

Notifications of bloodborne viruses and sexually transmissible infections (BBVSTIs) in Queensland: 1 January–30 September 2023

October 2023

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 18 October 2023, for BBVSTIs with episode dates between 1 January 2018 and 30 September 2023. Data for 2020 and 2021 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on disease transmission 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 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: Count and change of BBVSTI notifications in Queensland, quarterly update

Disease	2023 quarter				Year to date (YTD) 1 Jan–30 Sep		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2023 YTD	5-year YTD average (2018–2022)	YTD change (%)^
Hepatitis B total	215	222	252		689	620.6	+11
Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	8	10	3		21	30.2	-30
Hepatitis B (unspecified)	207	212	249		668	590.4	+13
Hepatitis C total	554	504	500		1,558	1,560.8	↔
Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	167	129	119		415	344.4	+20
Hepatitis C (unspecified)	387	375	381		1,143	1,216.4	-6
HIV (new diagnoses)	55	41	29		125	106.2	+18
Chlamydia	6,849	6,189	6,481		19,519	17,416	+12
Gonorrhoea	1,946	1,723	1,777		5,446	4,200.8	+30
Infectious syphilis	377	331	341		1,049	809.4	+30

^ The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- Gonorrhoea and chlamydia notifications increased by 30 and 12 per cent respectively compared with the previous 5-year average.
- Infectious syphilis notifications increased by 30 per cent compared with the previous 5-year average.
- Hepatitis B notifications increased by 11 per cent compared with the previous 5-year average.
- Hepatitis C notifications remained stable compared with the previous 5-year average.
- New HIV diagnoses increased by 18 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–30 September 2023

January to September 2023									
Characteristic		2023					5-year YTD average (2018–2022)	YTD change (%)^	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD			%
Hepatitis B classification									
Hepatitis B (newly acquired)*		8	10	3		21	3.0	30.2	-30
Hepatitis B (unspecified)		207	212	249		668	97.0	590.4	+13
Sex									
Male		98	113	131		342	49.6	323.8	+6
Female		115	104	118		337	48.9	295.8	+14
Unknown		2	5	3		10	1.5	1.0	↑
First Nations status									
First Nations		12	11	5		28	4.1	36.6	-23
Other Queenslanders		183	161	175		519	75.3	531.4	-2
Unknown		20	50	72		142	20.6	52.6	+170
Age group									
<15		1	9	4		14	2.0	8.8	↑
15–19		6	1	1		8	1.2	11.8	↓
20–24		6	4	12		22	3.2	35.2	-38
25–29		19	17	23		59	8.6	63.8	-8
30–34		32	32	34		98	14.2	88.8	+10
35–39		32	29	35		96	13.9	101.0	-5
40–44		29	25	30		84	12.2	66.6	+26
45–49		16	23	25		64	9.3	64.4	-1
50+		74	82	88		244	35.4	180.2	+35
HHS of residence#									
North	Torres and Cape	2	2	1		5	0.7	10.0	↓
	North West	2	1	0		3	0.4	3.6	↓
	Cairns and Hinterland	14	17	10		41	6.0	37.6	+9
	Townsville	7	11	14		32	4.6	17.8	+80
	Mackay	2	7	6		15	2.2	11.4	+32
Central	Central West	0	0	1		1	0.2	0.6	↑
	Central Queensland	2	10	9		21	3.1	14.6	+44
	Wide Bay	3	3	4		10	1.5	14.4	↓
	South West	0	2	1		3	0.4	1.6	↑
	Darling Downs	7	7	11		25	3.6	20.4	+23
South East	Sunshine Coast	10	5	11		26	3.8	24.6	+6
	Metro North	45	32	54		131	19.0	135.0	-3
	Metro South	79	85	78		242	35.1	222.4	+9
	West Moreton	10	15	14		39	5.7	34.4	+13
	Gold Coast	32	25	38		95	13.8	72.2	+32
Queensland total		215	222	252		689	100.0	620.6	+11

