Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Quarterly Surveillance Report

Notifiable Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood-borne Viruses in Western Australia

Period ending 31 March 2024 Vol. 25 (1), issued May 2024

health.wa.gov.au

Contents

Summary 2
Chlamydia 3
Gonorrhoea 5
Infectious syphilis 8
HIV 11
Hepatitis B 13
Hepatitis C 16

Notes:

1. All data in this report are provisional and subject to future revision.
2. To help place the data in this report in perspective, comparisons with other reporting periods are provided. As no formal statistical testing has been conducted, some caution should be taken with interpretation.
3. Notifications for Christmas Island, Curtin, Leonora, Perth, and Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centres have been excluded from all analyses because of potential bias introduced through the inclusion of cases detected by screening of asylum seekers at these locations in previous years.

Summary

- The gonorrhoea notification rate increased by 36% in comparison to the previous 12-month period due to a combination of increased testing and increased disease transmission (Figure 2).
- Despite increased testing, the syphilis notification rate decreased by 7% in comparison to the previous 12-month period due to decreased disease transmission (Figure 3).
- A completed enhanced surveillance form was available for 53% of infectious syphilis notifications, compared to the previous five-year mean of 87%.
- The HIV notification rate among Aboriginal people decreased by 57% in comparison to the previous 12-month period (Table 15).

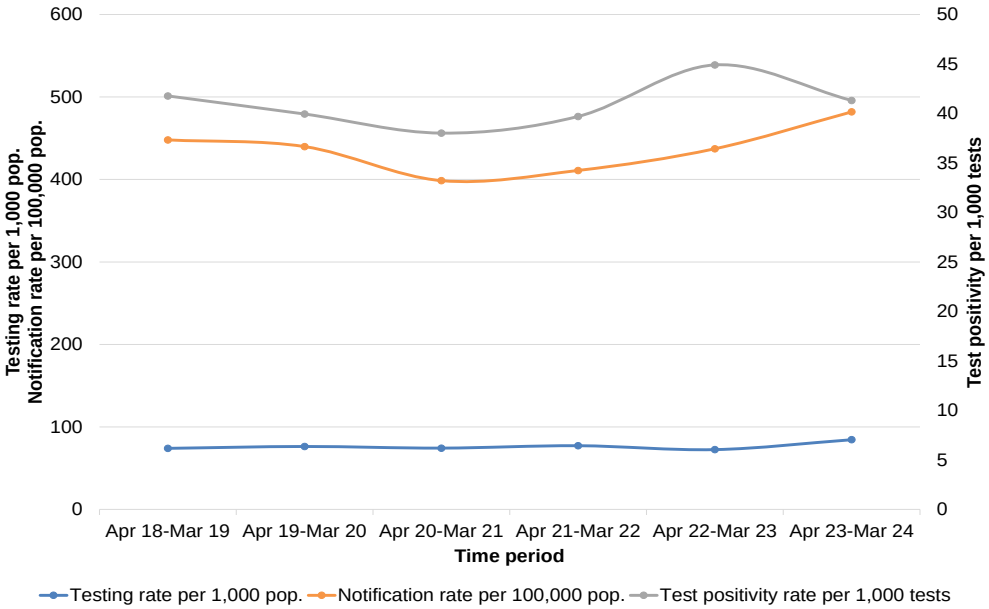
Table 1 Number and percentage change of STI and BBV notifications by reporting period, WA

Disease category	Disease	1st quarter			12-month period: 01 Apr to 31 Mar			
		1st quarter 2024	5 year mean for 1st quarter[1]	1st quarter % change[2]	01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	5 year mean for 01 Apr - 31 Mar[3]	01 Apr - 31 Mar Change[4]
STIs	Chlamydia	3,395	3,035.4	12%	12,960	11,676	11,237.2	15%
	Gonorrhoea	1,405	946.0	49%	5,034	3,672	3,472.8	45%
	Infectious syphilis	205	188.2	9%	703	805	693.2	1%
	STI Total	**5,005**	**4,169.6**	**20%**	**18,697**	**16,153**	**15,403.2**	**21%**
BBVs	Hepatitis B (Newly acquired)	9	4.0	125%	29	15	17.2	69%
	Hepatitis B (Unspecified)[5]	133	111.8	19%	494	440	454.0	9%
	Hepatitis B (Total)	142	114.8	24%	523	455	471.2	11%
	Hepatitis C (Newly acquired)[6]	38	19.0	100%	123	63	92.2	33%
	Hepatitis C (Unspecified)[5]	205	226.6	-10%	780	754	835.8	-7%
	Hepatitis C (Total)	243	245.6	-1%	903	817	928.0	-3%
	BBV Total	**385**	**360.4**	**7%**	**1,426**	**1,272**	**1,399.2**	**2%**
HIV	Diagnosed in WA	16	17.0	-6%	71	58	69.8	2%
	Previously diagnosed overseas	11	10.6	4%	84	45	34.6	143%
	HIV Total	**27**	**27.6**	**-2%**	**155**	**103**	**104**	**48%**
Combined total		**5,417**	**4,557.6**	**19%**	**20,278**	**17,528**	**16,906.8**	**20%**

