

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 43, 23 to 29 October 2022

In this report we provide information regarding the latest NSW STI annual data report and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period 43, 23 to 29 October 2022

Data on **COVID-19** notifications can be found separately on the NSW Health [Latest Updates on COVID-19](#) page.

For up-to-date information regarding the **Japanese encephalitis** outbreak and the NSW response, please visit the [NSW Health Japanese encephalitis page](#).

Information on notifiable conditions is available at the NSW Health [infectious diseases page](#). This includes links to other NSW Health [infectious disease surveillance reports](#) and a [diseases data page](#) for a range of notifiable infectious diseases.

Sexually Transmissible Infection (STI) annual data report 2021

The latest [NSW STI Data Report 2021](#) is now available. In 2021, New South Wales witnessed the lowest notification rates of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) in five years, however the notification rate of infectious syphilis increased (Table 1). Reductions in chlamydia, gonorrhoea and LGV were likely driven by changes in sexual behaviours, service provision and access, including disruptions to screening programs and health-seeking behaviours as a result of COVID-19 restrictions (Table 2). Additionally, the shift towards event driven or on-demand Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among men who have sex with men (MSM) may impact notification rates in this group if testing frequency is reduced from the quarterly testing required for daily PrEP.

Table 1: Notifications rates per 100,000 population

Sexually Transmissible Infection	2021	2020	% Difference
Chlamydia	305.7	329.7	-7%
Gonorrhoea	91.0	118.2	-23%
Infectious Syphilis	21.2	20.8	+2%
Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)	0.79	0.96	-18%

