

Notifications of bloodborne viruses and sexually transmissible infections (BBVSTIs) in Queensland: 1 January–31 December 2019

January 2020

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 9 January 2020, for BBVSTIs with onset dates between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

Data are provisional and subject to change due to ongoing case investigation and data cleaning 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.

Disease	2019 counts by quarter				Annual counts		2019 rate	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019	5-year average (2014–2018)	Annual change (%)	per 100,000 population
Hepatitis B total	246	218	240	229	933	968.2	-4	18.9
Hepatitis B (newly)	10	9	18	18	55	50.6	9	1.1
Hepatitis B (unspecified)	236	209	222	211	878	917.6	-4	17.8
Hepatitis C total	571	538	617	626	2352	2463.8	-5	47.7
Hepatitis C (newly)	104	110	141	186	541	330.6	64	11.0
Hepatitis C (unspecified)	467	428	476	440	1811	2133.2	-15	36.7
HIV (new diagnoses)	53	33	43	26	155	201.2	-23	3.1
Chlamydia	6254	5895	6044	559	23786	22304.2	7	482.6
Gonorrhoea	1465	1352	1509	1536	5862	3879.2	51	118.9
Infectious syphilis	305	232	272	303	1112	772.0	44	22.6

In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There was a 51 and a 44 per cent increase in notifications of gonorrhoea and infectious syphilis respectively compared with the previous 5-year average.
- There was a 5 per cent reduction in overall notifications of hepatitis C compared with the previous 5-year average, however for newly acquired hepatitis C there was a 64 per cent increase in notifications.
- There was a 25 per cent decrease in notifications of new HIV diagnoses in 2019 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 2019

Characteristic	2019						5-year average (2014–2018)	2019 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2019 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%				
Hepatitis B classification										
Hepatitis B (newly acquired)*	10	9	18	18	55	5.9	50.6	9	1.1	
Hepatitis B (unspecified)	236	209	222	211	878	94.1	917.6	-4	17.8	
Sex										
Male	139	110	125	122	496	53.2	509.2	-3	20.3	
Female	107	108	115	107	437	46.8	459.0	-5	17.6	
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	13	10	13	16	52	5.6	63.4	-18	23.8	
Non-Indigenous	215	189	198	147	749	80.3	541.0	38	15.2	
Unknown	18	19	29	66	132	14.1	363.8	-64	-	
Age group										
<15	3	7	2	3	15	1.6	11.2	↑	1.6	
15–19	10	6	6	8	30	3.2	29.8	↔	9.7	
20–24	16	12	13	17	58	6.2	72.0	-19	16.9	
25–29	25	19	25	27	96	10.3	129.0	-26	27.0	
30–34	42	28	41	49	160	17.1	160.4	↔	46.1	
35–39	37	43	42	29	151	16.2	140.6	7	47.0	
40–44	25	21	24	21	91	9.8	103.6	-12	27.9	
45–49	24	25	24	25	98	10.5	84.0	17	29.1	
50+	64	57	63	50	234	25.1	237.4	↔	14.4	
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	100	0.2	↔	-	
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	4	4	3	4	15	1.6	21.8	-31	55.8
	North West	4	4	2	0	9	1.0	5.4	↑	32.0
	Cairns and Hinterland	11	11	13	19	68	7.3	68.2	↔	26.7
	Townsville	5	5	9	11	30	3.2	37.4	-20	12.5
	Mackay	2	2	4	2	10	1.1	16.4	-39	5.8
Central	Central West	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	↔	0
	Central Queensland	3	3	3	3	18	1.9	20.2	-11	8.2
	Wide Bay	5	5	3	1	15	1.6	17.8	-16	7.0
	South West	1	1	0	0	2	0.2	1.8	↔	8.2
	Darling Downs	7	7	6	9	27	2.9	25.4	6	9.6
South East	Sunshine Coast	10	10	7	9	33	3.5	25.8	28	7.9
	Metro North	48	48	55	52	198	21.2	199.6	↔	19.7
	Metro South	86	86	91	93	363	38.9	373.0	-3	31.8
	West Moreton	13	13	16	8	47	5.0	51.8	-9	16.4
	Gold Coast	19	19	28	18	98	10.5	102.6	-1	16.2
Queensland total										
	246	218	240	229	933	100	968.2	-4	18.9	

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

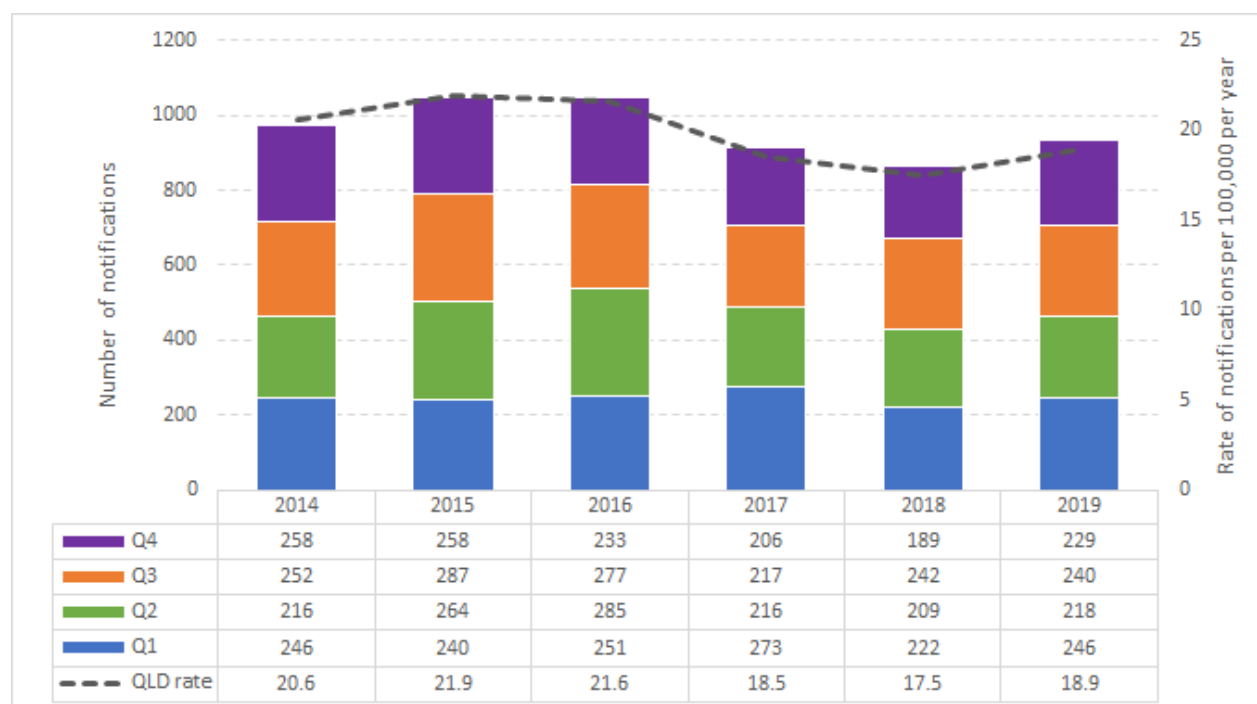
[#] HHS – Hospital and Health Service, referring to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