Notes: [1] Historical five-year mean (i.e., from 2019 to 2023) for the current quarter.
[2] Percentage change of the number of notifications in the current quarter compared to the historical five-year mean of the same quarter. Positive values indicate an increase compared to the historical five-year mean of the same quarter. Negative values indicate a decrease compared to the historical five-year mean of the same quarter.
[3] Historical five-year mean (i.e., from 2019 to 2023) for the current 12-month period.
[4] Percentage change of the number of notifications in the current 12-month period compared to the historical five-year mean for the same 12-month period. For interpretation of positive and negative values, see note 2.
[5] Notifications were analysed by optimal date of onset except for unspecified hepatitis B and unspecified hepatitis C notifications have been analysed by specimen date as a batch of retrospective notifications were received in March 2021.
[6] Newly acquired hepatitis C data should be interpreted with caution as laboratory information used to determine if a case had a documented seroconversion within the past two years has not been routinely available since September 2020.

Chlamydia

Figure 1 Chlamydia testing rate, notification rate and test positivity rate in WA over the past six 12-month periods



- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the chlamydia testing rate increased by 17% (from 72.5 to 84.5 per 1,000 pop.), the notification rate increased by 10% (from 437.2 to 481.9 per 100,000 pop.), and the test positivity rate decreased by 8% (from 44.9 to 41.3 per 1,000 tests). This suggests that the increase in notifications over this period may have resulted from increased testing (Figure 1).

Table 2 Number and proportion of chlamydia notifications in WA by sex, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Sex	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	6,144	47%	5,461	47%
Female	6,815	53%	6,214	53%
Male:Female ratio	0.9	N/A	0.9	N/A
Total	**12,960**	**100%**	**11,676**	**100%**

Notes: N/A = Not applicable
In addition to the number of notifications above, there was one notification in a transgender person in the current reporting period and one notification in a transgender person in the previous reporting period.

Table 3 Number and proportion of chlamydia notifications in WA by age group, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Age group (Years)	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0–9	0	0%	0	0%
10–14	62	0%	55	0%
15–19	2,200	17%	2,286	20%
20–24	3,964	31%	3,858	33%
25–29	2,786	21%	2,245	19%
30–34	1,611	12%	1,326	11%
35–39	959	7%	791	7%
40–44	597	5%	464	4%
45–49	303	2%	253	2%
50–54	184	1%	152	1%
55–59	152	1%	120	1%
60+	141	1%	126	1%
Unknown	1	0%	0	0%
Total	**12,960**	**100%**	**11,676**	**100%**

- Chlamydia notifications among those aged 25 to 34 years increased by 23% in comparison to the previous 12-month period (Table 3).

Table 4 Number and rate of chlamydia notifications in WA by Aboriginality, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Aboriginality	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24			Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23		
	Number	Percent	Rate	Number	Percent	Rate
Aboriginal	1,916	15%	1,723.9	1,785	15%	1,628.1
Non-Aboriginal	10,375	80%	402.4	9,384	80%	366.4
Unknown	669	5%	N/A	507	4%	N/A
Aboriginal:Non-Aboriginal ratio	0.2	N/A	4.3	0.2	N/A	4.4
Total	**12,960**	**100%**	**481.9**	**11,676**	**100%**	**437.2**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
N/A = Not applicable

Table 5 Number and rate of chlamydia notifications in WA by region, for the two most recent 12-month periods

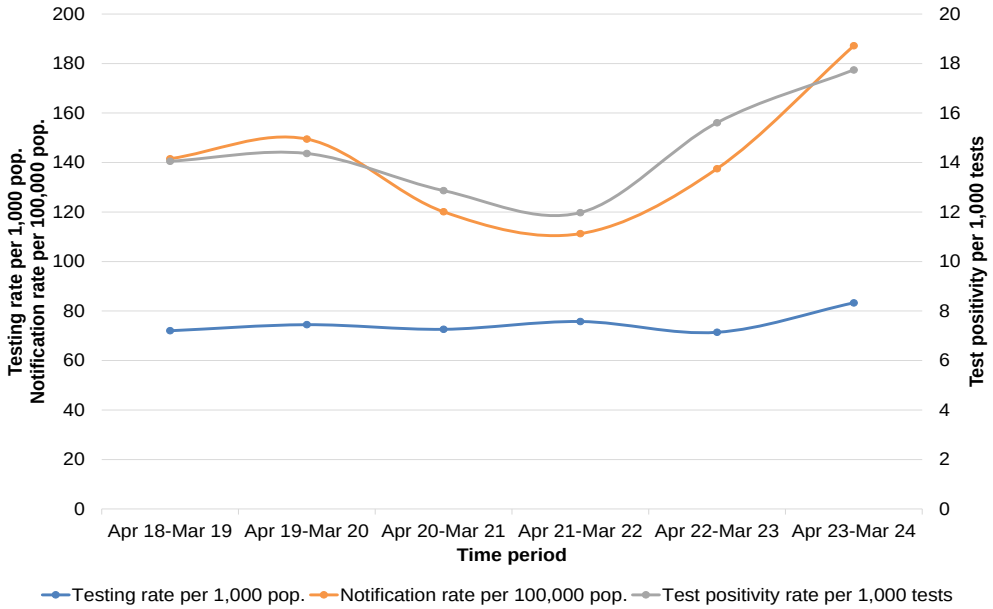
Region	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Goldfields	322	651.7	300	593.6
Great Southern	175	284.0	154	250.5
Kimberley	677	1,991.0	679	1,972.6
Metropolitan	10,204	470.6	9,139	425.6
Midwest	261	446.7	263	442.9
Pilbara	474	810.3	407	688.7
South West	596	321.7	533	289.8
Wheatbelt	181	245.4	164	220.8
Other	70	N/A	37	N/A
Unknown	0	N/A	0	N/A
Total	**12,960**	**481.9**	**11,676**	**437.2**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
Metropolitan = East Metropolitan + North Metropolitan + South Metropolitan
Other = Overseas residents diagnosed in WA
Unknown = Unknown residential address within WA
N/A = Not applicable

