



# Communicable Diseases Quarterly

Issue 2 | Q4 2013

**This is the Communicable Diseases Quarterly report from Population Health Services for the period 1 October to 31 December 2013.**

**It includes commentary on selected diseases and a table of all diseases reported for this period.**

## Key Points

- The numbers of influenza and gonococcal notifications in Tasmania were significantly greater than expected.
- Dengue notifications were increased; all were acquired overseas.

## Gonococcal Infections

The increased notification of **gonococcal infections** continued. Twenty cases of gonococcal infection were diagnosed during the fourth quarter ; three times greater than expected. Cases were reported from all three regions of the state. While most gonorrhoea cases were diagnosed in men who have sex with men , there was also evidence of heterosexual transmission.

Public health action taken in response has included providing information to high risk groups and medical practitioners . More information about STI diagnosis, case management

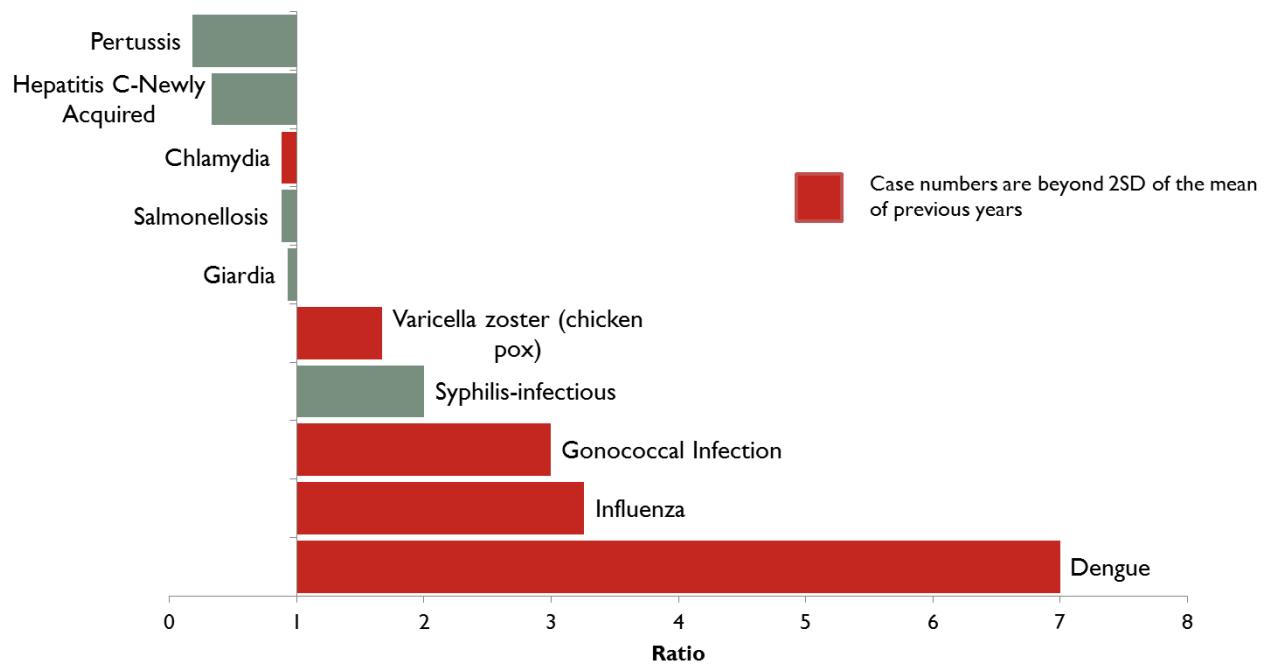
and contact tracing is available at [www.mshc.org.au](http://www.mshc.org.au) and <http://ctm.ashm.org.au/>.

## Influenza

Seasonal **influenza** activity peaked during late September. Cases usually fall to low levels in the months after the peak.

However in the fourth quarter the number of notifications was more than three times the five year mean for this quarter. This sustained influenza activity was due to three influenza strains (two influenza A and one influenza B). Similar increased interseasonal influenza activity also occurred elsewhere in Australia.