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

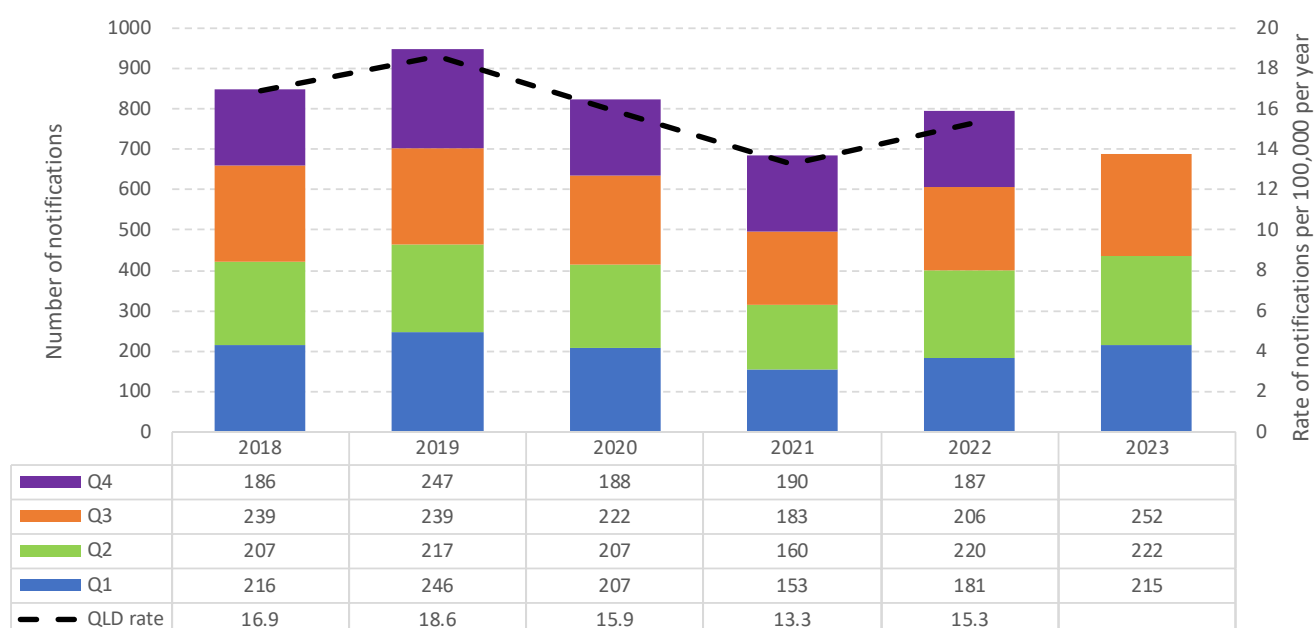
[#] HHS – Hospital and Health Service, referring to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

[^] Caution needs to be exercised in interpretation of % change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small. In such instance where the YTD total and/or the 5-year YTD 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 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- A total of 689 hepatitis B cases were notified, of which 3 per cent (n=21) 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 counts were similar for males and females. There was a 6 per cent increase in notifications in males in 2023 YTD compared with the previous 5-year YTD average, while a 14 per cent increase was observed in females.
- First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 4 per cent and other Queenslanders, 75 per cent of the hepatitis B notifications. First Nations status was not reported for 21 per cent of the notifications of hepatitis B in YTD 2023.
- 37 per cent of the hepatitis B notifications in 2023 YTD were aged between 25 and 39 years, with a further 35 per cent in people aged 50 years or older.
- The largest count of hepatitis B notifications was from Metro South HHS (n=242), followed by Metro North HHS (n=131), Gold Coast HHS (n=95), and Cairns and Hinterland HHS (n=41). When compared with the 5-year YTD average, notifications from Gold Coast HHS, Metro South HHS and Cairns and Hinterland HHS increased by 32 per cent, 9 per cent and 9 per cent respectively, whereas notification from Metro North HHS remained relatively stable.
- Of 689 hepatitis B cases, 14 were reported in correctional settings (4 classified as newly acquired hepatitis B and 10 classified as unspecified hepatitis B).

Figure 1: Total hepatitis B notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2018–30 September 2023, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- There was a total of 689 hepatitis B notifications, comparable with the previous 5-year YTD average (n=620.6; Figure 1).

2018 to 2022:

- There was some fluctuation in hepatitis B notification rates from 2018 to 2022, with an overall 9 per cent decrease during this period.

Hepatitis C notifications

Table 3: Demographic and geographic characteristics of hepatitis C notifications in Queensland, 1 January–30 September 2023

Characteristic		2023					5-year YTD average (2018–2022)	YTD change (%)^	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD			%
Hepatitis C classification									
Hepatitis C (newly acquired)*		167	129	119		415	26.6	344.4	+20
Hepatitis C (unspecified)		387	375	381		1,143	73.4	1,216.4	-6
Sex									
Male		426	385	373		1,184	76.0	1,140.4	+4
Female		121	116	122		359	23.0	419.0	-14
Unknown		7	3	5		15	1.0	1.4	↑
First Nations status									
First Nations		163	134	115		412	26.4	424.4	-3
Other Queenslanders		337	282	271		890	57.1	1,086.0	-18
Unknown		54	88	114		256	16.4	50.4	+408
Age group									
<15		2	2	3		7	0.5	7.0	↔
15–19		17	22	20		59	3.8	53.8	+10
20–24		77	58	68		203	13.0	199.4	+2
25–29		77	79	71		227	14.6	227.8	↔
30–34		81	74	75		230	14.8	207.2	+11
35–39		63	68	58		189	12.1	193.0	-2
40–44		57	50	39		146	9.4	162.8	-10
45–49		31	42	40		113	7.3	133.4	-15
50+		149	109	126		384	24.7	376.4	+2
HHS of residence#†									
North	Torres and Cape	2	0	0		2	0.1	5.2	↓
	North West	0	3	6		9	0.6	7.2	↑
	Cairns and Hinterland	19	26	16		61	3.9	78.8	-23
	Townsville	17	21	19		57	3.7	58.2	-2
	Mackay	10	10	9		29	1.9	36.8	-21
Central	Central West	3	3	0		6	0.4	1.6	↑
	Central Queensland	15	15	18		48	3.1	53.6	-10
	Wide Bay	19	18	19		56	3.6	70.2	-20
	South West	2	3	4		9	0.6	8.6	↑
	Darling Downs	19	16	17		52	3.3	70.0	-26
South East	Sunshine Coast	35	17	20		72	4.6	70.0	+3
	Metro North	55	47	54		156	10.0	186.4	-16
	Metro South	54	73	70		197	12.6	245.6	-20
	West Moreton	22	25	26		73	4.7	62.2	+17
	Gold Coast	42	33	42		117	7.5	133.8	-13
HHS sub-total		314	310	320		944	60.6	1,088.2	-13
Correctional settings sub-total		240	194	180		614 ^a	39.4	472.6	+30
Queensland total		554	504	500		1,558	100.0	1,560.8	↔

