

Additional Reports

Australian encephalitis: Sentinel Chicken Surveillance Programme

Sentinel chicken flocks are used to monitor flavivirus activity in Australia. The main viruses of concern are Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) and Kunjin which cause the potentially fatal disease Australian encephalitis in humans. Currently 29 flocks are maintained in the north of Western Australia, seven in the Northern Territory, nine in New South Wales and ten in Victoria. The flocks in Western Australia and the Northern Territory are tested year round but those in New South Wales and Victoria are tested only from November to March, during the main risk season.

Results are coordinated by the Arbovirus Laboratory in Perth and reported bimonthly. For more information and details of the locations of chicken flocks see Commun Dis Intell 2000;24:8-9.

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Sentinel chicken serology was carried out for 23 of the 29 flocks in Western Australia in September and October 2000. Only a single seroconversion to Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) virus was detected in the Kimberley region during this period. In early September one chicken seroconverted to MVE virus in the flock located in the Bidyadanga Aboriginal community, south of Broome. In the Pilbara region there were five seroconversions to MVE virus in September and all occurred in the first half of the month. One seroconversion was detected in both Karratha and Exmouth and three as yet unconfirmed seroconversions were detected in Onslow. There was no evidence of flavivirus activity in Western Australia in October.

Serum samples from six of the seven Northern Territory sentinel chicken flocks were tested in our laboratory in September and October 2000. One new seroconversion to MVE virus was detected in October at Beatrice Hill Farm, east of Darwin, but this has not yet been confirmed.

HIV and AIDS Surveillance

National surveillance for HIV disease is coordinated by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR), in collaboration with State and Territory health authorities and the Commonwealth of Australia. Cases of HIV infection are notified to the National HIV Database on the first occasion of diagnosis in Australia, by either the diagnosing laboratory (Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria) or by a combination of laboratory and doctor sources (Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia). Cases of AIDS are notified through the State and Territory health authorities to the National AIDS Registry. Diagnoses of both HIV infection and AIDS are notified with the person's date of birth and name code, to minimise duplicate notifications while maintaining confidentiality.

Tabulations of diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS are based on data available three months after the end of the reporting interval indicated, to allow for reporting delay and to incorporate newly available information. More detailed information on diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS is published in the quarterly Australian HIV Surveillance Report, and annually in HIV/AIDS and related diseases in Australia Annual Surveillance Report. The reports are available from the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, 376 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010. Internet: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechr>. Telephone: (02) 9332 4648. Facsimile: (02) 9332 1837.

HIV and AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS reported for 1 to 30 June 2000, as reported to 30 September 2000, are included in this issue of Commun Dis Intell (Tables 7 and 8).

Table 7. New diagnoses of HIV infection, new diagnoses of AIDS and deaths following AIDS occurring in the period 1 June to 30 June 2000, by sex and State or Territory of diagnosis

										Totals for Australia			
		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This period 2000	This period 1999	Year to date 2000	Year to date 1999
HIV diagnoses	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	5	39	34
	Male	0	19	0	11	1	0	17	3	51	35	318	307
	Sex not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total ¹	0	22	0	11	1	0	19	3	56	40	359	341
AIDS diagnoses	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	9	7
	Male	0	4	0	1	0	1	4	1	11	7	89	71
	Total ¹	0	4	0	1	0	1	5	1	12	8	98	78
AIDS deaths	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
	Male	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	8	43	53
	Total ¹	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	8	47	56

1. Persons whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the totals.

Table 8. Cumulative diagnoses of HIV infection, AIDS and deaths following AIDS since the introduction of HIV antibody testing to 30 June 2000, by sex and State or Territory

		State or Territory								Australia
		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	
HIV diagnoses	Female	28	613	9	158	61	5	220	119	1,213
	Male	225	11,060	108	2,026	681	78	3,945	928	19,051
	Sex not reported	0	246	0	0	0	0	24	0	270
	Total ¹	253	11,940	117	2,191	742	83	4,203	1,051	20,580
AIDS diagnoses	Female	9	188	0	49	25	3	71	26	371
	Male	87	4,683	35	830	347	45	1,645	356	8,028
	Total ¹	96	4,883	35	881	372	48	1,724	384	8,423
AIDS deaths	Female	4	113	0	32	15	2	49	17	232
	Male	66	3,192	24	570	231	29	1,279	250	5,641
	Total ¹	70	3,313	24	604	246	31	1,334	268	5,890

1. Persons whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the totals.