**Figure : Ratio of number of cases for selected diseases in Tasmania for the fourth quarter of 2013 compared to the five-year mean for the quarter (2008-2012).**



**Note:** Please consider the ratios in conjunction with the number of cases of each disease reported in Table . Diseases with statistically significant case counts (beyond 2 standard deviations of the mean of previous five years) are highlighted red. Ratios less than one indicate fewer cases than expected; ratios greater than one indicate more cases than expected.

This report is produced by the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit of Population Health Services.

For any queries and feedback please make contact via [cdpu.surveillance@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:cdpu.surveillance@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

Information about influenza activity in Tasmania is available in the **fluTAS Report** at [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/communicable\\_diseases\\_prevention\\_unit](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/communicable_diseases_prevention_unit)

Find more information about notifiable diseases in **Tasmania** at [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/infectious\\_diseases](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/infectious_diseases)

**National** communicable disease information and reports are available at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-communic-1>

Summary **national** data is available at [www9.health.gov.au/cda/source/cda-index.cfm](http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/source/cda-index.cfm)

**Table : Notifiable diseases reported in Tasmania during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2013 (October-December) with comparison to previous quarters, by derived diagnosis date.**

	<b>Q4 2013</b>	<b>Q3 2013</b>	<b>Q4 2012</b>	<b>Q4 5y Mean*</b>	<b>Ratio ^</b>	<b>2013 YTD#</b>
Barmah Forest Virus	0	1	0	0	0	3
Campylobacteriosis	236	125	267	223	1.06	699
Chikungunya virus	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chlamydia	355	344	406	405	0.88	1539
CJD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	9	4	5	15	0.6	74
Dengue	7•	6	1	1	7	20
Giardia	28	34	29	30	0.93	125
Gonococcal Infection	20•	16	16	7	2.86	69
Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Infection (invasive)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	2	0	0
Hepatitis B-Newly Acquired	0	1	1	2	0	3
Hepatitis B-Unspecified	12	14	18	13	0.92	55
Hepatitis C-Newly Acquired	2•	5	5	6	0.33	19
Hepatitis C-Unspecified	57	63	64	61	0.93	215
HIV (Newly Diagnosed)	5	2	1	2	2.5	10
Hydatids	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza	114•	162	35	35	3.26	296
Legionellosis	2	0	2	2	1	6
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	1	1	1	0	2
Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	1	3	1	2	0.5	11
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Disease (invasive)	0	2	2	1	0	3
Mumps	1	1	1	0	0	5
Pertussis	35	63	458	200	0.18	512
Pneumococcal Disease (invasive)	11	13	9	12	0.92	37
Psittacosis(Ornithosis)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rickettsial Infection	2	0	0	2	1	2
Ross River Virus	3	0	1	3	1	8
Rotavirus	34	24	35	23	1.48	109
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	46	34	74	52	0.88	244
Shiga toxin producing E.coli	0	1	1	0	0	1
Shigellosis	2	0	2	1	2	3
Syphilis-infectious	4	3	3	2	2	18
Syphilis-unknown duration	1	3	4	4	0.25	11
Tuberculosis	3	2	1	3	1	10
Tularaemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varicella zoster (chicken pox)	10•	9	5	6	1.67	29
Varicella zoster (shingles)	58	59	53	52	1.12	247
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	27•	25	23	19	1.42	90
Vibrio Infection	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yersinia	1	0	0	0	0	3

\*The expected figure is based on the five-year quarterly mean, calculated this report quarter, for the years 2008-2012.

^The ratio is the number of cases notified in the quarter compared to the five-year mean for that quarter.

#Year to date count at the end of the reporting quarter.

♦Disease case numbers are beyond 2 standard deviations of the historical 5 year mean for this period of time.

Data are extracted based on the available date closest to the disease onset date. Data are subject to change over time due to ongoing data review processes.

As well as true changes in disease incidence, changes in surveillance practice, diagnostic techniques and reporting may also contribute to increases or decreases in notifications received over time.