* 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 correctional settings.

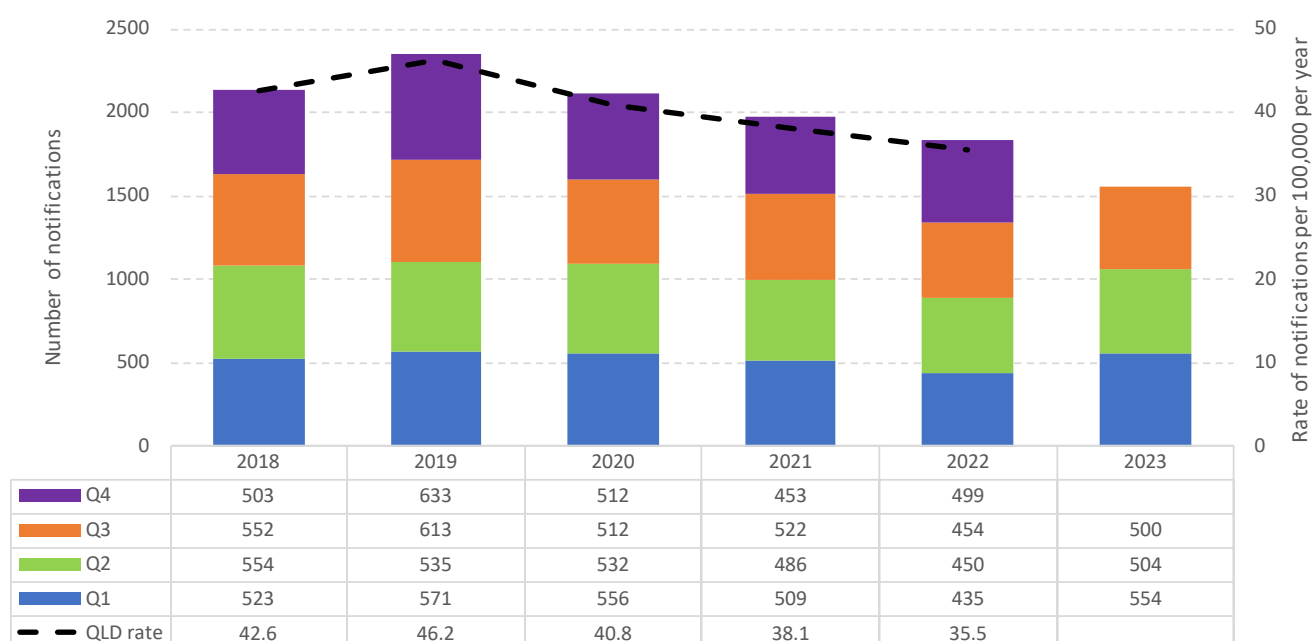
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^a Of 614 cases in correctional settings, 313 were newly acquired hepatitis C cases.

In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- A total of 1,558 hepatitis C cases were notified, of which 27 per cent (n=415) were classified as newly acquired (Table 3). Compared with the previous 5-year YTD average, there was a 20 per cent increase in newly acquired hepatitis C notifications and a 6 per cent decrease in unspecified hepatitis C notifications in 2023 YTD.
- There was a 4 per cent increase in notifications in males, but a 14 per cent decrease in females. There were more hepatitis C notifications in males than females (76% vs 23%).
- First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 26 per cent (n=412) of the total hepatitis C notifications, with 57 per cent (n=890) in other Queenslanders. First Nations status was not reported in 16 per cent of the total cases.
- 55 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 an increase in notifications in those aged 15-19 years, and 30 to 34 years compared with the 5-year YTD averages, while notifications decreased in those aged 40-49 years.
- Correctional settings accounted for 39 per cent of the total hepatitis C notifications (and 75% of newly acquired hepatitis C notifications). There was a 30 per cent increase in hepatitis C notifications in correctional settings in 2023 YTD compared with the previous 5-year YTD average.
- In non-correctional settings, there was a 13 per cent reduction in notifications when compared with the 5-year YTD average. The largest number of hepatitis C notifications in 2023 YTD was from Metro South HHS (n=197), followed by Metro North HHS (n=156) and Gold Coast HHS (n=117).

Figure 2: Total hepatitis C notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2018–30 September 2023, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year)



In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- Hepatitis C notifications remained stable when compared to the previous 5-year YTD average (n=1,560.8; Figure 2).