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

In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- A total of 933 hepatitis B cases were notified, of which about 6 per cent were classified as hepatitis B newly acquired (Table 2). Follow-up of newly acquired hepatitis B cases is undertaken by Public Health Units.
- There were more hepatitis B notifications in males than females (53 vs. 47%). There was a 9 per cent reduction in notification in females in 2019 when compared with the previous 5-year average.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accounted for 6 per cent and non-Indigenous people for 80 per cent of the hepatitis B notifications. Indigenous status was not reported for 14 per cent of the notifications of hepatitis B in 2019. The rate of hepatitis B notifications in Indigenous people was 1.6 times higher than for non-Indigenous people.
- Nearly 44 per cent of the hepatitis B notifications in 2019 were aged between 25 and 39 years, with a further 25 per cent in people aged 50 years or older.
- The largest count of hepatitis B notifications was from Metro South (n=363), followed by Metro North (n=198), Gold Coast (n=98), and Cairns and Hinterland (n=68). When compared with the five-year average, Metro North, Gold Coast and Cairns and Hinterland showed little variation whereas Metro South declined slightly (by 3 per cent).
- Torres and Cape HHS had the highest rate of hepatitis B notifications at almost 3 times the Queensland rate (56 vs. 19 per 100,000 population). North West and Metro South had similar rates of hepatitis B notifications (32 per 100,000 population). These were followed by Cairns and Hinterland at almost 27 per 100,000 population.

Figure 1: Total hepatitis B notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2014–31 December 2019, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There were a total of 933 hepatitis B notifications, a 4 per cent decrease compared with the previous 5-year average notifications (n=968) (Figure 1).

2014 to 2019:

- There was some fluctuation in hepatitis B notification rates from 2014 to 2019, with an overall 8 per cent decrease in this period.

Hepatitis C notifications

Table 3: Demographic and geographic characteristics of hepatitis C notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2019

Characteristic	2019						5-year average (2014–2018)	2019 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2019 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%				
Hepatitis C classification										
Hepatitis C (newly acquired)*	104	110	141	186	541	23.0	330.6	64	11.0	
Hepatitis C (unspecified)	467	428	476	440	1811	77.0	2133.2	-15	36.7	
Sex										
Male	396	400	444	487	1727	73.4	1687.0	2	70.7	
Female	175	138	173	139	625	26.6	776.8	-19	25.1	
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	121	123	149	162	555	23.6	395.2	40	254.1	
Non-Indigenous	429	395	442	379	1645	69.9	1234.2	33	33.4	
Unknown	21	20	26	85	152	6.5	834.4	-82	-	
Age group										
<15	4	3	5	5	17	0.7	5.2	↑	1.8	
15–19	23	23	23	34	103	4.4	81.8	26	33.2	
20–24	84	60	87	98	329	14.0	279.6	18	95.7	
25–29	71	90	86	113	360	15.3	316.0	14	101.3	
30–34	68	76	93	83	320	13.6	331.6	-3	92.2	
35–39	66	69	55	53	243	10.3	307.8	-21	75.6	
40–44	53	40	57	55	205	8.7	299.2	-31	62.9	
45–49	47	51	64	62	224	9.5	244.2	-8	66.5	
50+	155	126	147	123	551	23.4	598.2	-8	34.0	
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	↔	-	
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	3	3	2	4	12	0.5	10.8	↔	44.6
	North West	0	0	3	3	6	0.3	12.4	↓	21.3
	Cairns and Hinterland	30	25	39	21	115	4.9	176.2	-35	45.1
	Townsville	14	24	21	26	85	3.6	105.6	-20	35.4
	Mackay	13	17	12	6	48	2.0	66.4	-28	27.8
Central	Central West	0	0	1	1	2	0.1	5.0	↓	19.1
	Central Queensland	23	21	23	17	84	3.6	88.0	-5	38.5
	Wide Bay	30	27	30	30	117	5.0	148.6	-21	54.3
	South West	4	5	2	3	14	0.6	14.0	↔	57.5
	Darling Downs	30	19	23	38	110	4.7	122.6	-10	39.0
South East	Sunshine Coast	18	25	31	31	105	4.5	141.6	-26	25.2
	Metro North	69	70	64	85	288	12.2	351.8	-18	28.7
	Metro South	115	81	104	68	368	15.6	414.0	-11	32.2
	West Moreton	25	31	25	23	104	4.4	115.2	-10	36.3
	Gold Coast	56	43	56	35	190	8.1	218.8	-13	31.3
HHS sub-total										
Prison settings sub-total										
Queensland total										
	571	538	617	626	2352	100	2463.8	-5	47.7	

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

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

[†] Counts of hepatitis C notifications from individual HHS areas exclude notifications from prison settings.

