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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia Reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2024

Monica M Lahra, Sonya Natasha Hutabarat, Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

Communicable Diseases Intelligence

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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2024

Monica M Lahra, Sonya Natasha Hutabarat, Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

The reference laboratories of the National Neisseria Network, Australia report data on invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) cases confirmed by culture and/or molecular techniques for the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme (AMSP). Culture-positive cases and molecular-based diagnoses are defined as IMD by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia National Guidelines for Public Health Units.¹ Data contained in the quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the number of cases by jurisdiction and serogroup, when known, and expanded in 2024 to include antimicrobial resistance data for ceftriaxone, penicillin, ciprofloxacin and rifampicin. Some minor corrections to data in Table 1 may be made in subsequent reports if additional data are received.

In the second quarter of 2024, IMD notifications in Australia were lower than in the corresponding period of 2023 (Table 1).² Notably, the predominance of *N. meningitidis* serogroup B (MenB) IMD reported in 2022³ has continued, accounting for 87% of notifications (27/31) in the second quarter of 2024. In contrast, between 2019 and 2021, the proportion of IMD attributable to MenB was 50–62%.⁴ There have not been any MenA IMD cases reported in Australia for many years and there were no MenC IMD cases reported in this quarter. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing data on the 22 IMD diagnosed by culture detected four penicillin-resistant isolates from Queensland (two MenB), Victoria (one MenB) and Western Australia (one MenW); all isolates were susceptible to ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin and rifampicin. A full analysis of laboratory-confirmed cases of IMD in each calendar year is contained in the AMSP annual report published in *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*.

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Table 1: Number of laboratory confirmations of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 April to 30 June 2024, by serogroup and state or territory

Jurisdiction	Year	Serogroup						All			
		B		W		Y			ND ^a		
		Q2	ytd ^b	Q2	ytd	Q2	ytd		Q2	ytd	
Australian Capital Territory	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New South Wales	2024	8	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	11
	2023	9	15	2	2	1	2	0	0	12	19
Northern Territory	2024	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Queensland	2024	7	12	0	0	0	1	0	1	7	14
	2023	11	18	0	0	1	1	1	1	13	20
South Australia	2024	4	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	11
	2023	8	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	9	11
Tasmania	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Victoria	2024	4	6	0	0	3	3	0	1	7	10
	2023	3	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Western Australia	2024	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	5
	2023	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3
Australia	2024	27	43	1	2	3	5	0	2	31	52
	2023	32	53	3	4	3	4	2	2	40	63

a ND: not determined.

b ytd: year to date, data from 1 April to 30 June 2024.

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