

Notifications of bloodborne viruses and sexually transmissible infections (BBVSTIs) in Queensland: 1 January–31 December 2022

Quarterly surveillance report

This report provides an overview of the epidemiology of bloodborne viruses and sexually transmissible infections (BBVSTIs) notified in Queensland, updated on a quarterly basis.

Data were extracted from the Queensland Health Notifiable Conditions System on 28 March 2023, for BBVSTIs with episode dates between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2022. Data for 2020 and 2021 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on disease burden and testing. The effects of the pandemic and its control measures are not covered as they are beyond the scope of this report.

Data are provisional and subject to change due to ongoing case investigations and data quality activities.

For current year to date totals, please refer to the online Queensland Health Notifiable Conditions Weekly Report [here](#). Other BBVSTI surveillance reports can be accessed through the Queensland Health [website](#).

Summary

Table 1: BBVSTI notification counts and rates in Queensland, quarterly update, 2022

Disease	2022 counts by quarter				Annual counts			2022 rate
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2022	5-year average (2017–2021)	Annual change (%)^	per 100,000 population
Hepatitis B total	198	228	212	192	830	855.4	-3	16.0
Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	5	11	7	8	31	45.0	-31	0.6
Hepatitis B (unspecified)	193	217	205	184	799	810.4	-1	15.4
Hepatitis C total	454	465	468	506	1,893	2,214.0	-14	36.6
Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	90	101	111	109	411	452.8	-9	7.9
Hepatitis C (unspecified)	364	364	357	397	1,482	1,761.2	-16	28.6
HIV (new diagnoses)	29	31	25	17	102	150.6	-32	2.0
Chlamydia	5,484	5,862	6,043	6,067	23,456	23,125.6	+1	453.2
Gonorrhoea	1,454	1,514	1,559	1,611	6,138	5,514.8	+11	118.6
Infectious syphilis	259	293	261	264	1,077	1,076.6	↔	20.8

^ The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- Gonorrhoea and chlamydia notifications increased by 11 and 1 per cent respectively compared with the previous 5-year average.
- Infectious syphilis notifications were comparable with the previous 5-year average.
- Hepatitis B notifications decreased by 3 per cent compared with the previous 5-year average.
- Hepatitis C notifications decreased by 14 per cent compared with the previous 5-year average.
- New HIV diagnoses decreased by 32 per cent compared with the previous 5-year average.



Hepatitis B notifications

Table 2: Demographic and geographic characteristics of hepatitis B notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2022

Characteristic	2022						5-year average (2017–2021)	2022 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2022 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%				
Hepatitis B classification										
Hepatitis B (newly acquired)*	5	11	7	8	31	3.7	45.0	-31	0.6	
Hepatitis B (unspecified)	193	217	205	184	799	96.3	810.4	-1	15.4	
Sex										
Male	95	113	112	92	412	49.6	447.4	-8	16.1	
Female	100	114	99	99	412	49.6	407.4	+1	15.7	
Unknown	3	1	1	1	6	0.7	0.6	↑	-	
First Nations status										
First Nations	5	13	11	8	37	4.5	60.8	-39	15.3	
Other Queenslanders	174	194	176	166	710	85.5	701.8	+1	14.4	
Unknown	19	21	25	18	83	10.0	92.8	-11	-	
Age group										
<15	8	4	1	1	14	1.7	9.0	↑	1.4	
15–19	4	2	1	3	10	1.2	19.2	↓	3.1	
20–24	8	12	9	5	34	4.1	50.4	-33	10.0	
25–29	17	28	15	17	77	9.3	94.2	-18	20.8	
30–34	28	32	30	16	106	12.8	129.6	-18	29.2	
35–39	29	38	27	32	126	15.2	135.2	-7	35.6	
40–44	25	24	23	24	96	11.6	92.2	+4	29.5	
45–49	12	20	20	20	72	8.7	86.2	-16	20.7	
50+	67	68	86	74	295	35.5	239.4	+23	16.8	
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	0	3	2	0	5	0.6	17.8	↓	17.6
	North West	1	0	0	0	1	0.1	4.2	↓	3.6
	Cairns and Hinterland	7	11	12	8	38	4.6	57.8	-34	14.5
	Townsville	4	4	11	6	25	3.0	27.2	-8	10.3
	Mackay	6	4	7	5	22	2.7	12.8	+72	12.6
Central	Central West	2	0	0	1	3	0.4	0.8	↑	29.5
	Central Queensland	4	6	4	8	22	2.7	19.0	+16	10.0
	Wide Bay	10	2	8	5	25	3.0	17.8	+40	11.3
	South West	0	0	2	0	2	0.2	1.8	↑	8.4
	Darling Downs	6	13	5	6	30	3.6	24.6	+22	10.5
South East	Sunshine Coast	8	11	4	7	30	3.6	31.8	-6	6.7
	Metro North	37	54	39	44	174	21.0	188.4	-8	16.4
	Metro South	78	70	81	59	288	34.7	315.2	-9	23.9
	West Moreton	13	15	10	10	48	5.8	43.2	+11	15.4
	Gold Coast	22	35	27	33	117	14.1	93.0	+26	18.0
Queensland total		198	228	212	192	830	100.0	855.4	-3	16.0

* Cases with evidence of infection acquired within 24 months prior to diagnosis.

HHS – Hospital and Health Service, refer to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