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

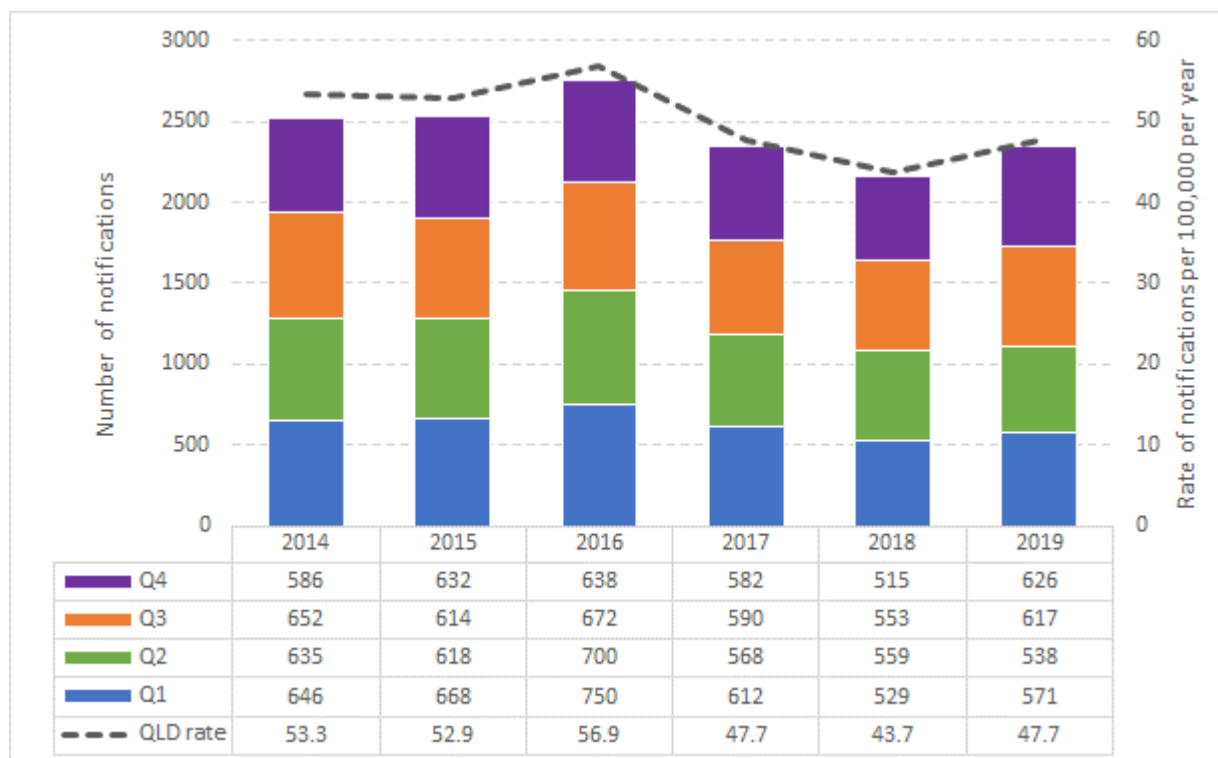
^α Of 704 cases in prison settings, 362 were newly acquired hepatitis C cases.

¥ Rate estimated using average daily prisoner population from 2017–2018 sourced from [Qld correctional services statistics](#).

In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- A total of 2352 hepatitis C cases were notified, of which 23 per cent (n=541) were classified as hepatitis C newly acquired (Table 3). Compared with the previous 5-year average, there was a 15 per cent decrease in unspecified hepatitis C notifications in 2019 but a 64 per cent increase in newly acquired hepatitis C notifications.
- There were more hepatitis C notifications in males than females (73 vs. 27%). The rate of hepatitis C notifications in males was almost 3 times higher than that in females. Notifications in females decreased by 19 per cent in 2019 compared with the five-year average.
- Notifications in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders accounted for 24 per cent of the total hepatitis C notifications, with 70 per cent in non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Indigenous status was not reported in 6 per cent of the total cases. The rate of hepatitis C notifications in Indigenous Queenslanders was 7.6 times higher than in non-Indigenous Queenslanders.
- 39 per cent of the total hepatitis C notifications were in those aged between 20 and 39 years, with a further 23 percent of notifications in those aged 50 years or older. The highest notification rates were reported in the 25-29 age group (101 per 100,000 population). There was a general decrease in notifications in people 30 years and older in 2019 when compared with the five-year average and an increase in notifications for those under 30 years.
- Prison settings accounted for almost 30% of the total hepatitis C notifications (or 67% of newly acquired hepatitis C notifications). There was a 49 per cent increase in hepatitis C notifications in prison settings in 2019 compared with the previous 5-year average.
- In non-prison settings, there was a 17 per cent reduction in notifications when compared with the five-year average. The largest number of hepatitis C notifications in 2019 was from Metro South (n=368), followed by Metro North (n=288), Gold Coast (n=190), and Cairns and Hinterland (n=115).

Figure 2: Total hepatitis C notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2014–31 December 2019, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



- In 2019 (1 January–31 December): There was a 4.5 per cent decrease in hepatitis C notifications when compared to the previous 5-year average (n=2464) (Figure 2).
- 2014 to 2019: There was a 6 per cent increase in hepatitis C notification rates from 2014 to 2016, followed by a 16 per cent decrease to 2019.

New HIV notifications

Table 4: Demographic and geographic characteristics of new HIV notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2019

Characteristic		2019					5-year average (2014–2018)	2019 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2019 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total				%
Sex										
Male		46	30	38	24	138	89.0	180.2	-23	5.6
Female		7	3	4	2	16	10.3	21.0	-24	0.6
Transgender/Intersex		0	0	1	0	1	0.6	0	↑	-
Indigenous status										
Indigenous		5	1	1	1	8	5.2	3.7	-43	3.7
Non-Indigenous		47	30	42	22	141	91.0	2.9	-27	2.9
Unknown		1	2		3	6	3.9	-	↑	-
Age group										
<15		0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	↓	0
15–19		0	0	1	1	2	1.3	3.8	↓	0.6
20–24		7	6	4	3	20	12.9	24.4	-18	5.8
25–29		8	9	10	6	33	21.3	35.8	-8	9.3
30–34		10	7	3	3	23	14.8	31.8	-28	6.6
35–39		7	4	10	2	23	14.8	20.0	15	7.2
40–44		9	3	2	3	17	11.0	20.8	-18	5.2
45–49		4	1	5	1	11	7.1	19.0	-42	3.3
50+		8	3	8	7	26	16.8	45.2	-42	1.6
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	1	0	0	0	1	0.6	2.0	↓	3.7
	North West	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	1.8	↓	0
	Cairns and Hinterland	9	2	5	3	19	12.3	18.4	↔	7.5
	Townsville	3	0	1	4	8	5.2	5.6	43	3.3
	Mackay	0	1	0	1	2	1.3	3.2	-37	1.2
Central	Central West	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.6	↓	0.0
	Central Queensland	0	3	0	2	5	3.2	4.2	↑	2.3
	Wide Bay	1	1	1	0	3	1.9	4.8	↓	1.4
	South West	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.2	↔	0
	Darling Downs	0	0	1	2	3	1.9	7.4	↓	1.1
South East	Sunshine Coast	1	1	1	1	4	2.6	7.2	↓	1.0
	Metro North	10	6	13	5	34	21.9	57.4	-41	3.4
	Metro South	15	6	13	5	39	25.2	51.0	-23	3.4
	West Moreton	4	4	5	2	15	9.7	8.6	↓	5.2
	Gold Coast	9	9	3	1	22	14.2	28.8	-24	3.6
Queensland total		53	33	43	26	155	100	201.2	-23	3.1