2018 to 2022:

- Overall, there was a 17 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–30 September 2023

Characteristic		2023					5-year YTD average (2018–2022)	YTD change (%) [^]
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD		
Sex								
	Male	49	36	20		105	84.0	94.6
	Female	6	5	9		20	16.0	11.6
First Nations status								
	First Nations	2	2	3		7	5.6	6.8
	Other Queenslanders	53	38	23		114	91.2	99.4
	Unknown	0	1	3		4	3.2	0.0
Age group								
	<15	0	0	0		0	0.0	0.2
	15–19	1	1	1		3	2.4	0.8
	20–24	5	5	4		14	11.2	10.8
	25–29	7	6	4		17	13.6	21.4
	30–34	10	9	5		24	19.2	18.0
	35–39	9	4	5		18	14.4	14.8
	40–44	5	3	5		13	10.4	11.4
	45–49	4	0	1		5	4.0	9.4
	50+	14	13	4		31	24.8	19.4
HHS of residence [#]								
North	Torres and Cape	0	0	0		0	0.0	1.0
	North West	0	0	0		0	0.0	1.0
	Cairns and Hinterland	2	5	3		10	8.0	10.6
	Townsville	3	1	1		5	4.0	3.0
	Mackay	2	1	1		4	3.2	2.4
Central	Central West	1	0	0		1	0.8	0.2
	Central Queensland	0	0	0		0	0.0	2.0
	Wide Bay	0	1	1		2	1.6	2.2
	South West	0	0	0		0	0.0	0.0
	Darling Downs	0	2	1		3	2.4	3.2
South East	Sunshine Coast	5	3	3		11	8.8	5.4
	Metro North	10	7	6		23	18.4	27.0
	Metro South	21	11	8		40	32.0	24.4
	West Moreton	2	0	2		4	3.2	7.4
	Gold Coast	9	10	3		22	17.6	16.4
Queensland total		55	41	29		125	100.0	106.2

* Identified as transgender at the time of HIV diagnosis.

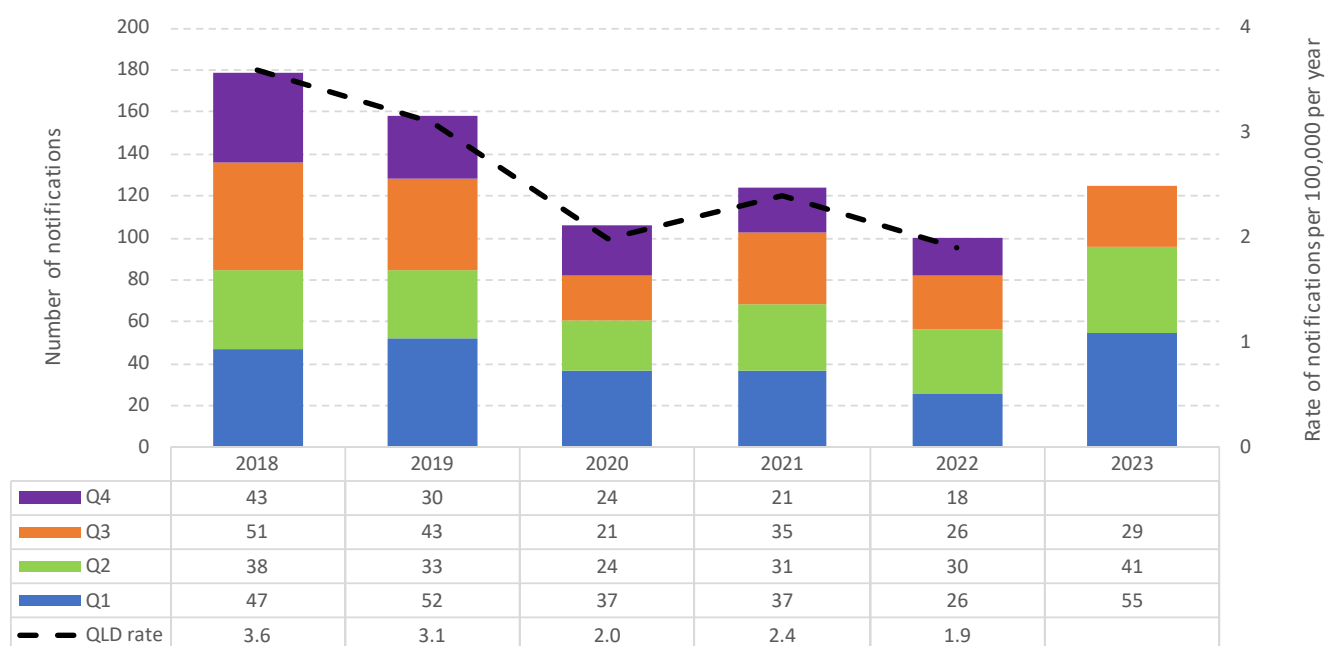
HHS – Hospital and Health Service, referring to [HHS maps](#) for their boundaries.