- Chlamydia notification rates increased in most regions with the Pilbara region recording the largest increase (18% increase), while the rate remained stable in the Kimberley and Midwest regions (Table 5).

Gonorrhoea

Figure 2 Gonorrhoea testing rate, notification rate and test positivity rate in WA over the past six 12-month periods



- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the gonorrhoea testing rate increased by 17%% (from 71.4 to 83.3 per 1,000 pop.), the notification rate increased by 36% (from 137.5 to 187.2 per 100,000 pop.), and the test positivity rate increased by 14% (from 15.6 to 17.7 per 1,000 tests). This suggests that the increase in notifications over this

period may have resulted from a combination of increased testing and increased disease transmission (Figure 2).

- In the current 12-month period, 55% of notifications had a completed enhanced surveillance form, compared to the previous five-year mean of 59%.

Table 6 Number and proportion of gonorrhoea notifications in WA by sex, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Sex	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	2,981	59%	2,245	61%
Female	2,053	41%	1,427	39%
Male:Female ratio	1.5	N/A	1.6	N/A
Total	**5,034**	**100%**	**3,672**	**100%**

Notes: N/A = Not applicable

Table 7 Number and proportion of gonorrhoea notifications in WA by age group, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Age group (Years)	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0–9	3	0%	1	0%
10–14	39	1%	19	1%
15–19	570	11%	510	14%
20–24	1,062	21%	772	21%
25–29	1,018	20%	710	19%
30–34	816	16%	585	16%
35–39	590	12%	439	12%
40–44	381	8%	276	8%
45–49	232	5%	138	4%
50–54	130	3%	106	3%
55–59	86	2%	67	2%
60+	107	2%	49	1%
Unknown	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**5,034**	**100%**	**3,672**	**100%**

- Those aged 20 to 29 years comprised 41% of gonorrhoea notifications, and notifications among this age group increased by 40% in comparison to the previous 12-month period (Table 7).

Table 8 Number and rate of gonorrhoea notifications in WA by Aboriginality, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Aboriginality	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24			Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23		
	Number	Percent	Rate	Number	Percent	Rate
Aboriginal	1,330	26%	1,196.7	1,203	33%	1,097.3
Non-Aboriginal	3,574	71%	138.6	2,413	66%	94.2
Unknown	130	3%	N/A	56	2%	N/A
Aboriginal:Non-Aboriginal ratio	0.4	N/A	8.6	0.5	N/A	11.6
Total	**5,034**	**100%**	**187.2**	**3,672**	**100%**	**137.5**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
N/A = Not applicable

- The gonorrhoea notification rate increased by 9% among Aboriginal people and by 47% among non-Aboriginal people, resulting in a lower rate ratio compared to the previous 12-month period. The number of notifications with unknown Aboriginality more than doubled in comparison to the previous 12-month period but represented only 3% of all notifications in the current reporting period (Table 8).

Table 9 Number and crude of gonorrhoea notifications in WA by region, for the two most recent 12-month periods

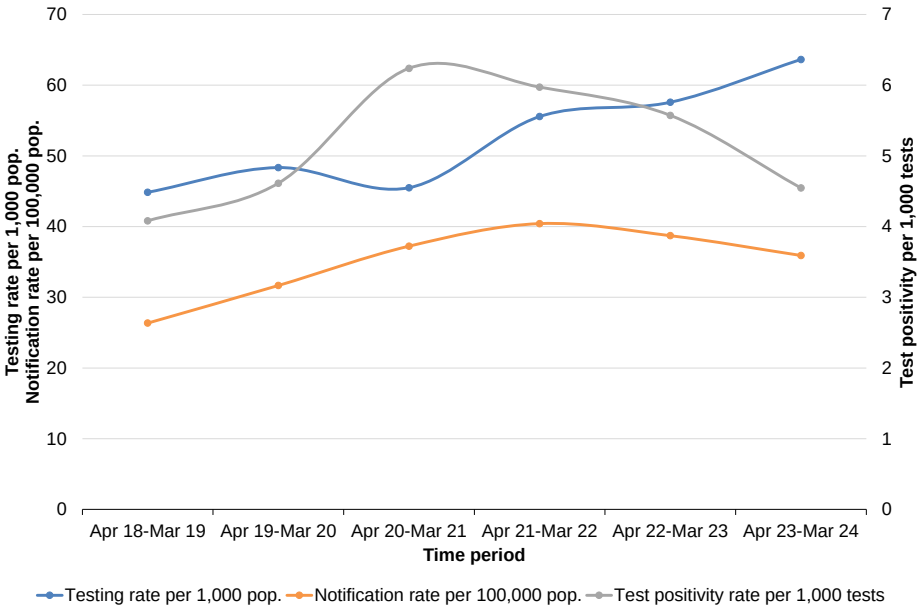
Region	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Goldfields	242	489.8	181	358.1
Great Southern	36	58.4	16	26.0
Kimberley	478	1,405.8	549	1,595.0
Metropolitan	3,720	171.6	2,508	116.8
Midwest	101	172.8	74	124.6
Pilbara	191	326.5	226	382.4
South West	185	99.8	82	44.6
Wheatbelt	52	70.5	26	35.0
Other	29	N/A	10	N/A
Unknown	0	N/A	0	N/A
Total	**5,034**	**187.2**	**3,672**	**137.5**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
Metropolitan = East Metropolitan + North Metropolitan + South Metropolitan
Other = Overseas residents diagnosed in WA
Unknown = Unknown residential address within WA
N/A = Not applicable