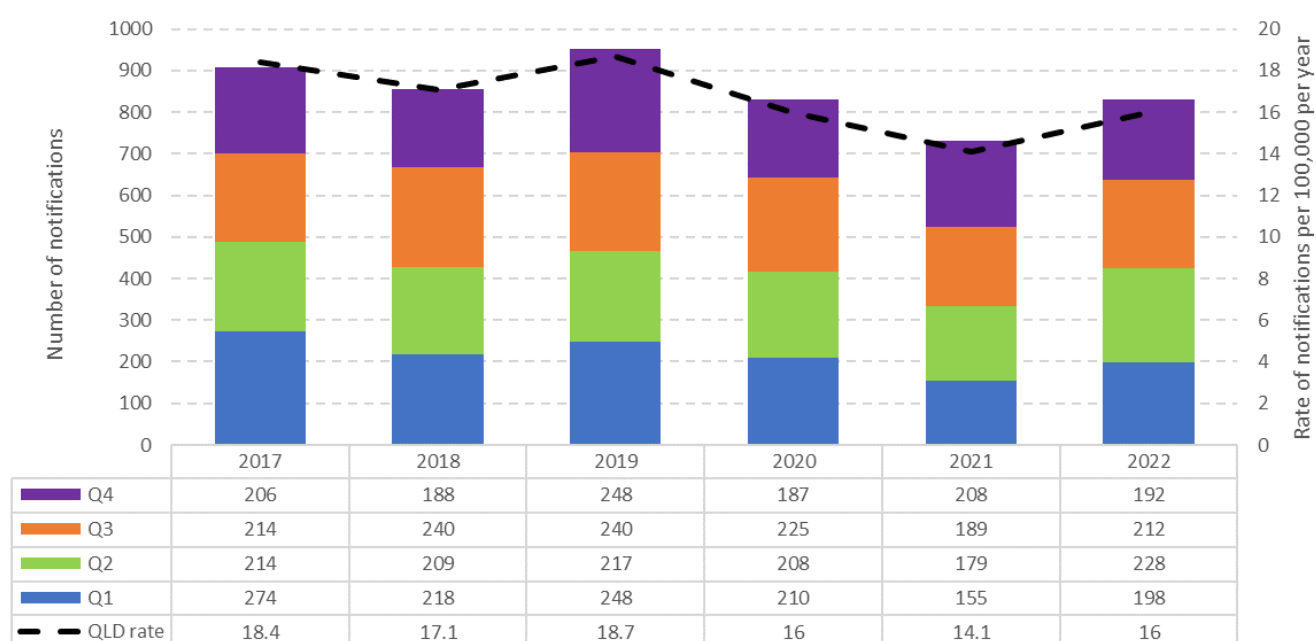
[^] Caution needed to interpret percentage change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small.

In instances where the current year total and/or the 5-year average is ≤10, symbols of ↑ and ↓ are used to indicate the direction of changes instead of providing % changes. The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- A total of 830 hepatitis B cases were notified, of which approximately 4 per cent (n=31) were classified as newly acquired (Table 2). Follow-up of newly acquired hepatitis B cases is undertaken by Public Health Units.
- The hepatitis B notification count in males was equal to that in females. There was an 8 per cent reduction in notifications in males and 1 per cent increase in females in 2022 compared with the previous 5-year average.
- First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 5 per cent and Other Queenslanders, 86 per cent of the hepatitis B notifications. First Nations status was not reported for 10 per cent of the notifications of hepatitis B in 2022. The rate of new hepatitis B notifications in First Nations Queenslanders was similar to that in other Queenslanders.
- 37 per cent of the hepatitis B notifications in 2022 were aged between 25 and 39 years, with a further 36 per cent in people aged 50 years or older.
- The largest count of hepatitis B notifications was from Metro South HHS (n=288), followed by Metro North HHS (n=174), Gold Coast HHS (n=117), and West Moreton HHS (n=48). When compared with the 5-year average, notifications from most of HHSs in North Queensland (with the exception of Mackay) declined, whereas notifications in HHSs from Central Queensland areas increased.
- Metro South HHS had a relatively high rate of hepatitis B notifications compared with the Queensland rate (24 vs. 16 per 100,000 population).
- Of 830 hepatitis B cases, 15 were reported in correctional settings (14 hepatitis B unspecified and 1 hepatitis B newly acquired).

Figure 1: Total hepatitis B notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2017–31 December 2022, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year)



In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There was a total of 830 hepatitis B notifications, which was a slight decrease compared with the previous 5-year average notifications (n=855.4; Figure 1).

2017 to 2022:

- There was some fluctuation in hepatitis B notification rates from 2017 to 2022, with an overall 13 per cent decrease during this period.

Hepatitis C notifications

Table 3: Demographic and geographic characteristics of hepatitis C notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2022

January - 31 December 2022										
Characteristic	2022						5-year average (2017–2021)	2022 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2022 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%				
Hepatitis C classification										
Hepatitis C (newly acquired)*	90	101	111	109	411	21.7	452.8	-9	7.9	
Hepatitis C (unspecified)	364	364	357	397	1,482	78.3	1,761.2	-16	28.6	
Sex										
Male	320	342	340	389	1,391	73.5	1,592.0	-13	54.4	
Female	134	121	125	113	493	26.0	620.4	-21	18.8	
Unknown	0	2	3	4	9	0.5	1.6	↑	-	
First Nations status										
First Nations	113	133	113	129	488	25.8	578.4	-16	201.9	
Other Queenslanders	319	307	326	337	1,289	68.1	1,507.2	-14	26.1	
Unknown	22	25	29	40	116	6.1	128.4	-10	-	
Age group										
<15	1	2	1	1	5	0.3	10.8	↓	0.5	
15–19	10	15	21	18	64	3.4	75.8	-16	20.1	
20–24	57	57	56	64	234	12.4	281.8	-17	69.1	
25–29	57	73	70	87	287	15.2	324.0	-11	77.5	
30–34	53	77	61	71	262	13.8	289.4	-9	72.3	
35–39	67	56	58	52	233	12.3	260.4	-11	65.8	
40–44	54	47	50	49	200	10.6	236.8	-16	61.5	
45–49	42	28	35	36	141	7.5	207.2	-32	40.5	
50+	113	110	116	128	467	24.7	527.8	-12	26.6	
HHS of residence#†										
North	Torres and Cape	1	0	2	1	4	0.2	8.6	↓	14.1
	North West	1	3	3	2	9	0.5	10.4	↓	32.8
	Cairns and Hinterland	21	21	18	14	74	3.9	122.4	-40	28.3
	Townsville	17	12	16	18	63	3.3	86.4	-27	25.9
	Mackay	8	11	12	15	46	2.4	51.8	-11	26.3
Central	Central West	1	1	1	0	3	0.2	2.6	↑	29.5
	Central Queensland	14	19	12	14	59	3.1	78.6	-25	26.7
	Wide Bay	26	24	15	12	77	4.1	107.6	-28	34.7
	South West	2	3	1	3	9	0.5	11.6	↓	37.6
	Darling Downs	20	17	18	18	73	3.9	105.8	-31	25.5
South East	Sunshine Coast	31	20	25	24	100	5.2	106.4	-6	22.4
	Metro North	52	54	48	70	224	11.8	272.6	-18	21.1
	Metro South	79	64	68	64	275	14.5	341.4	-19	22.8
	West Moreton	8	16	13	19	56	3.0	98.2	-43	17.9
	Gold Coast	35	36	36	36	143	7.6	188.4	-24	22.0
HHS sub-total										
	316	301	288	310	1,215	64.2	1,592.8	-24	23.5	
Prison settings sub-total										
	138	164	180	196	678 ^a	35.8	621.2	+9	7,598.3 ^b	
Queensland total										
	454	465	468	506	1,893	100.0	2,214.0	-14.7	36.6	

* Cases with evidence of infection acquired within 24 months prior to diagnosis.

