Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**
Public and Aboriginal Health Division

Notifiable infectious diseases* in Western Australia 2010 to 2019

- The rate of infectious disease notifications doubled between 2010 (n=24,889) and 2019 (n=54,802).
- Notifications were highest in the 15 to 24 year age group. The rate of disease for Aboriginal people was 3-fold higher than for non-Aboriginal people.
- Most diseases (32 out of 58 diseases) increased e.g. mumps (9-fold), infectious syphilis (3.6-fold), influenza (2.8-fold), salmonellosis (57 per cent), and gonococcal infection (57 per cent).

24,889 to 54,802 notifications

Key trends and notification rates per 100,000 population

Blood-borne viruses

67 (2010–14) vs 62 (2015–19) (–7.5 %)

- Hepatitis B and hepatitis C rates declined over time.

Sexually transmissible infections

539 (2010–14) vs 609 (2015–19) (+13.0 %)

- Notification rates increased by 57 per cent for gonococcal infection and 3.6-fold for syphilis.
- Chlamydial infection rates remained stable.
- HIV increased from 2018 to 2019 by 78 per cent, mainly due to a rise in male notifications with a heterosexual exposure.

Enteric diseases

176 (2010–14) vs 247 (2015–19) (+40.3 %)

- Salmonellosis notifications increased by 57 per cent.
- 197 outbreaks due to foodborne transmission.
- 1,171 outbreaks due to person-to-person transmission.

Vaccine-preventable diseases

354 (2010–14) vs 600 (2015–19) (+69.5 %)

- Pertussis peaked in 2011 and decreased by 88 per cent in 2019.
- Invasive pneumococcal disease notification rates remained relatively stable.
- Measles increased from 2015 due to local transmission linked to overseas acquired cases.

Vector-borne diseases

80 (2010–14) vs 45 (2015–19) (–43.8 %)

- Ross River virus infection notifications peaked in summer months, with the highest rates in 2012 and 2014.
- Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection remains a rare disease with 10 notifications over a 10 year period.

Other diseases

- The meningococcal strain W135 emerged in 2017, which led to a MenACWY vaccine campaign.
- The legionellosis rate declined by 71 per cent, due to the reduction in *L. longbeachae* notifications.

Important outbreaks

- Influenza increased 2.8-fold, with record high 23,195 notifications in 2019.
- Mumps increased 9-fold due to an outbreak mainly in rural health regions in 2015-16.
- Infectious syphilis increased 3.6-fold as a result of a regional outbreak and men who have sex with men in the metropolitan area.
- Salmonellosis increased by 57 per cent, associated with the consumption of raw or undercooked egg dishes.

* includes infectious diseases and related conditions.

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