- Gonorrhoea notification rates increased in most regions with the exception of the Kimberley region which decreased by 12% and the Pilbara region which decreased by 15% (Table 9).

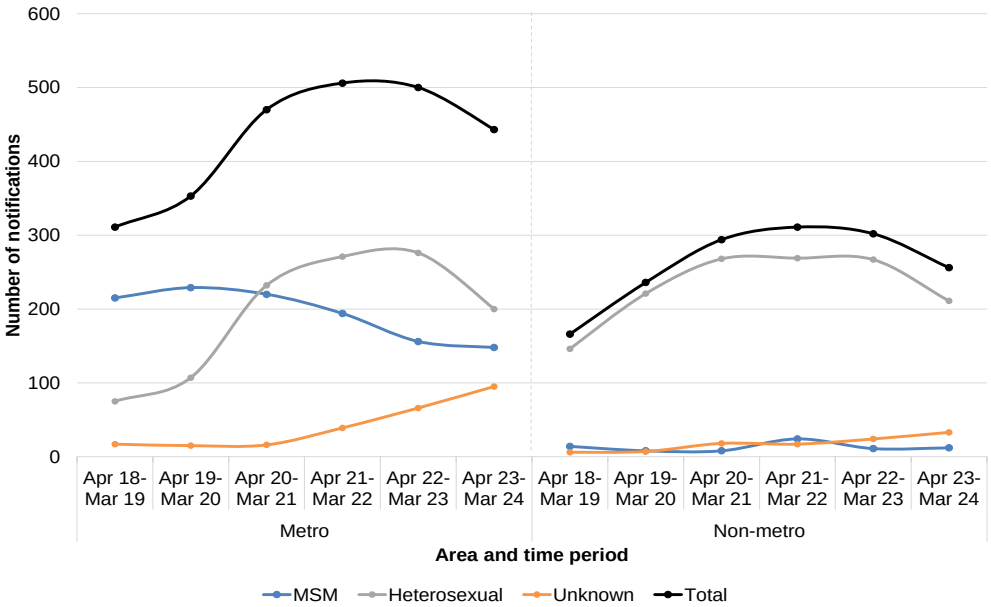
Infectious syphilis

Figure 3 Syphilis testing rate, notification rate and test positivity rate in WA over the past six 12-month periods



- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the syphilis testing rate increased by 11% (from 57.6 to 63.6 per 1,000 pop.), the notification rate decreased by 7% (from 38.7 to 35.9 per 100,000 pop.), and the test positivity rate decreased by 18% (from 5.6 to 4.5 per 1,000 tests). This suggests that the decrease in notifications over this period may have resulted from decreased disease transmission (Figure 3).
- Four congenital syphilis cases were reported in the current 12-month period, all in the Perth metropolitan area: two in Aboriginal children and two in non-Aboriginal children.

Figure 4 Number of infectious syphilis notifications in WA by area and exposure category, for the two most recent 12-month periods



- In the current 12-month period, 53% of notifications had a completed enhanced surveillance form provided by notifying clinicians, compared to the previous five-year mean of 87%.
- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the number of notifications categorised as having an unknown exposure increased by 44% in the Perth metropolitan area (n=66 vs. 95) and by 38% in the non-metropolitan area (n=24 vs. 33) (Figure 4). Of the 128 notifications with an unknown exposure, 30% were among non-CALD males who resided in the Metro area and were diagnosed by a GP.

Table 10 Number and proportion of infectious syphilis notifications in WA by sex, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Sex	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	434	62%	497	62%
Female	269	38%	306	38%
Male:Female Ratio	1.6	N/A	1.6	N/A
WA (Total)	**703**	**100%**	**805**	**100%**

Notes: N/A = Not applicable
In addition to the number of notifications above, there were two notifications among transgender people in the previous reporting period.

Table 11 Number and proportion of infectious syphilis notifications in WA by age group, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Age group (Years)	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0–9	0	0%	0	0%
10–14	4	1%	4	0%
15–19	48	7%	64	8%
20–24	96	14%	123	15%
25–29	124	18%	149	19%
30–34	130	18%	146	18%
35–39	103	15%	130	16%
40–44	85	12%	62	8%
45–49	45	6%	49	6%
50–54	23	3%	32	4%
55–59	20	3%	27	3%
60+	25	4%	19	2%
Unknown	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**703**	**100%**	**805**	**100%**

- Infectious syphilis notifications decreased in all age groups with the exception of those aged 40 to 44 years, which increased by 37% (Table 11).