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

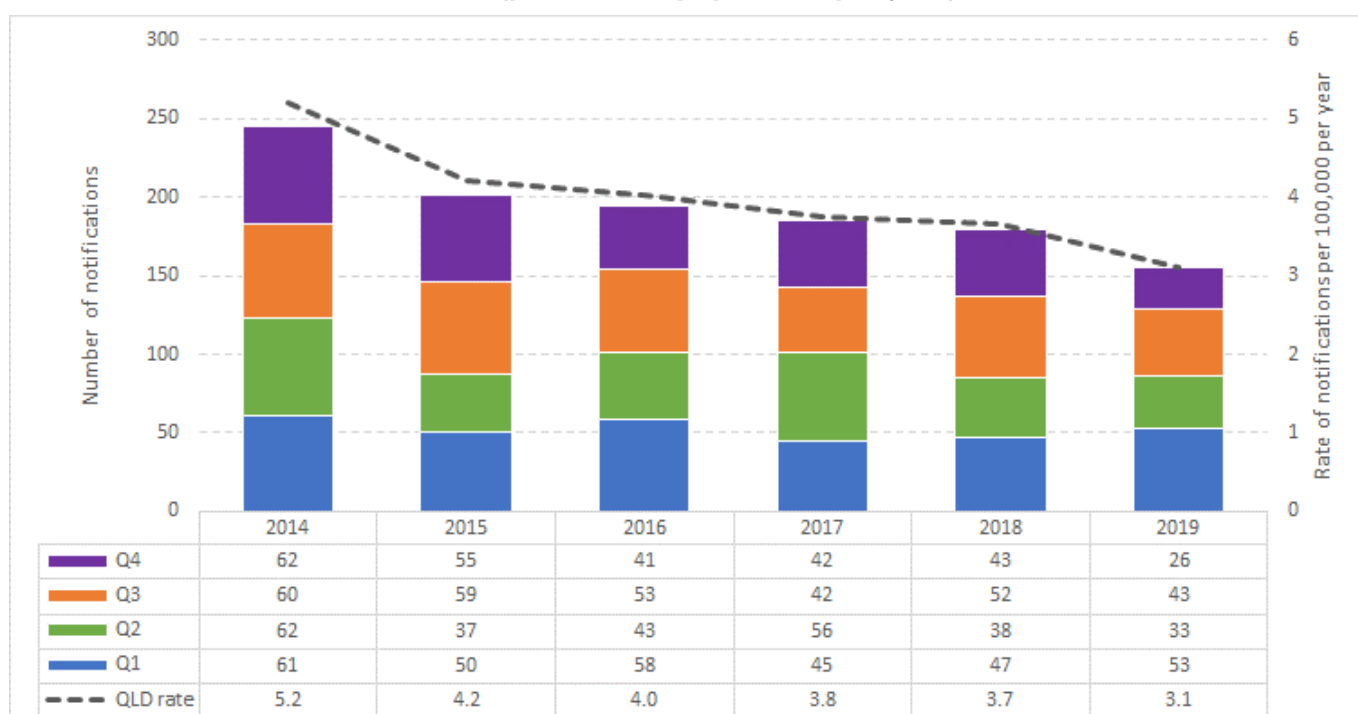
^ Caution needs to be exercised in interpreting % change over time when the number of notifications in sub-groups is small.

In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- New HIV cases were predominantly in males (89% of the total cases) (Table 4).
- Cases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accounted for 5 per cent of the new HIV notifications, with 4 per cent of the total cases still under investigation for their Indigenous status.
- The rate of new HIV notifications in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders was 1.3 times higher than in non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

- 64 per cent of the new cases were aged between 20 and 39 years, with 35 per cent aged 40 years or older. Notifications of new HIV diagnoses were higher in 2019 in those aged 35 to 39 years when compared with the five-year average, whereas there were decreases in all other age-groups.
- The highest notification rates were reported in the 25-29 and 35-39 age group (9.3 and 7.2 per 100,000 population, respectively) compared to other age groups.
- The highest numbers of new HIV cases were from Metro South (n=39), Metro North (n=34), Gold Coast (n=22), and Cairns and Hinterland (n=19). Notifications in Townsville and West Moreton HHSs were higher than their respective five-year average, whereas other HHSs remained stable or showed a decrease in new HIV cases.
- Cairns and Hinterland reported the highest rates of new HIV notifications (7.5 per 100,000 population), followed by West Moreton (5.2 per 100,000 population) compared with the Queensland-wide new HIV notification rate (3.1 per 100,000 population).

Figure 3: New HIV notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2014–31 December 2019, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There were 155 new HIV notifications, a 23 per cent decrease when compared with the previous 5-year average (n=201) (Figure 3).

2014 to 2019

- There was a 39 per cent decrease in statewide new HIV notification rates between 2014 and 2019.
- However, there was an increase in new HIV notifications in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, from 14 cases (6.9 cases per 100,000 population per year) in 2014 to 20 cases (9.4 cases per 100,000 population per year) in 2016, followed by a decrease to 11 cases (5.2 cases per 100,000 population per year) in 2017 and 13 cases (6.0 cases per 100,000 population per year) in 2018 (data not shown in Figure 3). The lowest rate in new HIV notifications in Indigenous Queenslanders was reported in 2019 (3.7 per 100,000 population).