[^] 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 YTD total or 5-year YTD 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 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- Most new HIV cases (84%, 105/125) were reported in males (Table 4).
- Cases in First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 5.6 per cent of the new HIV notifications, with 3 per cent of the total cases still under investigation for their First Nations status.
- 58 per cent of the new cases were aged between 20 and 39 years, with 39 per cent aged 40 years or older.
- The highest numbers of new HIV cases were from Metro South HHS (n=40), Metro North HHS (n=23), and Gold Coast HHS (n=22). Compared with the previous 5-year average, there was a 64 per cent and 34 per cent increase in new HIV cases in Metro South HHS and Gold Coast HHS respectively, whereas a 15 per cent decrease in cases was observed in Metro North HHS.

Figure 3: New HIV notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2018–30 September 2023, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year)



In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- There were 125 new HIV notifications, an 18 per cent increase when compared with the previous 5-year YTD average (n=106.2; Figure 3).

2018 to 2022

- Overall, there was a 47 per cent decrease in new HIV notification rates from 2018 to 2022.
- New HIV notifications in First Nations Queenslanders fluctuated between 2018 and 2022, with annual notifications ranging from 5 to 13 (data not shown in Figure 3).
- A decrease in new HIV cases was observed in First Nations Queenslanders in 2022 (5 cases, 2.1 per 100,000 population per year), a reduction from 6 cases in 2021 (2.5 per 100,000 population per year), and also the lowest number in the last five years.

Chlamydia notifications

Table 5: Demographic and geographic characteristics of chlamydia notifications in Queensland, 1 January–30 September 2023

Characteristic		2023					5-year YTD average (2018–2022)	YTD change (%) [^]
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD		
Sex								
	Male	2,952	2,581	2,766		8,299	42.5	+11
	Female	3,881	3,594	3,699		11,174	57.3	+13
	Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)	3,738	3,477	3,594		10,809*	9,596.4	+13
	Unknown	16	14	16		46	0.2	+177
First Nations status								
	First Nations	1,155	1,005	961		3,121	16.0	+14
	Other Queenslanders	5,364	4,563	4,793		14,720	75.4	+14
	Unknown	330	621	727		1,678	8.6	-2
Age group								
	<15	36	23	20		79	0.4	+3
	15–19	1,328	1,287	1,334		3,949	20.2	+9
	20–24	2,390	2,127	2,229		6,746	34.6	+11
	25–29	1,287	1,181	1,335		3,803	19.5	+10
	30–34	776	678	658		2,112	10.8	+17
	35–39	406	363	403		1,172	6.0	+17
	40–44	247	228	208		683	3.5	+21
	45–49	152	124	100		376	1.9	+9
	50+	227	177	194		598	3.1	+27
HHS of residence [#]								
North	Torres and Cape	240	148	163		551	2.8	+24
	North West	81	114	93		288	1.5	+39
	Cairns and Hinterland	539	452	503		1,494	7.7	+12
	Townsville	462	477	520		1,459	7.5	+24
	Mackay	300	282	286		868	4.5	+32
Central	Central West	18	15	15		48	0.3	+46
	Central Queensland	285	269	277		831	4.3	+12
	Wide Bay	145	126	157		428	2.2	-5
	South West	30	31	35		96	0.5	+52
	Darling Downs	282	272	249		803	4.1	+13
South East	Sunshine Coast	397	424	382		1,203	6.2	+10
	Metro North	1,287	1,139	1,173		3,599	18.4	↔
	Metro South	1,435	1,303	1,397		4,135	21.2	+13
	West Moreton	416	388	380		1,184	6.1	+30
	Gold Coast	932	749	851		2,532	13.0	+9
Queensland total		6,849	6,189	6,481		19,519	100.0	+12