Table 12 Number and rate of infectious syphilis notifications by Aboriginality for the two most recent 12-month periods, WA

Aboriginality	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24			Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23		
	Number	Percent	Rate	Number	Percent	Rate
Aboriginal	278	40%	250.1	368	46%	335.7
Non-Aboriginal	416	59%	16.1	435	54%	17.0
Unknown	9	1%	N/A	2	0%	N/A
Aboriginal:Non-Aboriginal ratio	0.7	N/A	15.5	0.8	N/A	19.8
Total	**703**	**100%**	**26.1**	**805**	**100%**	**30.1**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
N/A = Not applicable

- The infectious syphilis notification rate decreased by 25% among Aboriginal people and by 5% among non-Aboriginal people, resulting in a lower rate ratio compared to the previous 12-month period (Table 12).

Table 13 Number and rate of infectious syphilis notifications by region for the two most recent 12-month periods, WA

Region	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Goldfields	40	81.0	21	41.5
Great Southern	11	17.9	6	9.8
Kimberley	67	197.0	120	348.6
Metropolitan	444	20.5	500	23.3
Midwest	17	29.1	32	53.9
Pilbara	98	167.5	100	169.2
South West	14	7.6	16	8.7
Wheatbelt	9	12.2	7	9.4
Other	1	N/A	3	N/A
Unknown	2	N/A	0	N/A
Total	**703**	**26.1**	**805**	**30.1**

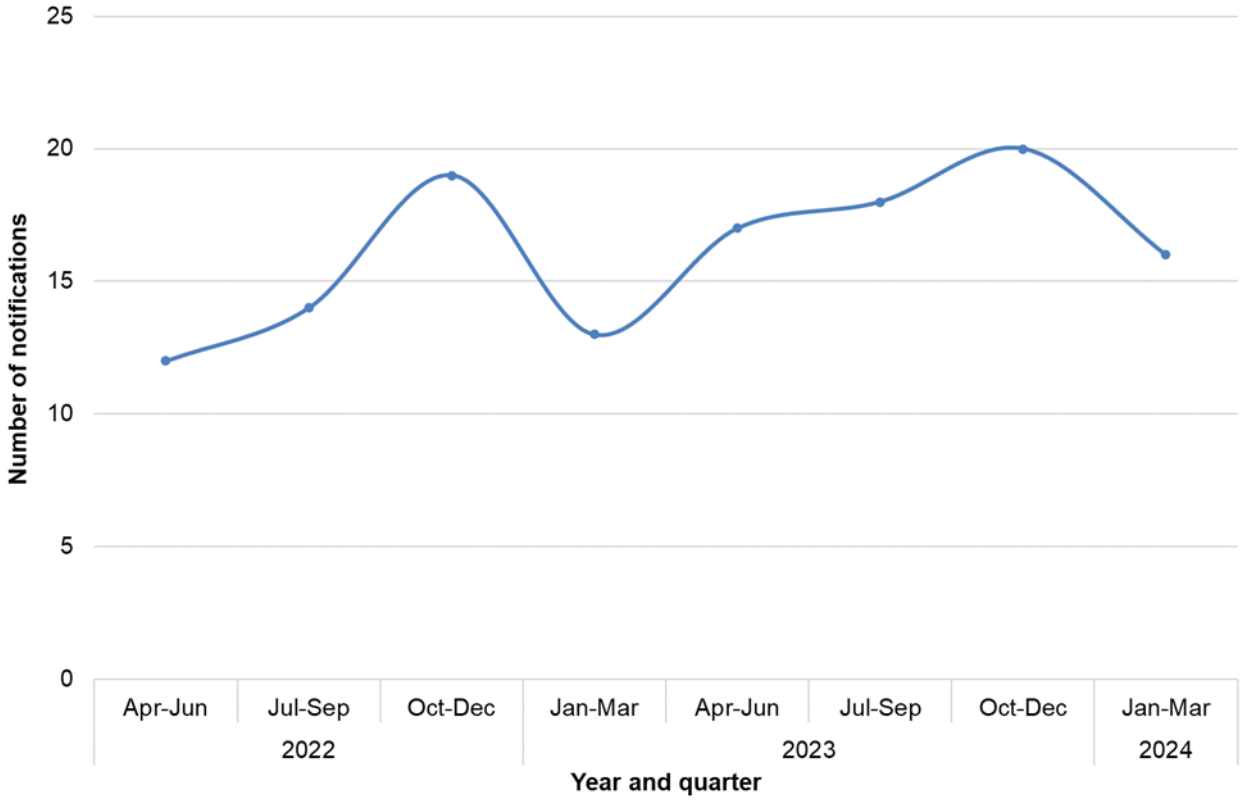
Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
Metropolitan = East Metropolitan + North Metropolitan + South Metropolitan
Other = Overseas residents diagnosed in WA
Unknown = Unknown residential address within WA
N/A = Not applicable

- Notifications in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields regions have generally increased as part of a larger outbreak in northern Australia that commenced in January 2011 in the Northern Territory. Further information about the infectious syphilis outbreak affecting Aboriginal people living in northern Australia is available from: WA Syphilis outbreak response (health.wa.gov.au).
- Trends in the infectious syphilis notification rate varied between regions. The notification rate remained highest in the Kimberley region but decreased by 43% in comparison to the previous 12-month period. The rate increased by 95% in the Goldfields region (Table 13).