Chlamydia notifications

Table 5: Demographic and geographic characteristics of chlamydia notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2019

Characteristic		2019					5-year average (2014–2018)	2019 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2019 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total				%
Sex										
Male		2730	2610	2690	2451	10481	44.1	9381.6	12	429.0
Female		3524	3285	3354	3141	13304	55.9	12921.8	3	535.1
Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)		3397	3175	3247	3026	12845*	3397	12558.4	2	1278.1
Other		0	0	0	1	1	0	0.8	↔	-
Indigenous status										
Indigenous		771	781	768	737	3057	12.9	3254.0	-6	1399.4
Non-Indigenous		3367	3179	3296	2994	12836	54.0	11983.4	7	260.4
Unknown		2116	1935	1980	1862	7893	33.2	7066.8	12	-
Age group										
<15		29	30	28	37	124	0.5	158.8	-22	12.8
15–19		1259	1222	1244	1083	4808	20.2	5254.0	-9	1548.1
20–24		2205	1987	2056	1932	8180	34.4	8078.0	↔	2378.3
25–29		1215	1166	1255	1172	4808	20.2	4280.2	12	1353.1
30–34		646	607	608	535	2396	10.1	2014.2	19	690.1
35–39		341	347	380	340	1408	5.9	1019.6	38	437.9
40–44		220	210	185	188	803	3.4	605.8	33	246.4
45–49		131	136	115	127	509	2.1	387.2	32	151.2
50+		208	189	173	179	749	3.1	506.2	48	46.2
Unknown		0	1	0	0	1	0	0.2	↑	-
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	162	133	150	130	575	2.4	696.0	-17	2138.4
	North West	57	64	61	86	268	1.1	304.0	-12	952.2
	Cairns and Hinterland	512	499	507	468	1986	8.3	2052.2	-3	779.2
	Townsville	420	416	439	376	1651	6.9	1589.2	4	687.6
	Mackay	241	209	210	179	839	3.5	658.0	28	486.1
Central	Central West	9	10	8	6	33	0.1	41.0	-20	315.1
	Central Queensland	252	240	258	208	958	4.0	932.2	3	438.9
	Wide Bay	176	136	154	163	629	2.6	580.2	8	291.8
	South West	11	16	21	15	63	0.3	71.2	-12	258.6
	Darling Downs	228	243	242	230	943	4.0	881.8	7	334.7
South East	Sunshine Coast	398	390	360	356	1504	6.3	1365.4	10	360.8
	Metro North	1320	1295	1324	1226	5165	21.7	4443.6	16	514.7
	Metro South	1345	1202	1212	1159	4918	20.7	4642.6	6	430.2
	West Moreton	280	287	294	256	1117	4.7	1058.6	6	390.2
	Gold Coast	843	755	804	735	3137	13.2	2988.2	5	517.4
Queensland total		6254	5895	6044	5593	23786	100	22304.2	7	482.6

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

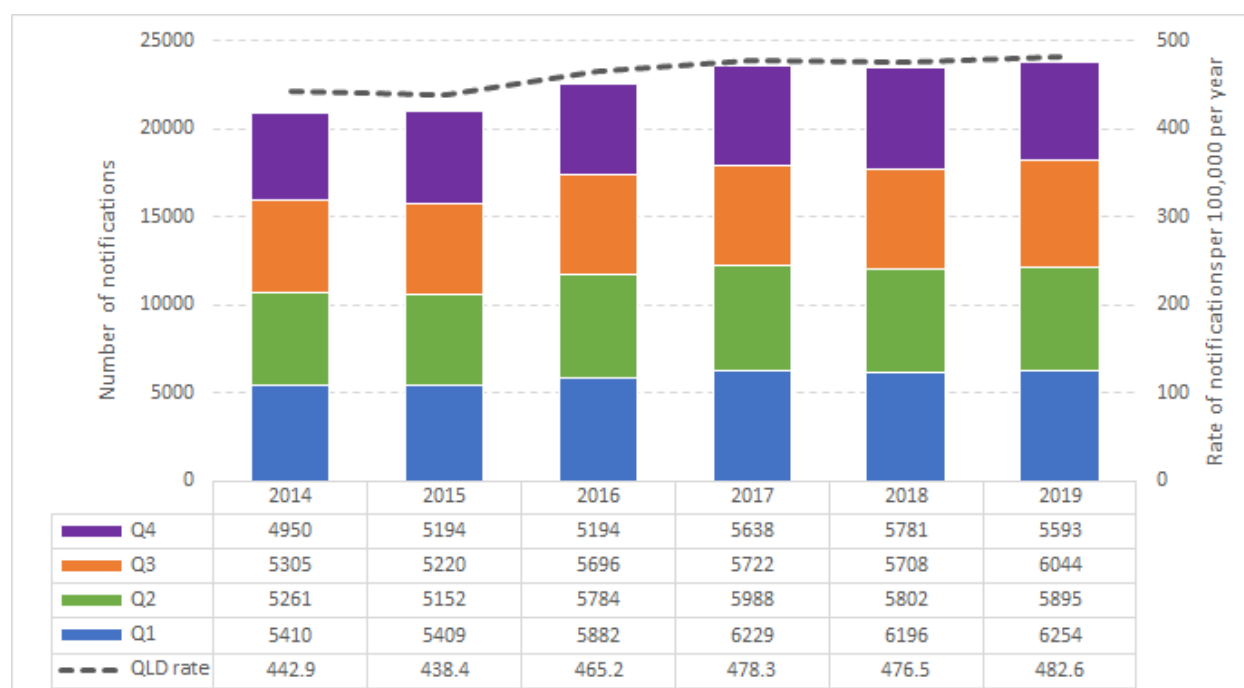
^ Caution needs to be exercised in interpreting % change over time when the number of notifications in sub-groups is small.

* Of these 12,845 cases, 3022 were from the north region, 1525 from the central region, and 8298 from the south east region.

In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There were more chlamydia notifications in females than males (56 vs. 44%). For males, there was a 12 per cent increase in notifications in 2019 compared with the five-year average (Table 5). Of 13304 female chlamydia cases, 12845 (97%) were in women of reproductive age.
- 54 per cent of the notifications were in non-Indigenous Queenslanders, 13 per cent in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a further 33 per cent of the total notifications where no Indigenous status was recorded. The rate of chlamydia notifications were reported among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was over five times higher than in non-Indigenous people.
- 55 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 2019 when compared with the five-year average for those aged 20 years or older.
- The rate of chlamydia notifications in people aged 20-24 years was five times higher than the Queensland-wide rate.
- The highest number of chlamydia notifications was reported from Metro North (n=5165), followed by Metro South (n=4918), Gold Coast (n=3137), and Cairns and Hinterland (n=1508). Notifications of chlamydia in 2019 in Mackay increased by 28 per cent compared with the five-year average whereas there was some fluctuation shown in other HHSs.