HHS – Hospital and Health Service, refer to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

† Counts of hepatitis C notifications from individual HHS areas exclude notifications from correctional settings.

[^] Caution needs to be exercised in interpretation of % change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small.

In instances where current year total or the 5-year average is ≤10, symbols of ↑ and ↓ are used to indicate the direction of changes instead of providing % changes. The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

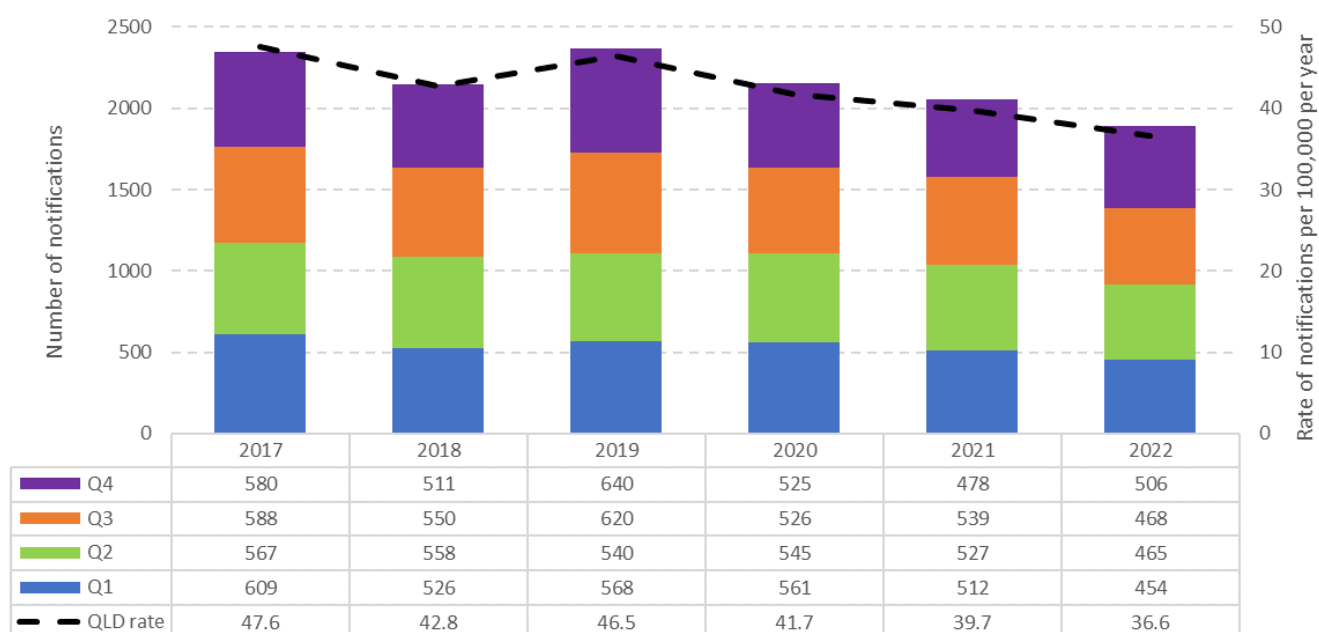
[^] Of 678 cases in correctional settings, 297 were newly acquired hepatitis C cases.

¥ Rate estimated using the average prisoner population from 2018–2019 (n=8,923), sourced from [Qld correctional services statistics](#).

In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- A total of 1,893 hepatitis C cases were notified, of which 22 per cent (n=411) were classified as newly acquired (Table 3). Unspecified and newly acquired hepatitis C notifications decreased by 16 and 9 per cent respectively compared with the previous 5-year average.
- Notifications decreased in 2022 in both males and females when compared with the 5-year average, however, there were more hepatitis C notifications in males than females (74% vs 26%).
- First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 26 per cent (n=488) of the total hepatitis C notifications, with 68 per cent (n=1,289) in other Queenslanders. First Nations status was not reported in 6 per cent of the total cases. The rate of hepatitis C notifications in First Nations Queenslanders was 7.7 times higher than in other Queenslanders.
- 54 per cent of the total hepatitis C notifications were in those aged between 20 and 39 years, with a further 25 percent of notifications in those aged 50 years or older. There was a decrease in notifications in all age groups in 2022 when compared with the 5-year average.
- Correctional settings accounted for over one-third of the total hepatitis C notifications (and 72% of newly acquired hepatitis C notifications). There was a 9 per cent increase in hepatitis C notifications in correctional settings in 2022 compared with the previous 5-year average. The rate of hepatitis C notifications in incarcerated people was 323 times higher than in non-incarcerated Queenslanders.
- In non-correctional settings, there was a 24 per cent reduction in notifications when compared with the 5-year average. The largest number of hepatitis C notifications in 2022 was from Metro South HHS (n=275), followed by Metro North HHS (n=224), Gold Coast HHS (n=143), and Sunshine Coast HHS (n=100).

Figure 2: Total hepatitis C notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2017–31 December 2022, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There was a 15 per cent decrease in hepatitis C notifications when compared to the previous 5-year average (n=2,214.0; Figure 2).

2017 to 2022:

- Overall, there was a 23 per cent decrease in hepatitis C notification rates during this period.

New HIV notifications

Table 4: Demographic and geographic characteristics of new HIV notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2022

Characteristic		2022						5-year average (2017–2021)	2022 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2022 rate (per 100,000 pop)
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%			
Sex										
	Male	25	25	19	16	85	83.3	133.8	-36	3.3
	Female	4	6	6	1	17	16.7	16.8	+1	0.6
	Other*	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.4	↓	-
First Nations status										
	First Nations	3	0	1	1	5	4.9	9.4	↓	2.1
	Other Queenslanders	26	30	21	16	93	91.2	141.2	-34	1.9
	Unknown	0	1	3	0	4	3.9	0.0	↑	-
Age group										
	<15	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.4	↓	0.0
	15–19	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	2.2	↓	0.0
	20–24	1	1	2	1	5	4.9	17.6	↓	1.5
	25–29	3	4	5	2	14	13.7	30.2	-54	3.8
	30–34	8	6	5	4	23	22.6	23.2	-1	6.3
	35–39	4	3	5	2	14	13.7	18.4	-24	4.0
	40–44	3	2	1	0	6	5.9	15.2	↓	1.8
	45–49	4	7	1	3	15	14.7	13.0	+15	4.3
	50+	6	8	6	5	25	24.5	30.4	-18	1.4
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	2.0	↓	0.0
	North West	3	0	0	0	3	2.9	1.4	↑	10.9
	Cairns and Hinterland	4	1	1	1	7	6.9	13.4	↓	2.7
	Townsville	0	1	2	1	4	3.9	4.4	↓	1.6
	Mackay	2	0	2	0	4	3.9	2.6	↑	2.3
Central	Central West	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.2	↓	0.0
	Central Queensland	0	0	1	0	1	1.0	3.0	↓	0.5
	Wide Bay	1	3	0	1	5	4.9	2.6	↑	2.3
	South West	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.2	↓	0.0
	Darling Downs	1	2	2	0	5	4.9	3.8	↑	1.7
South East	Sunshine Coast	2	1	1	0	4	3.9	6.8	↓	0.9
	Metro North	7	6	8	4	25	24.5	39.6	-37	2.4
	Metro South	5	5	2	8	20	19.6	38.2	-48	1.7
	West Moreton	1	4	0	0	5	4.9	9.4	↓	1.6
	Gold Coast	3	8	6	2	19	18.6	23.0	-17	2.9
Queensland total		29	31	25	17	102	100.0	150.6	-32	2.0

