

NSW PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

The *NSW Public Health Bulletin* is a publication of the NSW Department of Health. The acting editor is Ms Allison Salmon, Acting Manager, Public Health Training and Development Unit, NSW Department of Health. Dr Michael Giffin is production manager.

The *Bulletin* aims to provide its readers with population health data and information to motivate effective public health action.

Submission of articles

Articles, news and comments should be 1000 words or less in length and include a summary of the key points to be made in the first paragraph. References should be set out in the Vancouver style, described in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 1997; 336: 309–315. Send submitted articles on paper and in electronic form, either on disc (Word for Windows is preferred), or by email. The article must be accompanied by a letter signed by all authors. Full instructions for authors are available on request from the editor.

Editorial correspondence

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Distribution

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES, NSW: APRIL 2000

This month, regular readers will notice a new presentation of notifications which includes, for each disease presented in Figure 7, a snapshot of demographic characteristics of cases during the three months to February 2000. Cases are broken down by age, sex and whether they live in the Sydney metropolitan area (including the Health Areas of South Eastern, Central, Northern, Western Sydney, South Western Sydney, and Wentworth), or the rural Areas (the rest of the State). This information may provide additional insights into the recent epidemiology of—including risk factors for—these conditions. For example, readers who compare the characteristics of recent cases with those of the general NSW population may note that:

- **arbovirus** infections occurred mostly among rural residents, but reports have been fewer than in previous summers;
- **cryptosporidiosis** occurred mainly among rural residents and a large proportion were small children;
- **gonorrhoea** continued to be reported, mainly among Sydney men;
- **hepatitis A**, while fewer in number, was also mainly reported among men from the metropolitan area;
- only a small proportion of the notifications of **pertussis** (traditionally thought to be a disease mainly of small children) cases were reported among children under five years old. The majority are from outside Sydney. ☒

FIGURE 7

**REPORTS OF SELECTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES, NSW, JANUARY 1995 TO FEBRUARY 2000,
BY MONTH OF ONSET**

These are preliminary data: case counts in recent months may increase because of reporting delays

