

**NSW Laboratory Testing Data**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report January 2012 to March 2013**

Notifications of positive laboratory results for notifiable conditions provide information about the number of new cases of disease. Data on the level of testing is useful to indicate whether an apparent increase in notification may be due to increased testing.

In 2012, NSW Health commenced the NSW denominator data project to collect the total number of tests performed per month (the denominator data) for 10 selected notifiable conditions for which the testing rate might impact the notification rate. Data were requested from 14 public and private laboratories in NSW. The data was collated to give monthly aggregated data per condition. No demographic information was provided.

The positivity rate for all conditions from January 2012-March 2013 ranged from 0.1% (shigellosis) to 6% (chlamydia infection). Notifications for chlamydia and gonorrhoea were correlated with testing, while incidence of enteric conditions suggests seasonal factors influence notification rates rather than testing patterns.

**Table 1: Number and positivity (%) of tests performed for denominator data collected between January 2012 and March 2013**

Condition	Tests	Number of tests	Positivity (%)
Chlamydia	C trachomatis nucleic acid test (NAT)	468,356	5.7%
Gonorrhoea	N gonorrhoeae NAT, culture	698,907	0.7%
HIV	Serology	495,661	-
Ross River virus infection	Serology	22,558	3.2%
Barmah Forest virus infection	Serology	17,270	2.8%
Pertussis	NAT, serology, culture	166,593	3.9%
Salmonellosis	NAT, culture	234,056	1.7%
Shigellosis			0.1%
Cryptosporidiosis	Antigen, microscopy	202,065	0.6%
Giardiasis			1.3%