

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORT, AUGUST 2001

### TRENDS

The onset of winter in NSW has seen a decline in arboviral infections and pertussis, but heralds the onset of the meningococcal season (Figure 1, Table 1).

### MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Clinicians are urged to be alert to the diagnosis of meningococcal disease in people who present with otherwise unexplained fever. While the disease has two main presentations (meningitis or septicaemia), cases can sometimes present without classical manifestations. Young children may be unable to express some of the classic symptoms of headache, and young adults may be less inclined to re-present to a clinician should their condition deteriorate. Patients with a systemic febrile illness who are not admitted to a hospital, especially children or young adults, should be kept under frequent and regular review, and urgently reassessed if they deteriorate or if a rash occurs. Early treatment with intravenous benzylpenicillin (or ceftriaxone), and urgent transfer to hospital, can be life saving in patients with suspected meningococcal disease.

### MEASLES

A cluster of seven cases of measles has been reported in Western Sydney. The first person became ill on 16 May (and possibly acquired the illness in Hong Kong), and the latest person became ill on 25 June. Five cases have been confirmed by laboratory tests. Three cases are infants aged 8–12 months (and were not immunised because the vaccine is not due to be administered until 12 months of age). The other four cases are aged 19–26 years, and are unlikely to have been immunised against measles.

To prevent the spread of measles:

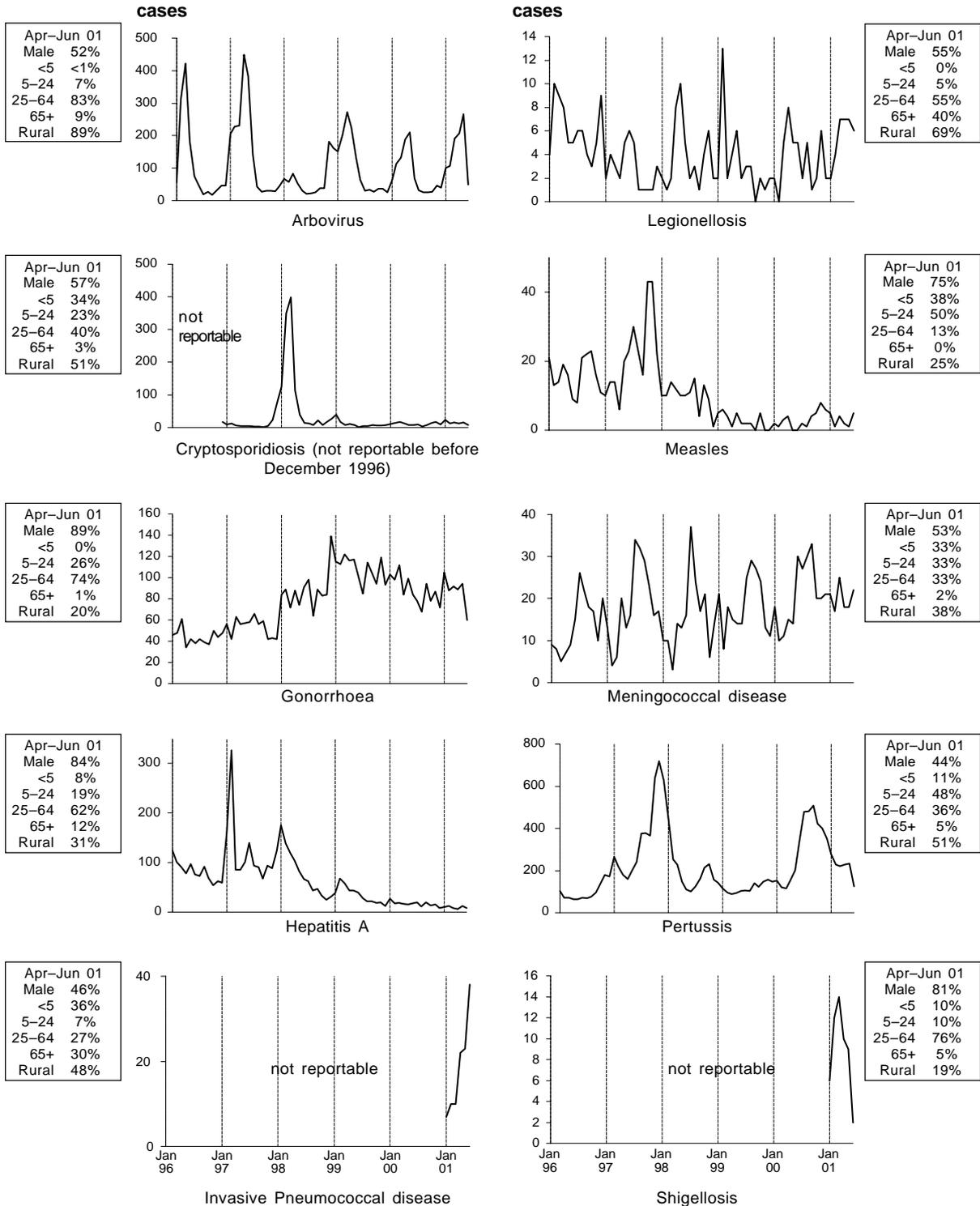
- parents are urged to ensure that their children are fully immunised;
- young adults (aged 18–30 years) are encouraged to see their general practitioner and be vaccinated with MMR vaccine (the vaccine that protects against measles, mumps and rubella);
- people with suspected measles should avoid contact with others (including at doctors' surgeries for at least four days after onset of the rash). ☒