HIV

- The following analysis of HIV notifications data includes cases diagnosed for the first time in WA and excludes notifications of HIV cases previously diagnosed overseas.

Figure 5 Number of HIV notifications by quarter, for the two most recent 12-month periods (excludes cases previously diagnosed outside WA), WA



- A total of 71 HIV cases were notified in the April 2023 to March 2024 period, a 22% increase compared to the previous 12-month period (n=58) (Table 1).
- The number of HIV notifications in the January to March 2024 quarter (n=16) was lower compared to the previous quarter (n=20). In the past 12 months the number of quarterly HIV notifications fluctuated between 16 and 20 cases per quarter (Figure 5).
- In the April 2023 to March 2024 period the number of HIV notifications among males increased 20% compared to the previous 12-month period (44 to 53 cases), while number of female cases increased 70% (10 to 17 cases). The male: female ratio for new HIV diagnoses decreased from 4.4:1 to 3.1:1 compared to the previous 12-month period.

Table 14 Number and proportion of HIV notifications by age group, for the two most recent 12-month periods (excludes cases previously diagnosed outside WA), WA

Age group (Years)	1 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24 Period		1 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23 Period	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0–9	0	0%	0	0%
10–14	0	0%	0	0%
15–19	0	0%	0	0%
20–24	5	7%	4	7%
25–29	11	15%	5	9%
30–34	8	11%	17	29%
35–39	8	11%	9	16%
40–44	16	23%	8	14%
45–49	4	6%	4	7%
50–54	4	6%	2	3%
55–59	8	11%	3	5%
60+	7	10%	6	10%
Unknown	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**71**	**100%**	**58**	**100%**

- The number of HIV notifications increased or remained stable across most age groups over the two 12-month reporting periods. The largest increase was reported in cases aged 25-29 and 40-44 years, where the number of notifications increased 2.2- and 2-fold respectively (Table 14).
- The median age of HIV notifications in the April 2023 to March 2024 period was 41 years (range: 22 to 73 years) and older than the previous 12-month period (37 years; range: 21 to 72 years).

Table 15 Number and rate of HIV notifications by Aboriginality, for the two most recent 12-month periods (excludes cases previously diagnosed outside WA), WA

Aboriginality	1 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24 Period		1 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23 Period	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Aboriginal	3	2.7	7	6.2
Non-Aboriginal	66	2.6	51	2.0
Unknown	2	N/A	0	N/A
Aboriginal:Non-Aboriginal ratio	0.05	1.1	0.14	3.2
Total	**71**	**2.6**	**58**	**2.1**

Note: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population

- There were three new cases of HIV among Aboriginal people in the April 2023 to March 2024 period, which reflects a decrease of 57% compared to the previous 12-month period. The crude HIV notification rate for Aboriginal people is sensitive to small changes in the number of cases notified and was 1.1 times the rate reported for non-Aboriginal people in the current period (Table 15).

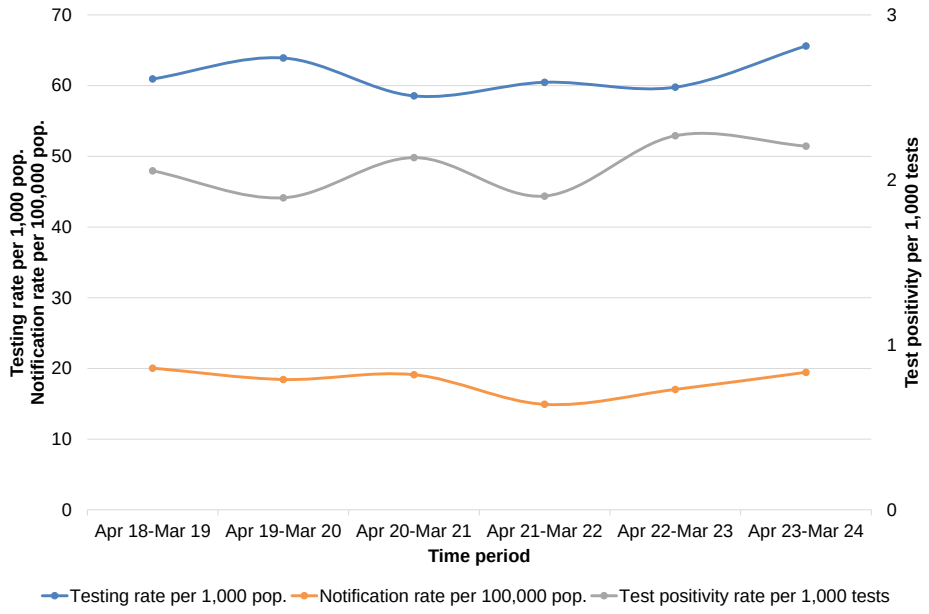
Table 16 Number and proportion of HIV notifications in WA by exposure, for the two most recent 12-month periods (excludes cases previously diagnosed outside WA)