Figure 4: Chlamydia notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2014–31 December 2019, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There were 23786 chlamydia notifications, a 7 per cent increase when compared with the previous 5-year average (22304) (Figure 4). The number of notifications in 2019 was consistent with numbers in last two years.

2014 to 2019:

- There was a 9 per cent increase in chlamydia notification rates from 2014 to 2019.
- The highest chlamydia notification rates were reported from the north region, specifically from Torres and Cape, North West and Cairns and Hinterland (Table 5).

Gonorrhoea notifications

Table 6: Demographic and geographic characteristics of gonorrhoea notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2019

Characteristic	2019						5-year average (2014–2018)	2019 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2019 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%				
Sex										
Male	979	894	964	982	3819	65.1	2645.8	43	156.3	
Female	486	458	544	554	2042	34.8	1233.4	66	82.1	
Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)	456	427	514	517	1914*	-	1148.2	67	190.4	
Other	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	↑	-	
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	256	248	248	262	1014	17.3	836.4	21	464.2	
Non-Indigenous	794	740	840	853	3227	55.0	2081.0	55	65.5	
Unknown	415	364	421	421	1621	27.7	961.8	69	-	
Age group										
<15	6	11	7	9	33	0.6	37.6	-12	3.4	
15–19	160	164	146	152	622	10.6	550.6	13	200.3	
20–24	333	295	327	325	1280	21.8	984.6	30	372.1	
25–29	322	309	361	373	1365	23.3	806.2	69	384.2	
30–34	230	207	254	236	927	15.8	530.4	75	267.0	
35–39	138	135	166	159	598	10.2	338.8	77	186.0	
40–44	101	81	83	122	387	6.6	233.6	66	118.7	
45–49	76	56	71	69	272	4.6	154.8	76	80.8	
50+	99	93	94	91	377	6.4	242.6	55	23.3	
Unknown	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	↑	-	
HHS of residence#										
North	Torres and Cape	45	50	61	37	193	3.3	189.8	↔	717.8
	North West	18	23	25	49	115	2.0	107.8	7	408.6
	Cairns and Hinterland	124	132	92	144	492	8.4	436.8	13	193.0
	Townsville	49	56	50	43	198	3.4	209.8	-6	82.5
	Mackay	14	30	63	63	170	2.9	50.4	237	98.5
Central	Central West	0	0	0	1	1	0	2.8	↓	9.5
	Central Queensland	41	40	71	68	220	3.8	84.4	161	100.8
	Wide Bay	37	30	35	30	132	2.3	45.6	190	61.2
	South West	1	0	3	1	5	0.1	4.6	↔	20.5
	Darling Downs	53	40	32	33	158	2.7	87.6	80	56.1
South East	Sunshine Coast	62	48	60	69	239	4.1	137.8	73	57.3
	Metro North	397	373	431	416	1617	27.6	1031.6	57	161.1
	Metro South	352	289	336	349	1326	22.6	864.4	53	116.0
	West Moreton	46	54	59	41	200	3.4	113.2	77	69.9
	Gold Coast	226	187	191	192	796	13.6	512.6	55	131.3
Queensland total		1465	1352	1509	1536	5862	100	3879.2	51	118.9

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

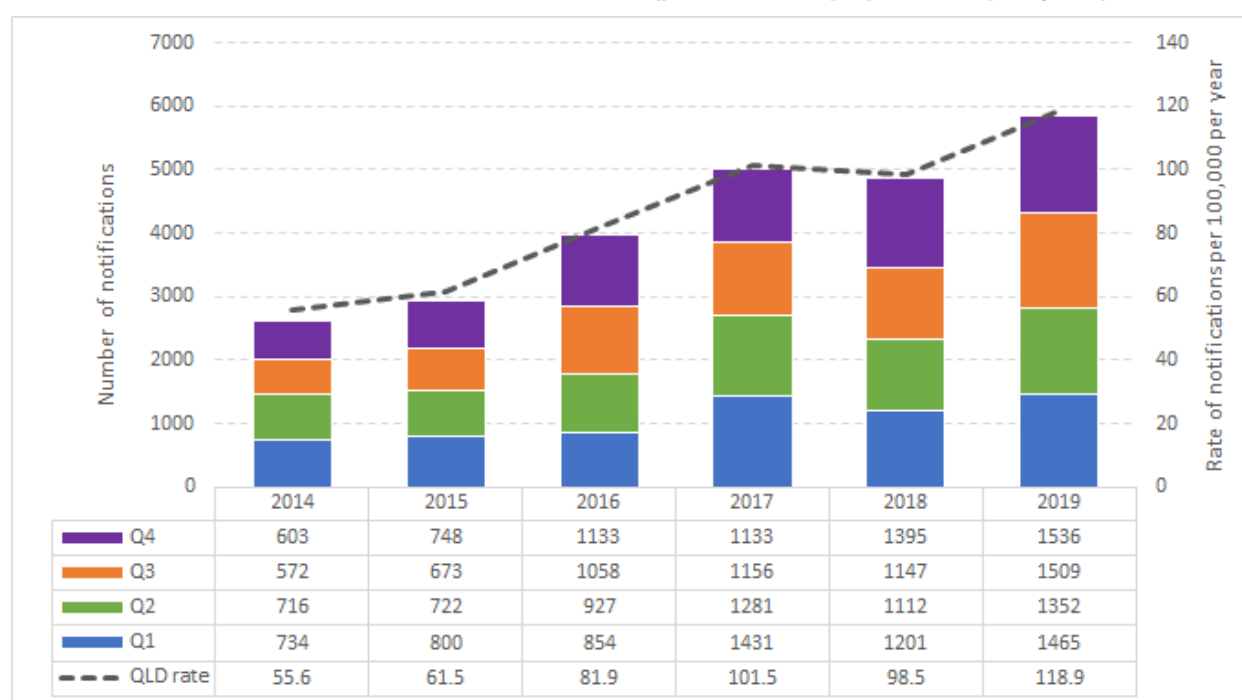
^ Caution needs to be exercised in interpreting % change over time when the number of notifications in sub-groups is small.

* Of these 1914 cases, 557 were from the north region, 222 from the central region, and 1135 from the south east region.