**FIGURE 1**

**REPORTS OF SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NSW, JANUARY 1996 TO JUNE 2001, BY MONTH OF ONSET**

These are preliminary data: case counts for recent months may increase because of reporting delays. Laboratory-confirmed cases, except for measles, meningococcal disease and pertussis.

NSW population	
Male	50%
<5	7%
5-24	28%
25-64	52%
65+	13%
Rural*	42%



\* For definition, see *NSW Public Health Bulletin*, April 2000

TABLE 1

## REPORTS OF NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS RECEIVED IN JUNE 2001 BY AREA HEALTH SERVICES

Condition	Area Health Service (2001)																		Total	
	CSA	NSA	WSA	WEN	SWS	CCA	HUN	ILL	SES	NRA	MNC	NEA	MAC	MWA	FWA	GMA	SA	CHS	for Jun†	To date†
<b>Blood-borne and sexually transmitted</b>																				
AIDS	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	59
Chancroid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chlamydia (genital)*	17	47	28	16	-	12	29	7	86	12	5	22	13	36	2	12	7	3	354	2,069
Gonorrhoea*	-	18	3	-	-	1	2	2	50	1	-	7	-	3	4	-	1	3	98	573
Hepatitis B - acute viral*	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	43
Hepatitis B - other*	29	41	1	5	-	5	3	4	50	3	1	4	-	2	2	2	1	3	159	1,864
Hepatitis C - acute viral*	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	66
Hepatitis C - other*	69	27	87	43	-	24	36	11	100	36	15	10	6	30	3	11	29	58	597	4,394
Hepatitis D - unspecified*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
HIV infection*	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	144
Syphilis	8	4	7	1	-	3	-	1	8	1	1	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	39	292
<b>Vector-borne</b>																				
Arboviral infection (BFV)*	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	62	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	84	281
Arboviral infection (Other)*	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	27
Arboviral infection (RRV)*	-	2	8	4	-	5	20	1	1	11	7	3	2	11	-	-	8	-	83	666
Malaria*	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	11	77
<b>Zoonoses</b>																				
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brucellosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	38
Lyssavirus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14
Q fever*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	3	6	1	9	-	-	1	-	29	85
<b>Respiratory and other</b>																				
Blood lead level*	1	-	-	2	-	-	4	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	9	-	1	-	24	245
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Invasive pneumococcal infection	-	9	1	5	-	10	7	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	105
Legionnaires' longbeachae*	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	20
Legionnaires' pneumophila*	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	16
Legionnaires' (Other)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infection (invasive)	4	2	1	-	1	2	1	3	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	22	125
Tuberculosis	6	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	176
<b>Vaccine-preventable</b>																				
Adverse event after immunisation	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	43
H.influenzae b infection (invasive)*	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
Measles	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	19
Mumps*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Pertussis	16	26	18	11	15	9	12	6	31	19	4	25	20	15	-	16	2	-	245	1,579
Rubella*	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	37
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Faecal-oral</b>																				
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis*	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	91
Food borne illness (not otherwise specified)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Gastroenteritis (in an institution)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	216
Giardiasis*	-	14	-	8	-	5	10	-	9	6	3	7	1	5	2	5	2	-	77	515
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Hepatitis A*	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	65
Hepatitis E*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Listeriosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Salmonellosis (not otherwise specified)*	9	12	19	4	-	1	5	3	12	18	7	4	1	2	-	5	1	-	103	936
Shigellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	54
Typhoid and paratyphoid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	18
Verotoxin producing E. coli*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\* lab-confirmed cases only

† includes cases with unknown postcode

CSA = Central Sydney Area  
NSA = Northern Sydney Area  
WSA = Western Sydney Area

WEN = Wentworth Area  
SWS = South Western Sydney Area  
CCA = Central Coast Area

HUN = Hunter Area  
ILL = Illawarra Area  
SES = South Eastern Sydney Area

NRA = Northern Rivers Area  
MNC = North Coast Area  
NEA = New England Area

MAC = Macquarie Area  
MWA = Mid Western Area  
FWA = Far West Area

GMA = Greater Murray Area  
SA = Southern Area  
CHS = Corrections Health Service