* Identified as transgender at the time of HIV diagnosis

[#] HHS – Hospital and Health Service, refer to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

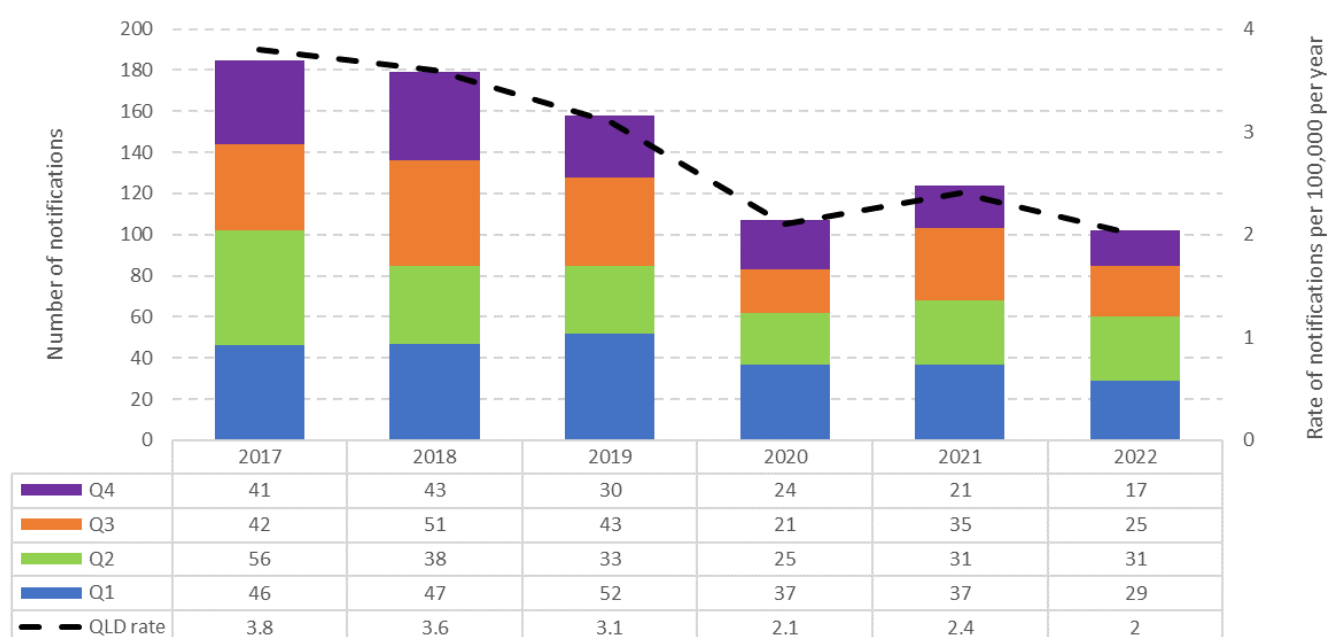
[^] Caution needs to be exercised in interpretation of % change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small.

In such instance where current year total or the 5-year average is ≤10, symbols of ↑ and ↓ are used to indicate the direction of changes instead of providing % changes. The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- Most new HIV cases (83%, 85/102) were reported in males in 2022 (Table 4).
- Cases in First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 5 per cent of the new HIV notifications. The rate of new HIV notifications in First Nations Queenslanders was similar to that in other Queenslanders.
- 55 per cent of the new cases were aged between 20 and 39 years, with 45 per cent aged 40 years or older. Notifications of new HIV diagnoses decreased in almost all age groups when compared with the 5-year average.
- The highest numbers of new HIV cases were from Metro North HHS (n=25), Metro South HHS (n=20), Gold Coast HHS (n=19) and Cairns and Hinterland HHS (n=7). Despite small numbers, there was an increase in new HIV cases in North West HHS, Mackay HHS, Wide Bay HHS and Darling Downs HHS when compared with their respective 5-year average. All other HHSs showed a decrease in new HIV cases.
- North West HHS reported the highest rates of new HIV notifications (10.9 per 100,000 population), followed by Gold Coast (2.9 per 100,000 population) and Cairns and Hinterland (2.7 per 100,000 population), compared with the Queensland-wide new HIV notification rate (2.0 per 100,000 population).

Figure 3: New HIV notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2017–31 December 2022, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There were 102 new HIV notifications, a 32 per cent decrease when compared with the previous 5-year average (n=150.6; Figure 3).

2017 to 2022

- There was a downward trend in statewide new HIV notifications, representing a 47 per cent decrease in notification rates during this period.
- New HIV notifications in First Nations Queenslanders continued to decrease between 2017 (11 cases) and 2022 (5 cases) (data not shown in Figure 3).
- An ongoing decrease in new HIV notification rates was observed in First Nations Queenslanders, from 4.9 per 100,000 population in 2017 to 2.1 per 100,000 population in 2022.

