

# Communicable Diseases Surveillance

## Highlights

Communicable Diseases Surveillance consists of data from various sources. The National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) is conducted under the auspices of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand. The *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) is a sentinel surveillance scheme. The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) is a general practitioner-based sentinel surveillance scheme. In this report, data from the NNDSS are referred to as 'notifications' or 'cases', whereas those from ASPREN are referred to as 'consultations' or 'encounters' while data from the LabVISE scheme are referred to as 'laboratory reports'.

### Vaccine preventable diseases

The number of measles cases is higher in this period, largely because of the outbreak which is mainly in Victoria.

Details of the outbreak are summarised below and on the web page at: '<http://www.health.gov.au/pubhlth/alert.htm>'.

Statistics at 15 April 1999 relating to the Victorian outbreak

- the index case was a young adult who had returned from Bali;
- the date of onset for the index case was 11 February 1999;
- 66 cases of measles have been reported to Victorian Health authorities;
- 25 persons have been admitted to hospital;
- all 6 cases aged between 0 and 8 years were unimmunised and
- 5 cases of vaccine failure have been identified (all had received one dose of a measles-only vaccine).

The number of notifications for pertussis infection remains relatively low, with the number of cases having onset in February 1999 being the lowest since July 1996.

## Tables

There were 7,032 notifications to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) in the four week period, 3 to 30 March 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 1,542 reports received by the *CDI* Virology and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme (LabVISE) in the four week period, 25 February to 24 March 1999 (Tables 3 and 4).

The Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN) data for weeks 9 to 12, ending 28 March 1999, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 5).

**Table 1. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood immunisation, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 3 to 30 March 1999**

Disease <sup>1,2</sup>	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 1999	This period 1998	Year to date 1999	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	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	3	13	6
Measles	2	4	0	2	0	1	48	2	59	29	98	100
Mumps	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	3	11	18	28	48
Pertussis	5	70	1	58	7	6	103	4	254	503	961	2,664
Rubella <sup>3</sup>	3	2	1	8	1	0	8	2	25	53	85	179
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

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.