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

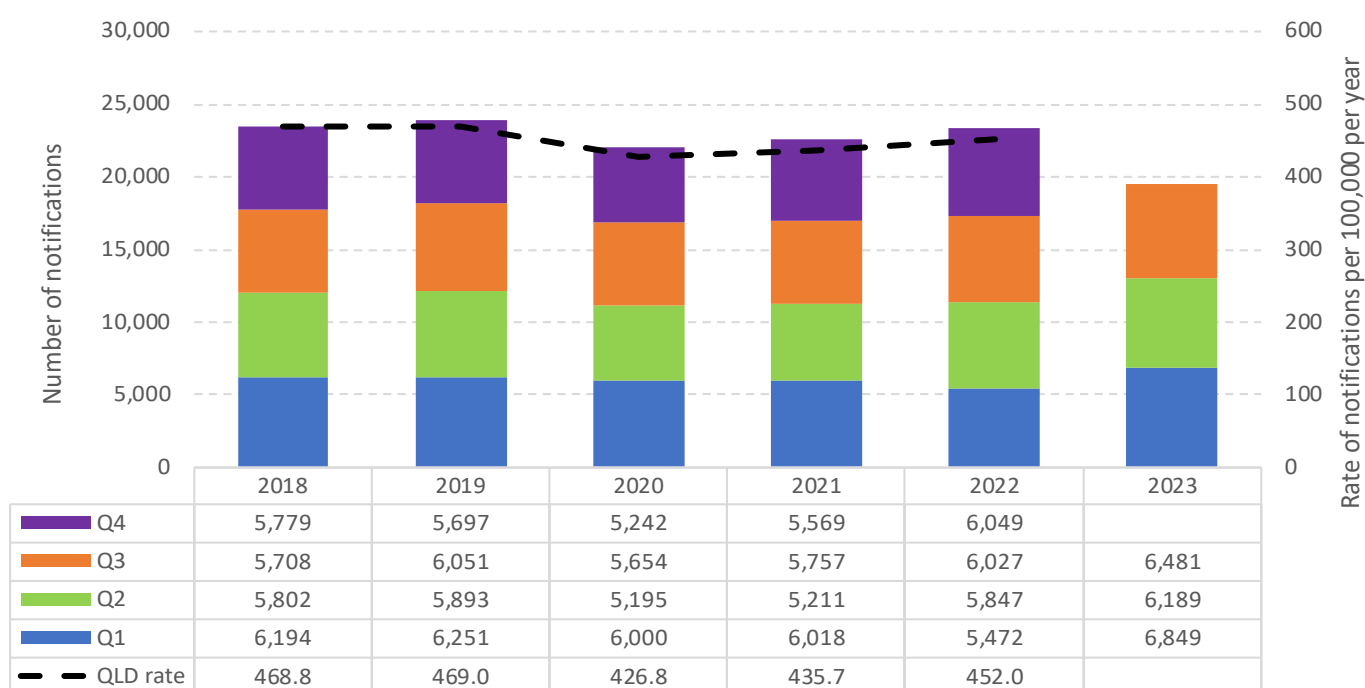
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* Of these 10,809 cases, 2,743 were from the north region, 1,329 from the central region, and 6,737 from the south east region.

In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- There were more chlamydia notifications in females than males (57% vs 43%; Table 5). Of 11,174 female chlamydia cases, 10,809 (97%) were in women of reproductive age.
- First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 16 per cent of the total chlamydia notifications, with 75 per cent in other Queenslanders. First Nations status was not reported in 9 per cent of the total cases.
- 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.
- The highest number of chlamydia notifications was from Metro South HHS (n=4,135), followed by Metro North HHS (n=3,599), Gold Coast HHS (n=2,532), and Cairns and Hinterland HHS (n=1,494). Notifications of chlamydia increased in almost all HHS areas except for Wide Bay HHS and Metro North HHS.

Figure 4: Chlamydia notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2018–30 September 2023, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year)



In 2023 YTD (1 January–September):

- There were 19,519 chlamydia notifications, which was 12 per cent higher than the previous 5-year YTD average (n=17,416.0; Figure 4).

2018 to 2022:

- Chlamydia notification rates were relatively stable during this period.

Gonorrhoea notifications

Table 6: Demographic and geographic characteristics of gonorrhoea notifications in Queensland, 1 January–30 September 2023

Characteristic		2023					5-year YTD average (2018–2022)	YTD change (%)^
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD		
Sex								
	Male	1,153	1,009	1,063		3,225	59.2	+23
	Female	790	708	704		2,202	40.4	+39
	Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)	739	667	668		2,074*	1,479.8	+40
	Other	1	0	0		1	0.0	↑
	Unknown	2	6	10		18	0.3	↑
First Nations status								
	First Nations	410	331	348		1,089	20.0	+20
	Other Queenslanders	1,449	1,271	1,281		4,001	73.5	+33
	Unknown	87	121	148		356	6.5	+21
Age group								
	<15	14	6	3		23	0.4	+3
	15–19	264	230	244		738	13.6	+54
	20–24	446	420	458		1,324	24.3	+40
	25–29	400	353	361		1,114	20.5	+23
	30–34	288	259	242		789	14.5	+16
	35–39	212	177	141		530	9.7	+19
	40–44	132	117	139		388	7.1	+43
	45–49	75	66	79		220	4.0	+17
	50+	115	95	110		320	5.9	+24
HHS of residence#								
North	Torres and Cape	74	40	40		154	2.8	+28
	North West	49	54	56		159	2.9	+73
	Cairns and Hinterland	157	129	111		397	7.3	+20
	Townsville	87	102	103		292	5.4	+54
	Mackay	56	46	56		158	2.9	+35
Central	Central West	1	3	2		6	0.1	↑
	Central Queensland	51	47	50		148	2.7	-7
	Wide Bay	41	49	51		141	2.6	+60
	South West	3	4	2		9	0.2	↑
	Darling Downs	52	47	41		140	2.6	+12
South East	Sunshine Coast	76	92	93		261	4.8	+38
	Metro North	454	406	394		1,254	23.0	+21
	Metro South	449	397	411		1,257	23.1	+30
	West Moreton	119	82	117		318	5.8	+64
	Gold Coast	277	225	250		752	13.8	+28
Queensland total		1,946	1,723	1,777		5,446	100.0	+30