Chlamydia notifications

Table 5: Demographic and geographic characteristics of chlamydia notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2022

Characteristic		2022					5-year average (2017–2021)	2022 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2022 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total				%
Sex										
Male		2,314	2,492	2,574	2,602	9,982	42.6	10,012.8	↔	390.3
Female		3,160	3,349	3,440	3,445	13,394	57.1	13,088.2	+2	511.4
Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)		3,066	3,250	3,341	3,333	12,990*		12,697.6	+2	1,245.7
Other		0	1	0	1	2	0.0	0.4	↑	-
Unknown		10	20	29	19	78	0.3	24.2	+222	-
First Nations status										
First Nations		853	1,015	998	1,004	3,870	16.5	3,598.8	+8	1,600.8
Other Queenslanders		4,530	4,697	4,827	4,802	18,856	80.4	16,647.0	+13	382.1
Unknown		101	150	218	261	730	3.1	2,879.8	-75	-
Age group										
<15		23	21	22	29	95	0.4	107.4	-12	9.5
15–19		1,185	1,264	1,268	1,258	4,975	21.2	4,874.8	+2	1,559.5
20–24		1,907	2,023	2,123	2,122	8,175	34.9	8,110.0	+1	2,412.8
25–29		1,043	1,118	1,154	1,147	4,462	19.2	4,605.2	-3	1,204.4
30–34		565	661	647	632	2,505	10.7	2,322.2	+8	691.0
35–39		333	321	347	367	1,368	5.8	1,283.6	+7	386.2
40–44		175	191	208	213	787	3.4	728.0	+8	242.0
45–49		121	99	103	115	438	1.9	462.6	-5	125.9
50+		132	164	171	184	651	2.8	631.6	+3	37.0
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	114	153	167	159	593	2.5	571.0	+4	2,086.0
	North West	67	95	78	76	316	1.4	278.6	+13	1,150.8
	Cairns and Hinterland	372	416	448	427	1,663	7.1	1,861.4	-11	636.3
	Townsville	408	395	414	448	1,665	7.1	1,584.2	+5	684.2
	Mackay	240	251	268	272	1,031	4.4	795.0	+30	589.8
Central	Central West	14	11	14	14	53	0.2	42.2	+26	521.1
	Central Queensland	260	265	289	266	1,080	4.6	941.6	+15	489.0
	Wide Bay	126	150	164	142	582	2.5	586.8	-1	262.5
	South West	17	20	28	27	92	0.4	78.8	+17	384.8
	Darling Downs	273	259	268	256	1,056	4.5	921.6	+15	369.1
South East	Sunshine Coast	357	368	387	376	1,488	6.3	1,442.0	+3	333.7
	Metro North	1,076	1,126	1,138	1,146	4,486	19.1	4,872.0	-8	421.8
	Metro South	1,144	1,181	1,253	1,304	4,882	20.8	4,879.4	↔	405.1
	West Moreton	286	299	335	344	1,264	5.4	1,178.8	+7	404.4
	Gold Coast	730	873	792	810	3,205	13.7	3,092.2	+4	492.3
Queensland total		5,484	5,862	6,043	6,067	23,456	100.0	23,125.6	+1	453.2

[#] HHS – Hospital and Health Service, refer to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

[^] Caution needs to be exercised in interpretation of % change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small.

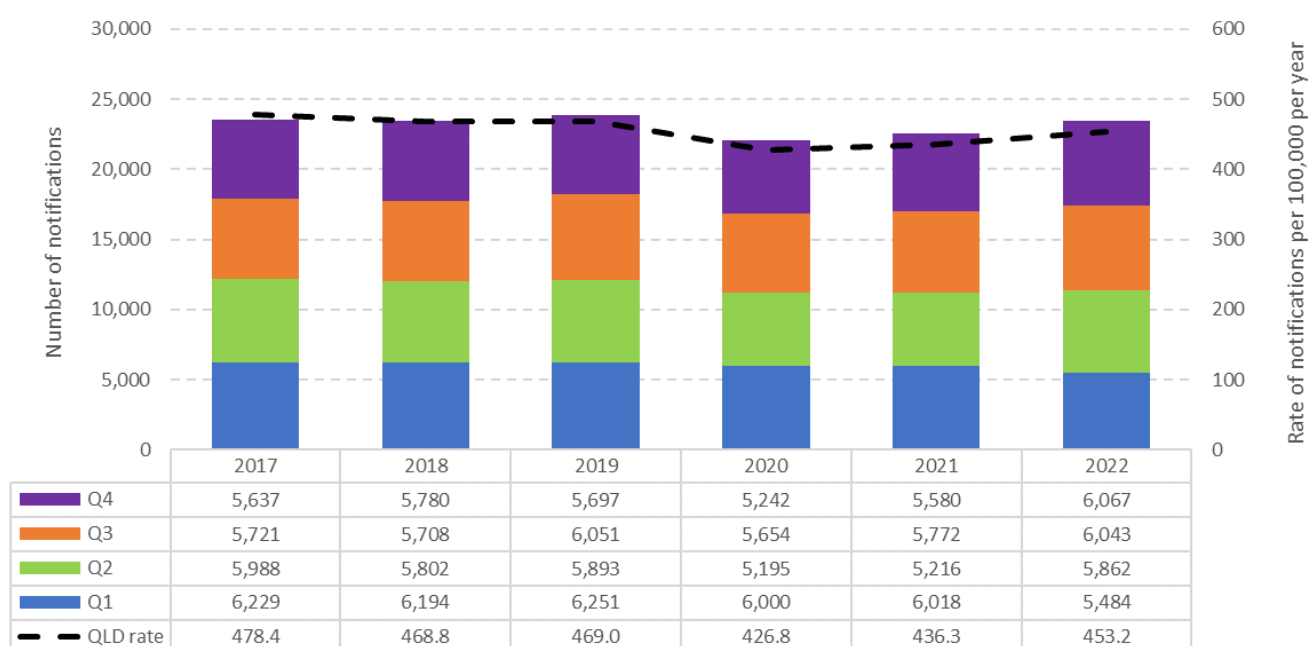
In such instance where current year total or the 5-year average is ≤10, symbols of ↑ and ↓ are used to indicate the direction of changes instead of providing % changes. The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

* Of these 12,990 cases, 3,151 were from the north region, 1,736 from the central region, and 8,103 from the south east region.

In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There were more chlamydia notifications in females than males (57% vs 43%, Table 5). Of 13,394 female chlamydia cases, 12,990 (97%) were in women of reproductive age.
- Notifications in First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 17 per cent of the total chlamydia notifications, with 80 per cent in other Queenslanders. First Nations status was not reported in 3 per cent of the total cases. The rate of chlamydia notifications reported among First Nations Queenslanders was 4.2 times higher than in other Queenslanders.
- 56 percent of chlamydia notifications were in those aged between 15 and 24 years, with a further 30 per cent of notifications in those aged 25 to 34 years. There were increases in notifications of chlamydia in 2022 when compared with the 5-year average for almost all age groups.
- The highest number of chlamydia notifications was from Metro South HHS (n=4,882), followed by Metro North HHS (n=4,486), Gold Coast HHS (n=3,205), and Townsville HHS (n=1,665). Notifications of chlamydia in 2022 increased in most HHSs in the North Queensland and Central Queensland areas compared with the 5-year average, whereas notifications remained relatively stable in the South-East region.
- Torres and Cape HHS reported the highest rate of chlamydia notifications at 4.6 times the Queensland rate (2,086 vs. 453 per 100,000 population).

