-	7
H influenzae septicaemia	2	1	2	1	6
H influenzae infection (NOS)	2	1	1	-	4
Hepatitis A - acute viral	48	36	40	13	137
Hepatitis B - acute viral	11	14	5	4	34
Hepatitis B - chronic/carrier	48	50	38	3	139
Hepatitis B - unspecified	259	331	252	60	902
Hepatitis C - acute viral	-	1	-	-	1
Hepatitis C - unspecified	562	662	656	160	2,040
Hepatitis D - unspecified	1	-	1	-	2
HIV infection	30	42	27	24	123
Hydatid disease	-	-	4	1	5
Legionnaires' disease	10	4	6	3	23
Leprosy	-	1	1	-	2
Leptospirosis	1	2	1	-	4
Malaria	14	10	18	7	49
Measles	14	20	16	11	61
Meningococcal meningitis	6	3	6	3	18
Meningococcal septicaemia	1	4	3	4	12
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	1	1	2	1	5
Mumps	-	-	1	-	1
Mycobacterial atypical	21	19	7	-	47
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	18	16	12	2	48
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	8	9	9	2	28
Pertussis	90	143	58	23	314
Q fever	18	23	12	3	56
Rubella	1	5	-	-	6
Salmonella (NOS)	61	53	44	11	169
Salmonella bovis moribificans	2	1	-	-	3
Salmonella typhimurium	50	27	16	7	100
Syphilis	84	74	55	20	233
Tetanus	1	1	-	-	2
Typhoid and paratyphoid	3	-	2	-	5
Total	1,602	1,686	1,395	386	5,069

TABLE 9

SUMMARY OF NSW INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS  
JUNE 1994

Condition	Number of cases notified			
	Period		Cumulative	
	July 1993	July 1994	July 1993	July 1994
Adverse reaction	-	-	12	9
AIDS	33	7	222	54
Arboviral infection	10	4	595	152
Brucellosis	-	-	2	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Foodborne illness (NOS)	4	-	82	89
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	17	3	275	87
Gonorrhoea	24	9	214	82
H influenzae epiglottitis	2	-	26	10
H influenzae B - meningitis	6	-	40	7
H influenzae B - septicaemia	2	1	17	6
H influenzae infection (NOS)	2	-	10	4
Hepatitis A	47	13	383	137
Hepatitis B	366	67	2,181	1,075
Hepatitis C	590	160	3,365	2,041
Hepatitis D	2	-	7	2
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	1	-	5	-
HIV infection	56	24	346	258
Hydatid disease	-	1	1	5
Legionnaires' disease	2	3	44	23
Leprosy	-	-	1	-
Leptospirosis	1	-	10	4
Listeriosis	1	-	6	-
Malaria	10	7	109	49
Measles	87	11	407	61
Meningococcal meningitis	4	3	28	18
Meningococcal septicaemia	4	4	19	12
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	2	1	7	5
Mumps	-	-	1	1
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	51	2	251	48
Mycobacterial - atypical	27	-	239	47
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	2	2	21	5
Pertussis	101	23	341	314
Plague	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
Q fever	39	-	234	56
Rubella	62	-	272	169
Salmonella infection (NOS)	57	18	628	272
Syphilis	69	20	422	233
Tetanus	-	-	4	2
Typhoid and paratyphoid	-	-	18	5
Typhus	-	-	-	-
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	-	-	-	-
Yellow fever	-	-	-	-

*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, NC North Coast Public Health Unit, ND Northern District Public Health Unit, WNSW Western New South Wales Public Health Unit, CW Central West Public Health Unit, SW South West Public Health Unit, SE South East Public Health Unit, 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.