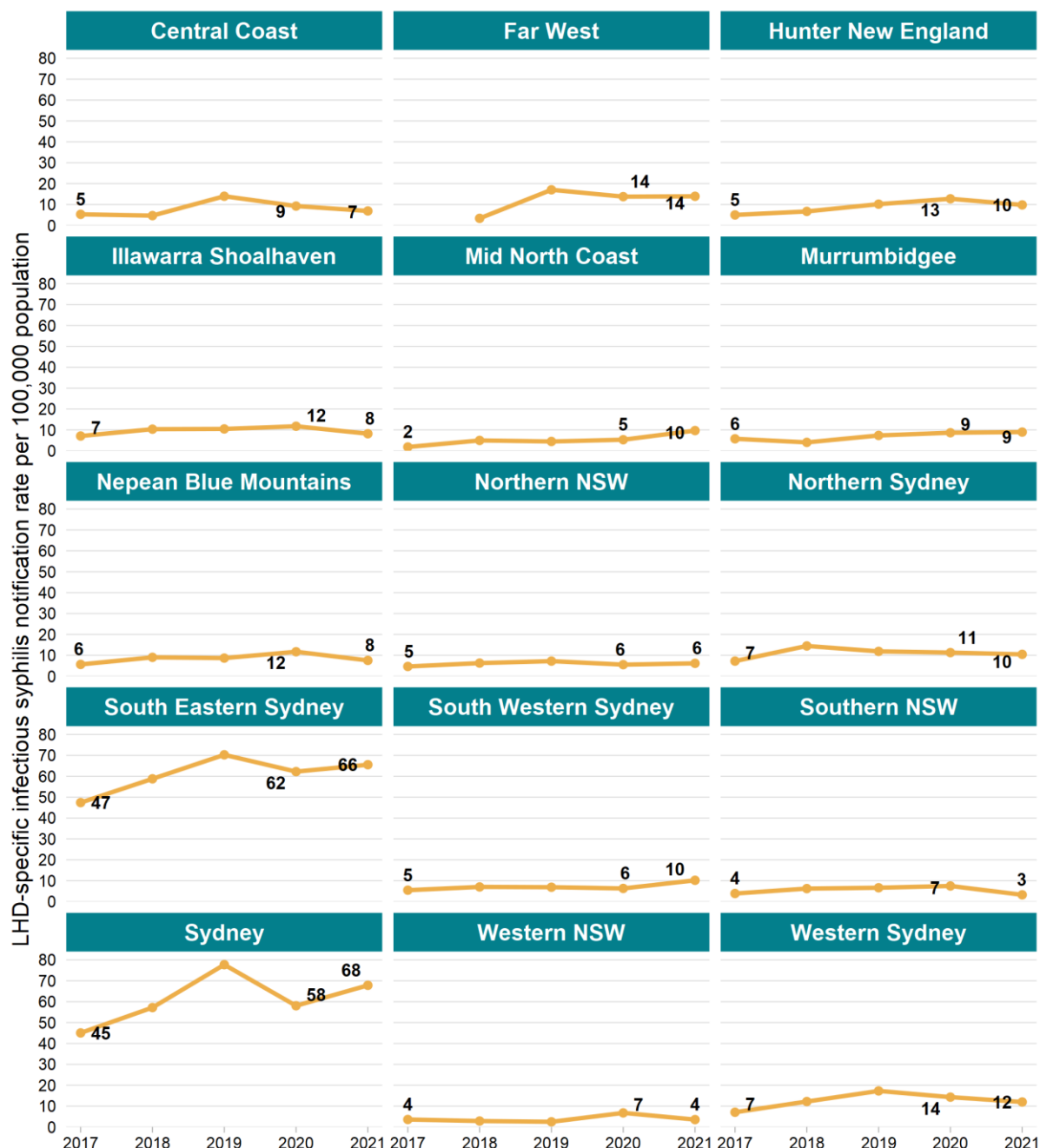
Table 2: Number of tests

Sexually Transmissible Infection	2021	2020	% Difference
Chlamydia	528,223	568,259	-8%
Gonorrhoea (NAAT and culture)	776,103	834,201	-7%

The notification rate of infectious syphilis increased by 2% between 2020 and 2021, with 21.2 notifications per 100,000 population. There has been a concerning increase in infectious syphilis rates in both metropolitan Sydney and regional and remote areas (Figure 1), in particular among females in regional areas. Females represent 7% of infectious syphilis notifications in 2021, and of those notified of reproductive age, 16.4% were pregnant.

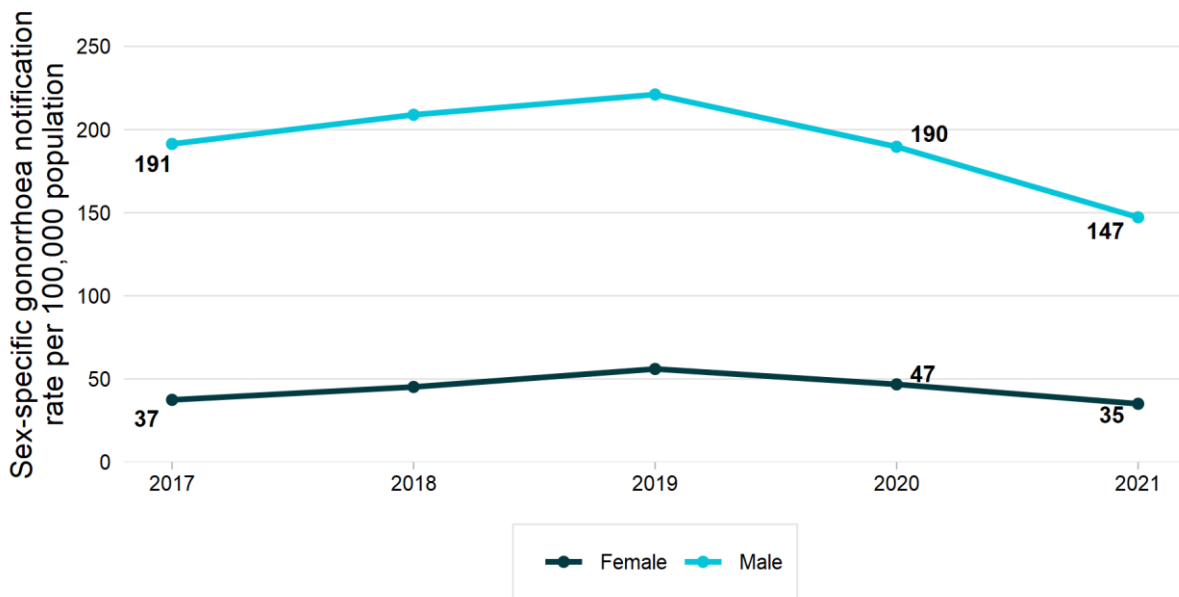
In the last five years there have been nine cases of congenital syphilis among NSW residents. Two cases (22%) occurred in 2021. Among the nine cases since 2017, eight occurred in metropolitan Sydney (80%). Two congenital syphilis cases were in the Aboriginal population in NSW from 2017 to 2021. Additional work is being done to improve syphilis screening during pregnancy, with the target of eliminating congenital syphilis.