Figure 4: Chlamydia notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2017–31 December 2022, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There were 23,456 chlamydia notifications, which was slightly higher than the previous 5-year average (n=23,125.6; Figure 4).

2017 to 2022:

- Chlamydia notification rates were relatively stable but remained high during the period during this period.

Gonorrhoea notifications

Table 6: Demographic and geographic characteristics of gonorrhoea notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2022

Characteristic		2022					5-year average (2017–2021)	2022 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2022 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total				%
Sex										
Male		809	833	952	932	3,526	57.5	3,505.2	+1	137.9
Female		644	676	605	675	2,600	42.4	2,003.8	+30	99.3
Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)		598	642	581	640	2,461*		1,870.2	+32	236.0
Other		1	1	0	0	2	0.0	0.4	↑	-
Unknown		0	4	2	4	10	0.2	5.4	↑	-
First Nations status										
First Nations		335	377	315	354	1,381	22.5	1,158.4	+19	571.3
Other Queenslanders		1,100	1,106	1,213	1,213	4,632	75.5	3,867.0	+20	93.9
Unknown		19	31	31	44	125	2.0	489.4	-74	-
Age group										
<15		12	9	4	9	34	0.6	26.8	+27	3.4
15–19		196	255	201	204	856	14.0	620.4	+38	268.3
20–24		374	395	377	429	1,575	25.7	1,250.6	+26	464.8
25–29		310	281	343	316	1,250	20.4	1,202.6	+4	337.4
30–34		183	224	246	223	876	14.3	898.4	-2	241.6
35–39		145	128	155	175	603	9.8	574.6	+5	170.2
40–44		82	93	86	99	360	5.9	359.0	↔	110.7
45–49		56	52	54	65	227	3.7	245.0	-7	65.2
50+		96	77	93	91	357	5.8	337.2	+6	20.3
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	36	42	28	49	155	2.5	154.8	↔	545.3
	North West	42	74	40	41	197	3.2	108.2	+82	717.5
	Cairns and Hinterland	118	117	100	86	421	6.9	444.0	-5	161.1
	Townsville	52	62	59	64	237	3.9	250.2	-5	97.4
	Mackay	33	41	40	41	155	2.5	142.4	+9	88.7
Central	Central West	2	3	2	0	7	0.1	2.4	↑	68.8
	Central Queensland	46	50	28	41	165	2.7	194.6	-15	74.7
	Wide Bay	24	28	37	27	116	1.9	98.6	+18	52.3
	South West	0	1	1	2	4	0.1	6.2	↓	16.7
	Darling Downs	42	49	59	52	202	3.3	153.4	+32	70.6
South East	Sunshine Coast	63	63	91	58	275	4.5	232.6	+18	61.7
	Metro North	366	315	368	384	1,433	23.4	1,440.8	-1	134.7
	Metro South	310	348	369	426	1,453	23.7	1,313.0	+11	120.6
	West Moreton	75	79	82	91	327	5.3	248.6	+32	104.6
	Gold Coast	245	242	255	249	991	16.2	725.0	+37	152.2
Queensland total		1,454	1,514	1,559	1,611	6,138	100.0	5,514.8	+11	118.6

[#] HHS – Hospital and Health Service, refer to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

[^] Caution needs to be exercised in interpretation of % change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small.

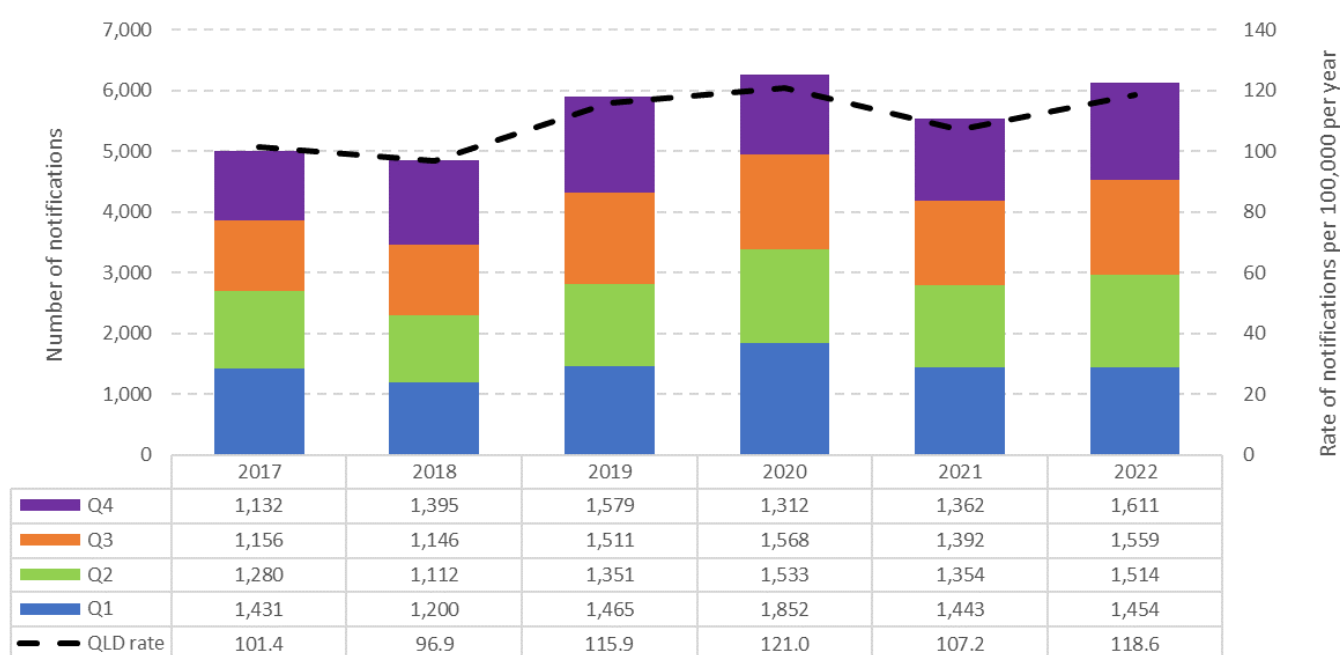
In such instance where current year total or the 5-year average is ≤10, symbols of ↑ and ↓ are used to indicate the direction of changes instead of providing % changes. The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

* Of these 2,461 cases, 559 were from the north region, 229 from the central region, and 1,673 from the south east region.