Exposure category	1 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24 Period		1 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23 Period	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Men who have sex with men	31	44%	23	40%
Male Heterosexual	16	23%	13	23%
Female Heterosexual	15	21%	9	16%
Male and Female IDU	2	3%	4	7%
Other/unknown	7	10%	8	14%
Total	**71**	**100%**	**57**	**100%**

- Compared to the previous 12-month period, there was a 35% increase in the number of HIV notifications in MSM in the current period (Table 16). Just under half of these cases in the current period had acquired their infection in Australia (48%; n=15).
- Compared to the previous 12-month period, there was a 23% increase in the number of male HIV notifications attributed to heterosexual exposure (Table 16). Over three quarters of these cases in the current period had acquired HIV overseas (81%; n=13).
- Compared to the previous 12-month period, there was a 67% increase in the number of female HIV notifications attributed to heterosexual exposure (Table 16). Over half of these cases had acquired HIV overseas (60%; n=9).

Hepatitis B

Figure 5 Hepatitis B testing rate, notification rate and test positivity rate in WA over the past six 12-month periods



- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the hepatitis B testing rate increased by 10% (from 59.8 to 65.6 per 1,000 pop.), the notification rate increased by 14% (from 17.0 to 19.4 per 100,000 pop.), and the test positivity rate remained stable (from 2.3 to 2.2 per 1,000 tests). This suggests that the increase in notifications over this period may have resulted from increased testing (Figure 6).

Table 17 Number and proportion of newly acquired and unspecified hepatitis B notifications in WA, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Disease status	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Newly acquired	29	6%	15	3%
Unspecified	494	94%	440	97%
Total	**523**	**100%**	**455**	**100%**

- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the number of newly acquired hepatitis B notifications increased by 93% and the number of unspecified hepatitis B notifications increased by 12% (Table 17).

Table 18 Number and proportion of hepatitis B notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by sex, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Sex	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	265	51%	251	55%
Female	258	49%	204	45%
Male:Female ratio	1.0	N/A	1.2	N/A
Total	**523**	**100%**	**455**	**100%**

Note: N/A = Not applicable

- The number of total hepatitis B notifications increased by 6% among males and by 26% among females compared to the previous 12-month period (Table 18).

Table 19 Number and proportion of hepatitis B notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by age group, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Age group (Years)	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0–9	2	0%	0	0%
10–14	1	0%	0	0%
15–19	10	2%	6	1%
20–24	14	3%	17	4%
25–29	49	9%	46	10%
30–34	79	15%	63	14%
35–39	64	12%	65	14%
40–44	68	13%	62	14%
45–49	59	11%	45	10%
50–54	44	8%	41	9%
55–59	40	8%	32	7%
60+	93	18%	78	17%
Unknown	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**523**	**100%**	**455**	**100%**

- The largest proportion of total hepatitis B notifications was among those aged 60 years or older and notifications among this age group increased by 19% in comparison to the previous 12-month period (Table 19).

Table 20 Number and rate of hepatitis B notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by Aboriginality, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Aboriginality	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24			Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23		
	Number	Percent	Rate	Number	Percent	Rate
Aboriginal	34	7%	30.6	31	7%	28.3
Non-Aboriginal	425	81%	16.5	364	80%	14.2
Unknown	64	12%	N/A	60	13%	N/A
Aboriginal:Non-Aboriginal ratio	0.1	N/A	1.9	0.1	N/A	2.0
Total	**523**	**100%**	**19.4**	**455**	**100%**	**17.0**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
N/A = Not applicable

- The notification rate increased by 8% among Aboriginal people and by 16% among non-Aboriginal people (Table 20).

Table 21 Number and rate of hepatitis B notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by region, for the two most recent 12-month periods

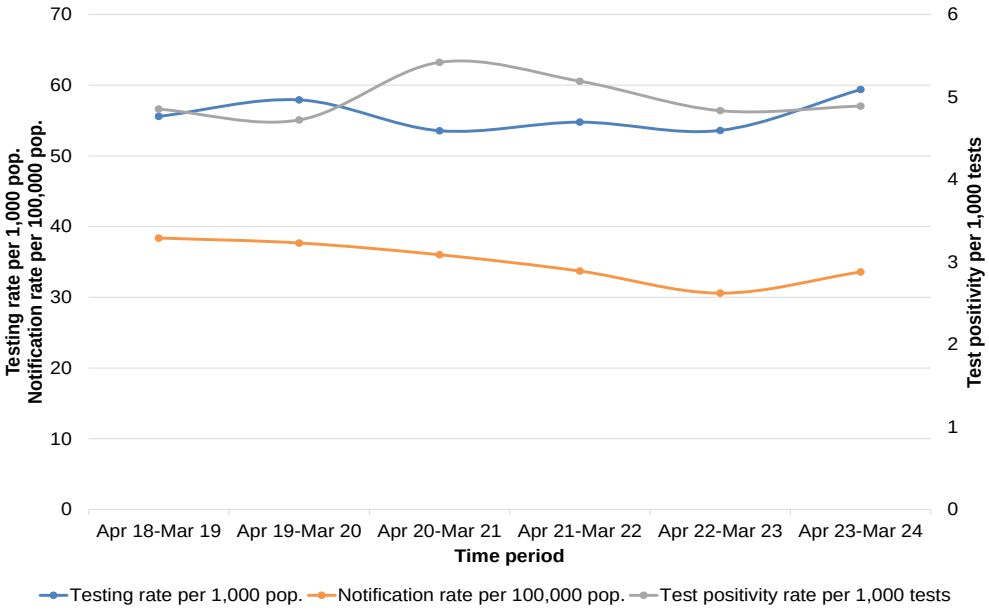
Region	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Goldfields	9	18.2	7	13.8
Great Southern	7	11.4	6	9.8
Kimberley	16	47.1	11	32.0
Metropolitan	439	20.2	386	18.0
Midwest	10	17.1	13	21.9
Pilbara	18	30.8	14	23.7
South West	12	6.5	12	6.5
Wheatbelt	4	5.4	3	4.0
Other	7	N/A	3	N/A
Unknown	1	N/A	0	N/A
Total	**523**	**19.4**	**455**	**17.0**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
Metropolitan = East Metropolitan + North Metropolitan + South Metropolitan
Other = Overseas residents diagnosed in WA
Unknown = Unknown residential address within WA
N/A = Not applicable