Figure 1: Infectious syphilis notification rate by Local Health District of residence, NSW, January 2017–December 2021



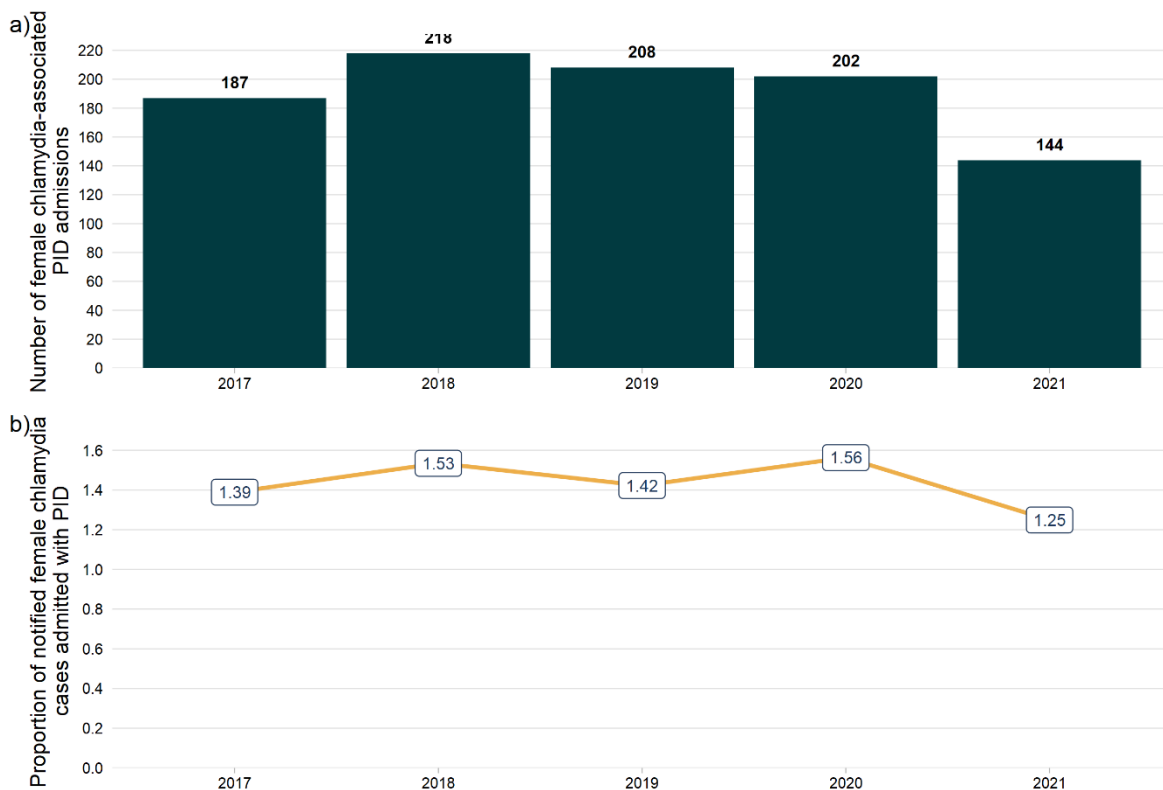
For gonorrhoea, the notification rate fell by 23% from 2020 to 2021; with 91 notifications per 100,000 population in 2021. Over the past five years there has been a larger reduction in the male gonorrhoea rate (23% reduction from 191 to 147 notifications per 100,000 males) as compared to females (6% reduction from 37.5 to 35 notifications per 100,000 females) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Sex-specific gonorrhoea notification rates, NSW, January 2017– December 2021