In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There were more gonorrhoea notifications in males than females (58% vs 42%, Table 6). When compared with the previous 5-year average, there was an increase in notifications in females (+30%) and males (+1%). Of 2,600 female cases notified, 2,461 (95%) were in women of reproductive age.
- 23 per cent of gonorrhoea notifications were in First Nations Queenslanders, 76 per cent in other Queenslanders, with 2 per cent of the total cases still under investigation for their First Nations status. The rate of gonorrhoea notifications reported among First Nations Queenslanders was 6 times higher than in other Queenslanders.
- 46 per cent of the gonorrhoea notifications were in people aged 20 to 29 years, with a further 24 per cent aged 30 to 39 years. Compared with the previous 5-year average, an increase in notifications occurred across most age groups.
- The largest number of gonorrhoea notifications was from Metro South HHS (n=1,453), followed by Metro North HHS (n=1,433), Gold Coast HHS (n=991), and Cairns and Hinterland HHS (n=421). Most HHSs experienced an increase in gonorrhoea notifications in 2022 compared with the previous 5-year average.
- North West HHS and Torres and Cape HHS reported the highest rates of gonorrhoea notifications at 6 and 4.6 times the Queensland rate, respectively.

Figure 5: Gonorrhoea notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2017–31 December 2022, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There were 6,138 gonorrhoea notifications, an 11 per cent increase when compared with the previous 5-year average (n=5,514.8; Figure 5).

2017 to 2022:

There was a 17% increase in gonorrhoea notification rates during this period.

Infectious syphilis notifications

Table 7: Demographic and geographic characteristics of infectious syphilis notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2022

Characteristic	2022						5-year average (2017–2021)	2022 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2022 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%				
Sex										
Male	202	213	208	190	813	75.5	837.8	-3	31.8	
Female	57	80	51	73	261	24.2	238.0	+10	10.0	
Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)	50	74	46	66	236*		214.8	+10	22.6	
Pregnant female	9	10	7	9	35		35.0	↔	59.6 ^a	
Other	0	0	1	0	1	0.1	0.8	↑	-	
Unknown	0	0	1	1	2	0.2	-		-	
First Nations status										
First Nations	66	74	57	58	255	23.7	291.6	-13	105.5	
Other Queenslanders	192	218	199	200	809	75.1	782.2	+3	16.4	
Unknown	1	1	5	6	13	1.2	2.8	↑	-	
Age group										
<15	0	1	0	0	1	0.1	4.6	↓	0.1	
15–19	11	9	4	8	32	3.0	84.4	-62	10.0	
20–24	34	44	30	38	146	13.6	164.6	-11	43.1	
25–29	57	45	51	52	205	19.0	187.2	+10	55.3	
30–34	47	64	63	48	222	20.6	184.0	+21	61.2	
35–39	28	33	37	37	135	12.5	130.4	+4	38.1	
40–44	23	34	24	30	111	10.3	98.2	+13	34.1	
45–49	17	23	20	10	70	6.5	79.6	-12	20.1	
50+	42	40	32	41	155	14.4	143.6	+8	8.8	
HHS of residence [#]										
North	Torres and Cape	5	2	0	4	11	1.0	28.8	-62	38.7
	North West	0	8	0	0	8	0.7	44.8	-82	29.1
	Cairns and Hinterland	16	26	24	18	84	7.8	111.8	-25	32.1
	Townsville	6	14	8	7	35	3.3	65.6	-47	14.4
	Mackay	6	4	3	18	31	2.9	15.6	+99	17.7
Central	Central West	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	1.8	↓	0.0
	Central Queensland	15	29	18	20	82	7.6	33.8	+143	37.1
	Wide Bay	1	4	2	8	15	1.4	10.8	↑	6.8
	South West	0	0	1	0	1	0.1	1.2	↓	4.2
	Darling Downs	15	4	10	4	33	3.1	28.8	+15	11.5
South East	Sunshine Coast	5	5	10	12	32	3.0	33.6	-5	7.2
	Metro North	76	78	90	64	308	28.6	321.2	-4	29.0
	Metro South	67	68	61	66	262	24.3	212.6	+23	21.7
	West Moreton	10	7	11	10	38	3.5	44.0	-14	12.2
	Gold Coast	37	44	23	33	137	12.7	122.2	+12	21.0
Queensland total	259	293	261	264	1,077	100.0	1,076.6	↔	20.8	

[#] HHS – Hospital and Health Service, refer to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

[^] Caution needs to be exercised in interpretation of % change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small.

In such instance where the current year total or 5-year average is ≤10, symbols of ↑ and ↓ are used to indicate the direction of changes instead of providing % changes. The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

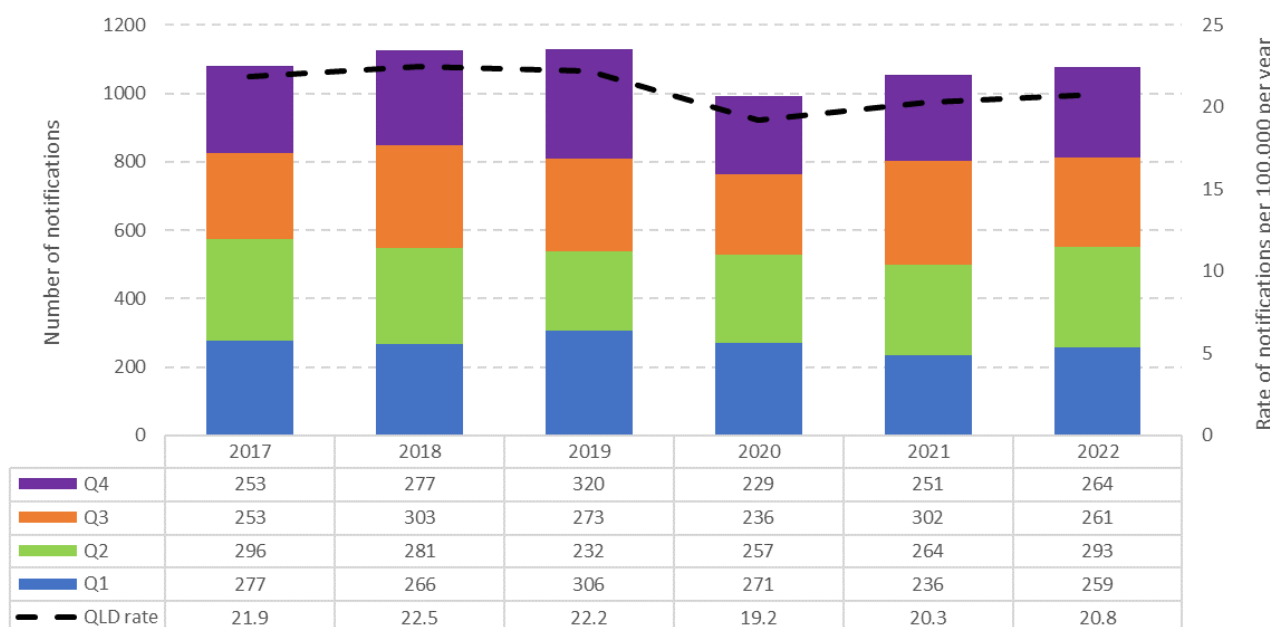
* Of these 236 cases, 65 were from the north region, 56 from the central region, and 115 from the south east region.