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

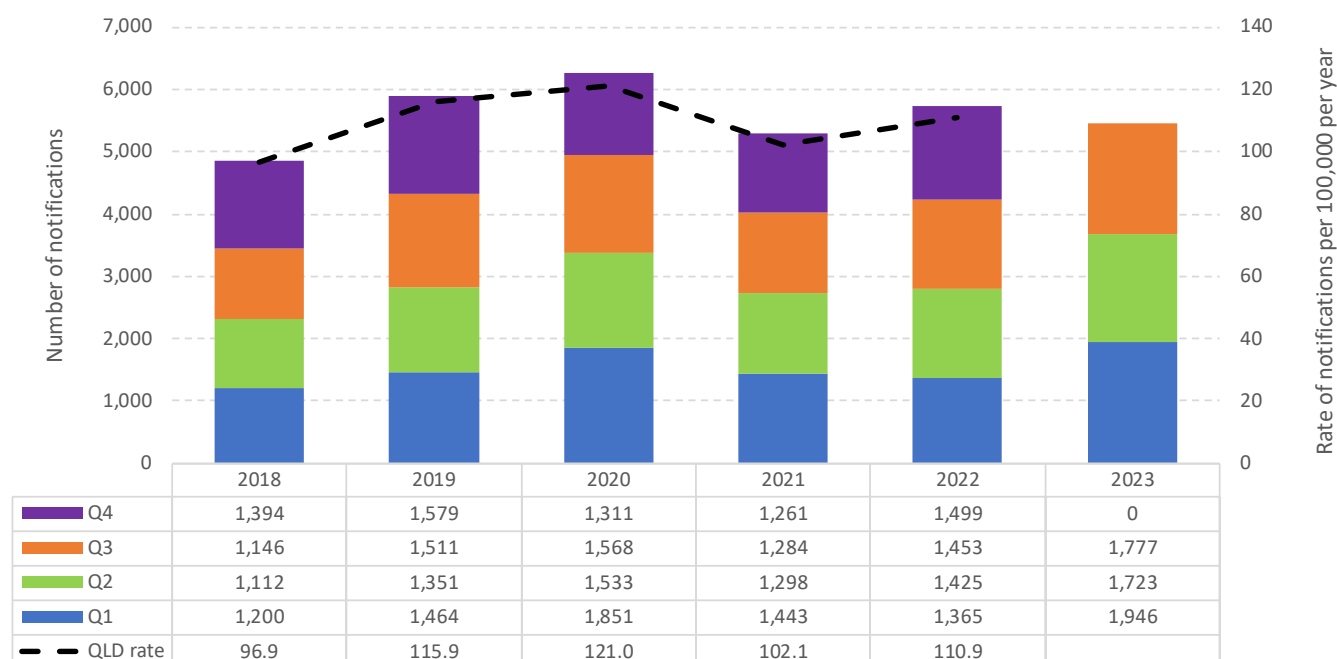
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* Of these 2,074 cases, 560 were from the north region, 203 from the central region, and 1,311 from the south east region.

In 2023 YTD (1 January–September):

- There were more gonorrhoea notifications in males than females (59% vs 40%; Table 6). When compared with the previous 5-year YTD average, notifications increased in males and females by 23 per cent and 39 per cent respectively. Of 2,202 female cases notified, 2,074 (94%) were in women of reproductive age.
- 20 per cent of gonorrhoea notifications were in First Nations Queenslanders, 74 per cent in other Queenslanders, with 6 per cent of the total cases still under investigation for their First Nations status.
- 45 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. Notifications increased in all age groups compared with their previous 5-year YTD averages.
- The largest number of gonorrhoea notifications was from Metro South HHS (n=1,257), followed by Metro North HHS (n=1,254), Gold Coast HHS (n=752), and Cairns and Hinterland HHS (n=397). Notifications increased in almost all HHSs (with the exception of Central Queensland HHS) compared with their previous 5-year YTD averages.

Figure 5: Gonorrhoea notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2018–30 September 2023, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- There were 5,446 gonorrhoea notifications, a 30 per cent increase when compared with the previous 5-year YTD average (n=4,200.8; Figure 5).

2018 to 2022:

- Gonorrhoea notification rates fluctuated during this period, ranging from 96.9 per 100,000 population per year in 2018 to 121.0 per 100,000 population per year in 2020.

Infectious syphilis notifications

Table 7: Demographic and geographic characteristics of infectious syphilis notifications in Queensland, 1 January–30 September 2023