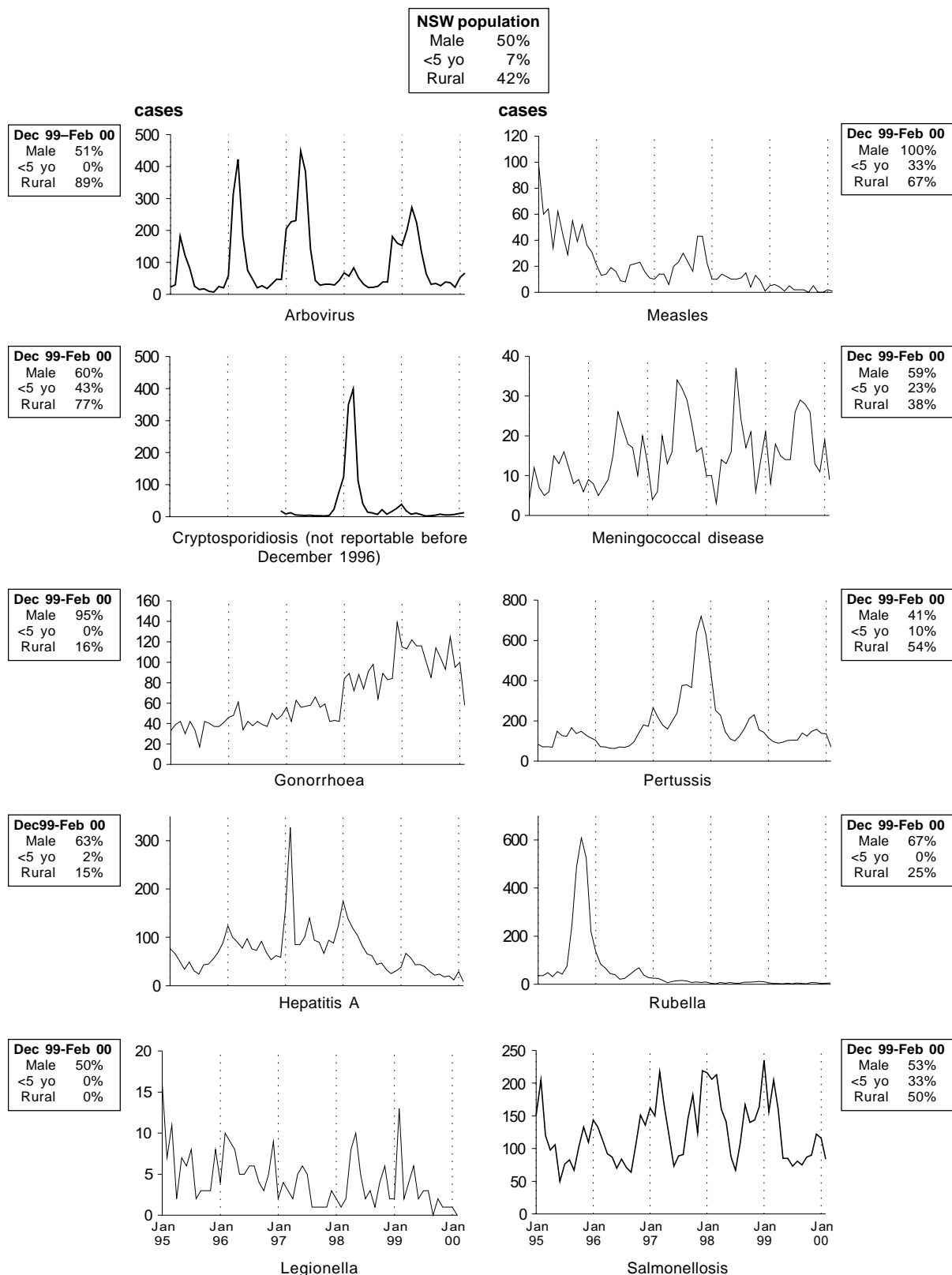


TABLE 2 **REPORTS OF NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY 2000 BY AREA HEALTH SERVICES**

| Condition | Area Health Service (2000) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----------|----------|
| | CSA | NSA | WSA | WEN | SWS | CCA | HUN | ILL | SES | NRA | MNC | NEA | MAC | MWA | FWA | GMA | SA | for Feb*† | To date† |
| Blood-borne and sexually transmitted | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AIDS | 3 | 4 | - | - | 3 | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 17 | 36 |
| HIV infection* | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 26 | 73 |
| Hepatitis B - acute viral* | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 5 | 10 |
| Hepatitis B - other* | 48 | 32 | 74 | 7 | 6 | - | 7 | 14 | 47 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 11 | - | 3 | 258 | 521 |
| Hepatitis C - acute viral* | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 11 |
| Hepatitis C - other* | 81 | 43 | 147 | 44 | 1 | 41 | 73 | 28 | 81 | 40 | 43 | 17 | 5 | 25 | 8 | 18 | 19 | 715 | 1,340 |
| Hepatitis D - unspecified* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hepatitis, acute viral (not otherwise specified) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chancroid* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chlamydia (genital)* | 19 | 12 | 16 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 21 | 12 | 53 | 17 | 10 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 6 | 221 | 479 |
| Gonorrhoea* | 11 | 7 | 8 | 4 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | 36 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 81 | 215 |
| Syphilis | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 12 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 37 | 85 |
| Vector-borne | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arboviral infection (BFV)* | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 14 | 32 |
| Arboviral infection (RRV)* | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 4 | - | - | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10 | - | 41 | 76 |
| Arboviral infection (Other)* | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | 4 |
| Malaria* | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | 24 |
| Zoonoses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brucellosis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Leptospirosis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Q fever* | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 27 |
| Respiratory and other | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blood lead level* | 1 | 3 | - | 2 | 10 | - | 6 | 3 | 7 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 10 | - | - | 44 | 73 |
| Legionnaires' Longbeachae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Legionnaires' Pneumophila* | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Legionnaires' (Other)* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Leprosy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Meningococcal infection (invasive) | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 9 | 30 |
| Mycobacterial tuberculosis | 5 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 | - | 6 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 43 | 72 |
| Mycobacteria other than TB | 3 | 7 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 21 | 49 |
| Vaccine-preventable | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adverse event after immunisation | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| H.influenzae b infection (invasive)* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |
| Measles | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 3 |
| Mumps* | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 |
| Pertussis | 11 | 12 | 25 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 37 | 12 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | - | 3 | - | 10 | 3 | 160 | 315 |
| Rubella* | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 9 |
| Tetanus | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Faecal-oral | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Botulism | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cholera* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cryptosporidiosis* | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 7 | 17 |
| Giardiasis* | 5 | 14 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 89 | 160 |
| Food borne illness (not otherwise specified) | - | 3 | 3 | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 3 | - | 3 | - | 27 | - | - | - | - | 29 | 56 |
| Gastroenteritis (in an institution) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 35 |
| Haemolytic uraemic syndrome | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Hepatitis A* | - | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 18 | 44 |
| Hepatitis E* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Listeriosis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| Salmonellosis (not otherwise specified)* | 13 | 9 | - | 3 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 4 | - | 2 | - | 8 | 2 | 111 | 239 |
| Typhoid and paratyphoid* | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 7 |
| Verotoxin producing Ecoli* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

* lab-confirmed cases only

† includes cases with unknown postcode

CSA = Central Sydney Area
NSA = Northern Sydney AreaWSA = Western Sydney Area
WEN = Wentworth Area
SWS = South Western Sydney AreaCCA = Central Coast Area
HUN = Hunter Area
ILL = Illawarra AreaSES = South Eastern Sydney Area
NRA = Northern Rivers Area
MNC = North Coast AreaNEA = New England Area
MAC = Macquarie Area
MWA = Mid Western AreaFWA = Far West Area
GMA = Greater Murray Area
SA = Southern Area