- Trends in the total hepatitis B notification rate varied between regions and the small number of notifications in most non-metropolitan regions makes it difficult to interpret any changes in trends (Table 21).

Hepatitis C

Figure 6 Hepatitis C testing rate, notification rate and test positivity rate in WA over the past six 12-month periods



- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the hepatitis C testing rate increased by 11% (from 53.6 to 59.4 per 1,000 pop.), the notification rate increased by 10% (from 30.6 to 33.6 per 100,000 pop.), and the test positivity rate remained stable (from 4.8 to 4.9 per 1,000 tests). This suggests that the increase in notifications over this period may have resulted from increased testing (Figure 7).

Table 22 Number and proportion of hepatitis C notifications in WA by disease status, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Disease status	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Newly acquired	123	14%	63	8%
Unspecified	780	86%	754	92%
Total	**903**	**100%**	**817**	**100%**

- In comparison to the previous 12-month period, the number of newly acquired hepatitis C notifications increased by 95%, while the number of unspecified hepatitis C notifications remained stable.

Table 23 Number and proportion of hepatitis C notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by sex, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Sex	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	636	70%	562	69%
Female	267	30%	255	31%
Male:Female ratio	2.4	N/A	2.2	N/A
Total	**903**	**100%**	**817**	**100%**

Note: N/A = Not applicable

- The number of total hepatitis C notifications increased by 13% among males and by 5% among females compared to the previous 12-month period (Table 23).

Table 24 Number and proportion of hepatitis C notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by age group, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Age group (Years)	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0–9	0	0%	2	0%
10–14	0	0%	1	0%
15–19	36	4%	22	3%
20–24	110	12%	99	12%
25–29	141	16%	101	12%
30–34	120	13%	106	13%
35–39	112	12%	85	10%
40–44	85	9%	93	11%
45–49	84	9%	75	9%
50–54	59	7%	79	10%
55–59	68	8%	49	6%
60+	88	10%	105	13%
Unknown	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**903**	**100%**	**817**	**100%**

- The largest proportion of total hepatitis C notifications was among those aged 25 to 34 years and notifications among this age group increased by 26% in comparison to the previous 12-month period. Notifications among those aged 50 to 54 years decreased by 25% (Table 24).

Table 25 Number and rate of hepatitis C notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by Aboriginality, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Aboriginality	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24			Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23		
	Number	Percent	Rate	Number	Percent	Rate
Aboriginal	310	34%	278.9	290	35%	264.5
Non-Aboriginal	526	58%	20.4	487	60%	19.0
Unknown	67	7%	N/A	40	5%	N/A
Aboriginal:Non-Aboriginal ratio	0.6	N/A	13.7	0.6	N/A	13.9
Total	**903**	**100%**	**33.6**	**817**	**100%**	**30.6**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
N/A = Not applicable

Table 26 Number and rate of hepatitis C notifications (newly acquired + unspecified) in WA by region, for the two most recent 12-month periods

Region	Current reporting period 01 Apr 23 - 31 Mar 24		Previous reporting period 01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Goldfields	31	62.7	13	25.7
Great Southern	58	94.1	28	45.6
Kimberley	22	64.7	26	75.5
Metropolitan	660	30.4	619	28.8
Midwest	33	56.5	41	69.0
Pilbara	28	47.9	18	30.5
South West	50	27.0	50	27.2
Wheatbelt	14	19.0	20	26.9
Other	7	N/A	2	N/A
Unknown	0	N/A	0	N/A
Total	**903**	**33.6**	**817**	**30.6**

Notes: Rate = Crude notification rate per 100,000 population
Metropolitan = East Metropolitan + North Metropolitan + South Metropolitan
Other = Overseas residents diagnosed in WA
Unknown = Unknown residential address within WA
N/A = Not applicable

- Trends in the total hepatitis C notification rate varied between regions. Most notable were the more than doubling of the rate in the Goldfields and Great Southern regions and 30% decrease in the Wheatbelt region (Table 26).

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2024

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.