For chlamydia, both the annual number of chlamydia notifications and notification rate are the lowest recorded in the past five years. Since 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chlamydia notification rate has decreased 23% and is currently 16.5% lower than the 2017 rate. In 2021, 144 women notified with chlamydia were admitted to hospital with pelvic inflammatory disease, representing a 23% decrease in admissions since 2017 (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Number and proportion of women notified with chlamydia who are admitted with PID within 12 months of diagnosis, NSW, January 2017– December 2021



Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

The following table summarises notifiable conditions activity over the reporting period alongside reports received in the previous week, year to date and in previous years (Table 3).

Table 3. NSW Notifiable conditions from 23 to 29 October 2022, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date				Full Year		
		This week	Last week	2022	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Enteric Diseases	Campylobacter	280	303	9939	9563	7784	9239	12014	10054	11482
	Cryptosporidiosis	14	20	395	372	470	511	444	548	669
	Giardiasis	17	29	1097	1334	1589	2857	1504	1872	3329
	Hepatitis A	1	0	23	7	18	54	8	18	61
	Rotavirus	59	51	867	300	455	1043	356	500	1777
	Salmonellosis	58	49	2488	2512	2443	2990	3097	2882	3552
	Shigellosis	12	13	358	49	460	719	60	494	867
	STEC/VTEC	4	4	116	97	72	56	126	115	79
	Typhoid	3	0	42	2	35	58	2	37	64
Other	Invasive Group A Streptococcus	12	6	54	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	133	142	113950	81	7448	113831	124	7481	116402
	Legionellosis	5	4	202	170	130	127	213	170	153
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	253	260	4118	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tuberculosis	6	17	409	475	497	495	558	625	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	586	576	21067	21708	22683	26880	25368	27239	32473
	Gonorrhoea	179	203	8535	6531	8385	9834	7620	9880	11686
	LGV	1	0	23	33	39	50	36	44	69
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	4	3	63	39	1390	5167	43	1400	6386
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	12	14	464	354	280	571	387	344	690
Vector Borne Diseases	Dengue	8	14	114	3	76	378	4	76	455
	Malaria	1	2	27	6	24	57	8	25	73
	Ross River	3	7	622	624	1919	549	659	1990	595
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	0	26	93	8	7	96	12	9
	Q fever	3	3	157	163	181	211	206	212	249

* Notes on Table 3: NSW Notifiable Conditions activity

- Only conditions which had one or more case reports received during the reporting week appear in the table.
- Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation, data on COVID-19 notifications can be found separately on the NSW Health [Latest Updates on COVID-19](#) page.
- Data cells represent the number of case reports received by NSW public health units and recorded on the NSW Notifiable Conditions Information Management System (NCIMS) in the relevant period (i.e. by report date).
- Note that [notifiable disease data](#) available on the NSW Health website are reported by onset date so case totals are likely to vary from those shown here.
- Cases involving interstate residents are not included.
- Chronic blood-borne virus conditions (such as HIV, hepatitis B and C) are not included here. Related data are available from the [Infectious Diseases Data](#), the [HIV Surveillance Data Reports](#) and the [Hepatitis B and C Strategies Data Reports](#) webpages.
- Notification is dependent on a diagnosis being made by a doctor, hospital or laboratory. Changes in awareness and testing patterns influence the proportion of patients with a particular infection that is diagnosed and notified over time, especially if the infection causes non-specific symptoms.