In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There were more gonorrhoea notifications in males than females (65 vs. 35%) (Table 6). However, when compared with the previous 5-year average, there was a larger increase in notifications in females (66%) than in males (44%). The rate of gonorrhoea notifications in males was almost two times higher than in females (156 and 82 per 100,000 population, respectively).
- Of 2042 female cases notified, 1914 (94%) were in women of reproductive age. The rate of gonorrhoea notifications in women of reproductive age was more than double the rate in females (all ages).
- 55 per cent of gonorrhoea notifications were in non-Indigenous people, 17 per cent in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a further 28 per cent of the total notifications where no Indigenous status was recorded. The rate of gonorrhoea notifications in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was seven times higher than in non-Indigenous people.
- 45 per cent of the gonorrhoea notifications were in people aged 20 to 29 years, with a further 26 per cent aged 30 to 39 years. Compared with the previous 5-year average, an increase in notifications occurred in people aged 15 years or older.
- The largest number of gonorrhoea notifications was reported from Metro North (n=1617), followed by Metro South (n=1326), Gold Coast (n=796), and Cairns and Hinterland (n=492). Most HHSs experienced an increase in gonorrhoea notifications in 2019 compared with the previous five-year average with Mackay, Wide Bay and Central Queensland HHS reporting the largest increases.

Figure 5: Gonorrhoea notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2014–31 December 2019, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There were 5862 gonorrhoea notifications, a 51 per cent increase when compared with the previous 5-year average (3879.2) (Figure 5).

2014 to 2019:

- Gonorrhoea notification rates doubled between 2014 and 2019. The highest gonorrhoea notification rates were reported from the north region, specifically from Torres and Cape, North West and Cairns and Hinterland HHSs (Table 6).

Infectious syphilis notifications

Table 7: Demographic and geographic characteristics of infectious syphilis notifications in Queensland, 1 January–31 December 2019

Characteristic	2019						5-year average (2014–2018)	2019 vs 5-yr average change (%)^	2019 rate (per 100,000 pop)	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	%				
Sex										
Male	241	178	201	224	844	75.9	626.8	35	34.5	
Female	64	54	70	79	267	24.0	144.4	85	10.7	
Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)	59	51	62	68	240*	-	130.4	84	23.9	
Pregnant female	7	11	8	11	37	-	16.6	123	60.7 ^a	
Indigenous status										
Indigenous	86	56	73	92	307	27.6	234.8	31	140.5	
Non-Indigenous	212	174	196	207	789	71.0	531.6	48	16.0	
Unknown	7	2	3	4	16	1.4	5.6	↑	-	
Age group										
<15	1	2	1	6	10	0.9	4.0	↑	1.0	
15–19	18	26	23	36	103	9.3	63.6	62	33.2	
20–24	52	35	42	39	168	15.1	129.4	30	48.8	
25–29	61	45	54	52	212	19.1	134.8	57	59.7	
30–34	46	31	51	47	175	15.7	121.4	44	50.4	
35–39	32	42	24	40	138	12.4	82.2	68	42.9	
40–44	27	12	19	27	85	7.6	65.0	31	26.1	
45–49	30	15	22	18	85	7.6	60.2	41	25.2	
50+	38	24	36	38	136	12.2	111.4	22	8.4	
HHS of residence [#]										
North	Torres and Cape	14	7	3	5	29	2.6	26.4	10	107.9
	North West	13	10	8	29	60	5.4	40.2	49	213.2
	Cairns and Hinterland	26	28	40	24	118	10.6	129.8	-9	46.3
	Townsville	14	13	18	27	72	6.5	55.8	29	30.0
	Mackay	4	1	1	5	11	1.0	7.2	53	6.4
Central	Central West	1	2	1	0	4	0.4	1.2	↑	38.2
	Central Queensland	9	1	12	11	33	3.0	18.4	80	15.1
	Wide Bay	6	0	2	3	11	1.0	7.6	45	5.1
	South West	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	↓	0.0
	Darling Downs	10	6	7	11	34	3.1	18.2	87	12.1
South East	Sunshine Coast	14	13	1	12	40	3.6	30.2	33	9.6
	Metro North	76	65	82	88	311	28.0	213.0	46	31.0
	Metro South	69	44	57	56	226	20.3	115.8	95	19.8
	West Moreton	17	13	8	8	46	4.1	20.0	130	16.1
	Gold Coast	32	29	32	24	117	10.5	87.2	34	19.3
Queensland total										
	305	232	272	303	1112	100	772	44	22.6	

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

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

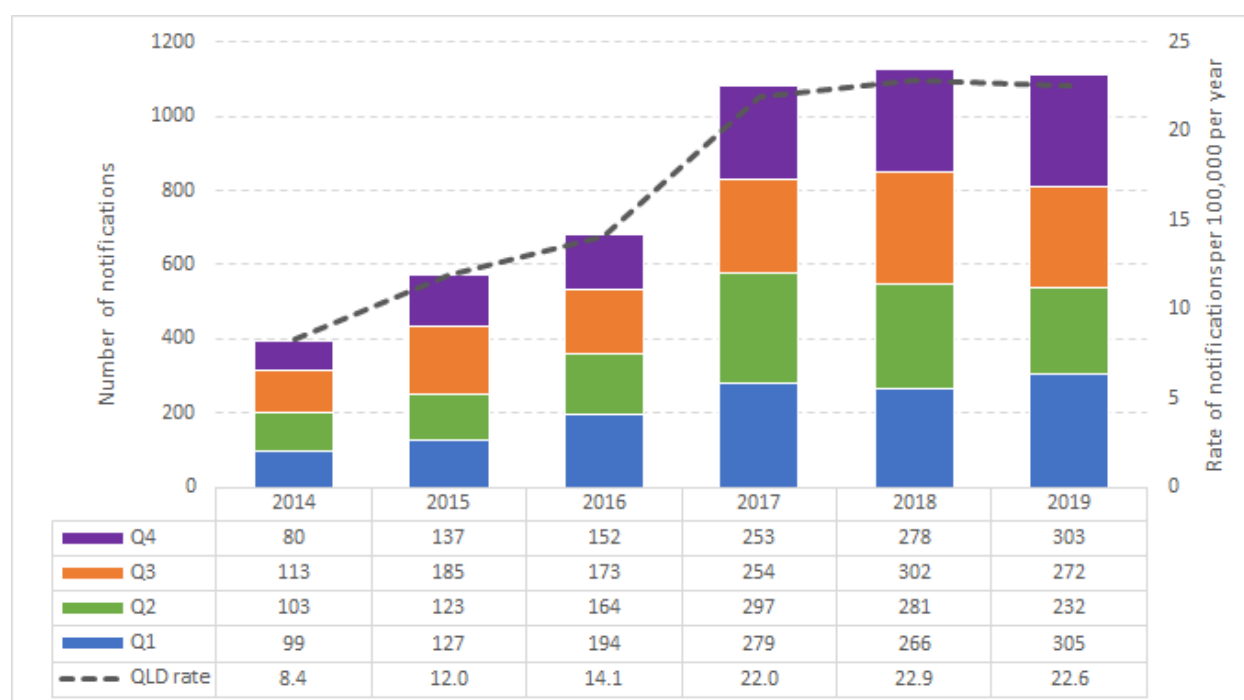
* Of these 240 cases, 124 were from the north region, 23 from the central region, and 93 from the south east region.