^a Rates in pregnant women estimated using the 2020 'Number of Mothers' (n=58,731), sourced from the [Queensland Perinatal Statistics](#).

In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

- There were more notifications of infectious syphilis in males than females (76% vs 24%, Table 7).
- There was a 10% increase in infectious syphilis notifications in women of reproductive age compared with the previous 5-year average. Of 261 female cases, 236 (90%) were in women of reproductive age, 35 of which were pregnant.
- 23 per cent of the notifications in pregnant women were associated with the ongoing infectious syphilis outbreak (n=8) and most of these notifications were from Cairns and Hinterland HHS (n=3), Central Queensland HHS (n=2) and Townsville HHS (n=2). The rate of infectious syphilis notifications reported among pregnant women was almost 3 times the Queensland rate (60 vs. 21 per 100,000 population).
- Notifications in First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 24 per cent of the total infectious syphilis notifications, with 75 per cent in other Queenslanders. There was a 13 per cent decrease in notifications among First Nations Queenslanders. The rate of infectious syphilis notifications reported among First Nations Queenslanders was 6.5 times higher than in other Queenslanders.
- Infectious syphilis cases were notified across all age groups with 66% of notifications in people aged 20 to 39 years.
- The highest number of infectious syphilis notifications was from Metro North HHS (n=308), followed by Metro South HHS (n=262), Gold Coast HHS (n=137) and Cairns and Hinterland HHS (n=84). Compared with their previous 5-year averages, in 2022 there was a 47 to 82 per cent decrease in notifications of infectious syphilis in Torres and Cape, North West and Townsville HHSs. However, Mackay, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Darling Downs, Metro South, and Gold Coast HHSs experienced an increase in infectious syphilis notifications in comparison with their 5-year average.
- In 2022, the highest rates of infectious syphilis were reported in Torres and Cape HHS and Central Queensland HHS (where an outbreak was declared in 2012 and 2017 respectively), which were 1.8 times the Queensland rate.

Figure 6: Infectious syphilis notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2017–31 December 2022, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2022 (1 January–31 December):

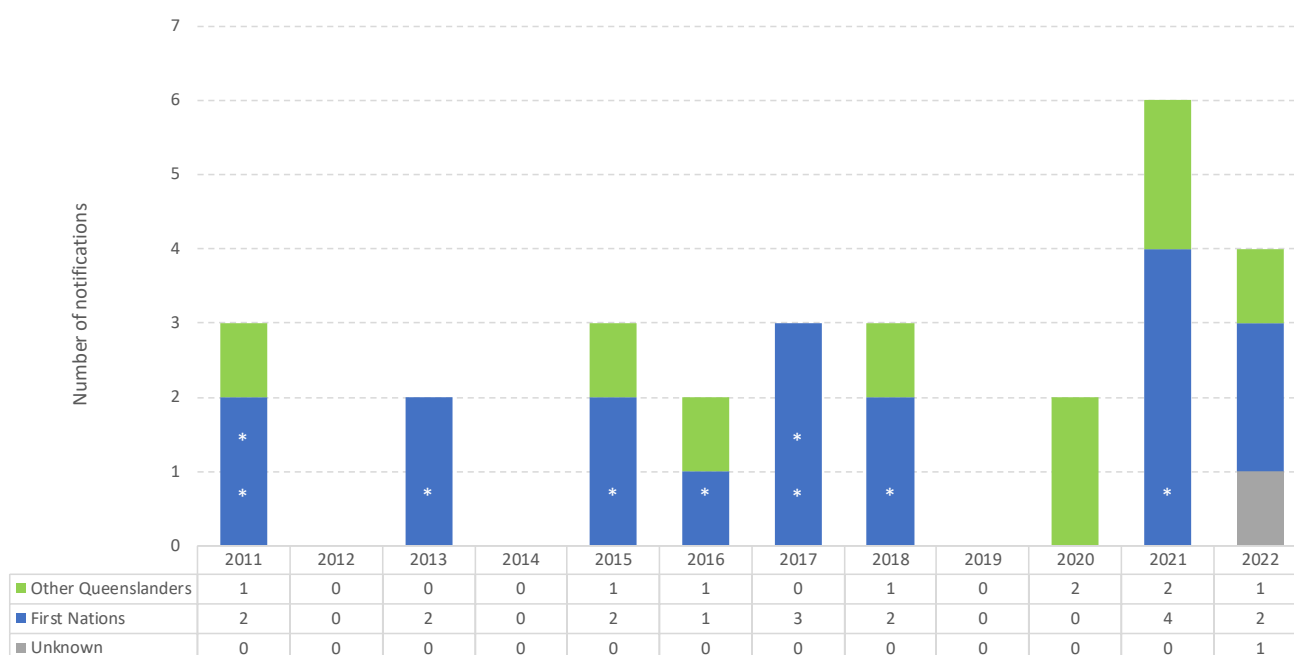
- There were 1,077 infectious syphilis notifications which is comparable with the previous 5-year average (n=1,076.6; Figure 6).

2017 to 2022:

- Statewide, infectious syphilis notification rates were relatively stable during this period.

Congenital syphilis notifications

Figure 7: Congenital syphilis notification counts in Queensland, by First Nations status, 1 January 2011–31 December 2022.



* Denotes deaths in congenital syphilis cases.

- There were 4 congenital syphilis cases notified in 2022 (1 January–31 December; Figure 7).
- Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2022, there were 28 congenital syphilis notifications (18 in the First Nations Queenslanders, 9 in other Queenslanders and 1 with First Nations status under investigation).
- Nine congenital syphilis cases were associated with intrauterine foetal deaths or died after birth (all in First Nations Queenslanders).

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