[^] Rates in pregnant women estimated using the 2015 Number of Mothers from the [Queensland Perinatal Statistics](#).

In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

- There were more notifications of infectious syphilis in males than females (76 vs. 24%) (Table 7). However, when compared with the previous 5-year average, there was a larger increase in notifications in females (85%) than in males (35%). Of 267 female cases, 240 (90%) were in women of reproductive age, 37 of which were pregnant.
- 71 per cent of infectious syphilis notifications were in non-Indigenous Queenslanders, 28 per cent in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a further 1 per cent of the cases still under investigation for their Indigenous status. There was a larger increase in notifications in 2019 in non-Indigenous Queenslanders (48%) than in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (31%) compared with the previous five-year average. The rate of infectious syphilis notifications in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was almost nine times higher than in non-Indigenous people.
- 62 per cent of infectious syphilis notifications were in people aged 20 to 39 years, with a further 27 per cent aged 40 years or older. Increases in notifications of infectious syphilis across all age groups were noted in 2019 when compared with the previous 5-year average.
- The highest number of infectious syphilis notifications was from Metro North (n=311), followed by Metro South (n=226), Cairns and Hinterland (n=8) and Gold Coast (n=117). There was a 9 per cent decrease in notifications of infectious syphilis in Cairns and Hinterland in 2019 compared with the previous five-year average. HHSs in Central and South East Queensland experienced an increase in infectious syphilis notifications in comparison with their five-year average.

Figure 6: Infectious syphilis notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2014–31 December 2019, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2019 (1 January–31 December):

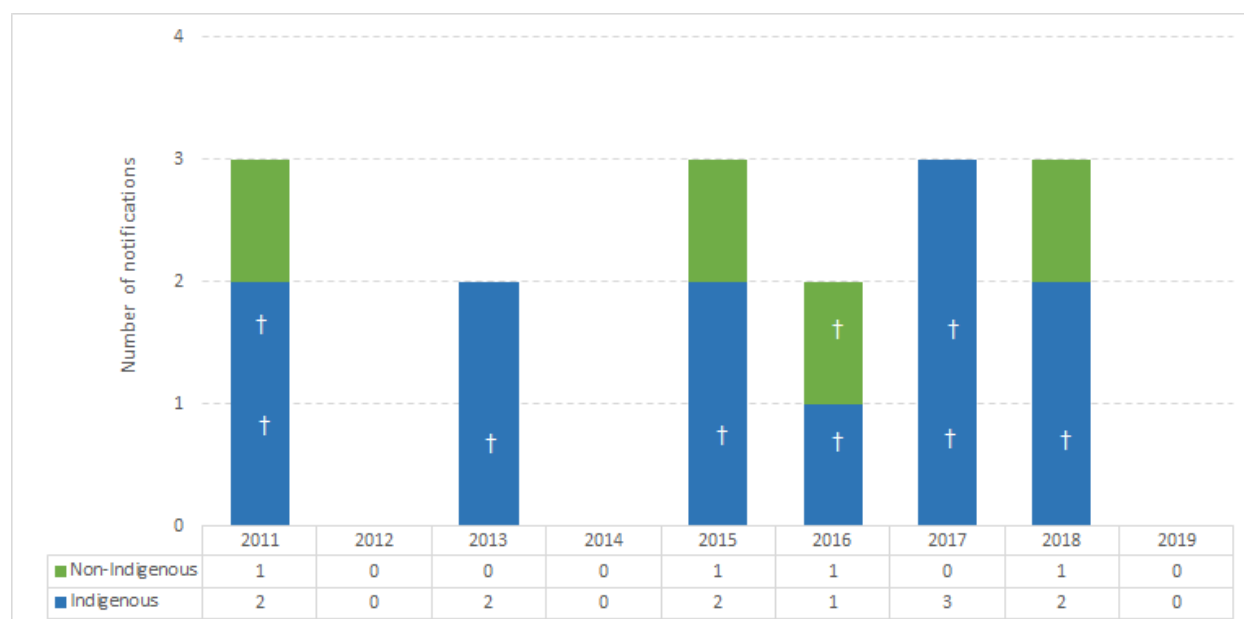
- There were 1112 infectious syphilis notifications, a 44 per cent increase when compared with the previous 5-year average (772) (Figure 6).

2014 to 2019:

- There was an almost 3-fold increase in infectious syphilis notification rates from 2014 to 2019. The highest infectious syphilis notification rates were reported from the north region, specifically from North West, Torres and Cape and Cairns and Hinterland HHSs (Table 6).

Congenital syphilis notifications

Figure 7: Congenital syphilis notification counts in Queensland, by Indigenous status, 1 January 2011–31 December 2019.



† Denoting deaths in the congenital syphilis cases.

- There were no notifications of congenital syphilis in 2019 (1 January–31 December) (Figure 7).
- Between 2011 and 2018, there were 16 congenital syphilis notifications (12 in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and 4 in non-Indigenous population).
- Eight congenital syphilis cases were associated with intrauterine foetal deaths or died after delivery (all in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cases).

Note: Disease rates in non-Indigenous Queenslanders were estimated using the total Queensland population.

Prepared by: Epidemiology and Research Unit
 Communicable Diseases Branch
 Department of Health
EPI@health.qld.gov.au