Characteristic		2023					5-year YTD average (2018–2022)	YTD change (%)^	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD			%
Sex									
Male		290	244	252		786	74.9	629.0	+25
Female		87	82	85		254	24.2	179.8	+41
Women of reproductive age (15–44 years)		69	71	80		220*		163.0	+35
Pregnant females		7	16	9		32		25.0	+28
Unknown		0	5	4		9	0.9	0.0	↑
First Nations status									
First Nations		73	60	71		204	19.5	202.6	+1
Other Queenslanders		293	258	256		807	76.9	604.2	+34
Unknown		11	13	14		38	3.6	2.6	↑
Age group									
<15		0	1	0		1	0.1	1.8	↓
15–19		17	7	13		37	3.5	53.2	-30
20–24		39	31	49		119	11.3	117.6	+1
25–29		64	61	70		195	18.6	146.4	+33
30–34		86	71	70		227	21.6	141.6	+60
35–39		60	63	42		165	15.7	99.2	+66
40–44		21	28	37		86	8.2	75.6	+14
45–49		34	18	19		71	6.8	61.6	+15
50+		56	51	41		148	14.1	112.4	+32
HHS of residence#									
North	Torres and Cape	4	3	2		9	0.9	17.4	↓
	North West	7	3	3		13	1.2	27.0	-52
	Cairns and Hinterland	23	21	22		66	6.3	70.8	-7
	Townsville	13	12	29		54	5.2	40.6	+33
	Mackay	24	13	15		52	5.0	12.0	+333
Central	Central West	0	2	1		3	0.3	1.2	↑
	Central Queensland	25	25	20		70	6.7	35.4	+98
	Wide Bay	7	11	5		23	2.2	8.0	↑
	South West	1	0	1		2	0.2	0.8	↑
	Darling Downs	8	10	10		28	2.7	22.2	+26
South East	Sunshine Coast	13	14	14		41	3.9	22.6	+81
	Metro North	104	94	90		288	27.5	248.0	+16
	Metro South	81	71	58		210	20.0	175.0	+20
	West Moreton	24	16	19		59	5.6	32.0	+84
	Gold Coast	43	36	52		131	12.5	96.4	+36
Queensland total		377	331	341		1,049	100.0	809.4	+30

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

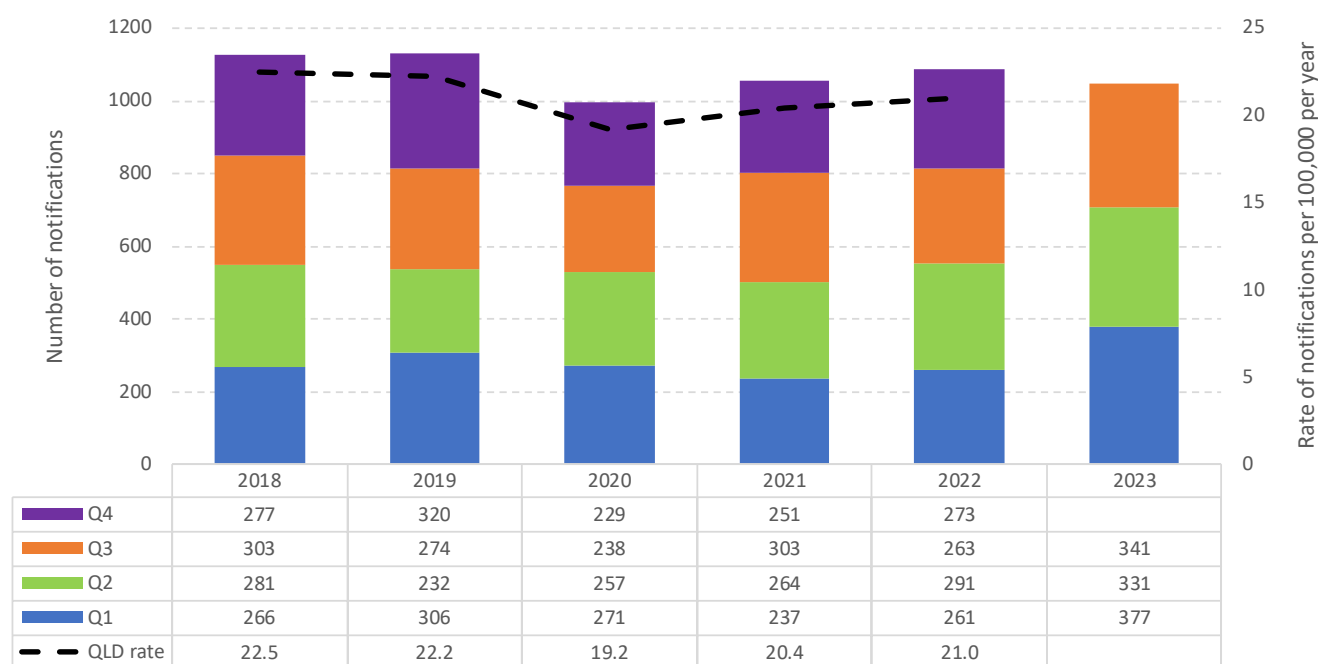
[^] Caution needs to be exercised in interpretation of % change over time when the count of notifications in sub-groups is small. In such instance where the YTD total or 5-year YTD average is ≤10, symbols of ↑ and ↓ are used to indicate the direction of changes instead of providing % changes. The symbol ↔ denotes largely no change in numbers.

* Of these 220 cases, 74 were from the north region, 46 from the central region, and 100 from the south east region.

In 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September):

- There were more notifications of infectious syphilis in males than females (75% vs 24%) (Table 7).
- There was a 35% increase in infectious syphilis notifications in women of reproductive age compared with the previous 5-year YTD average. Of 254 female cases, 220 (87%) were in women of reproductive age, 32 of which were pregnant.
- There were 4 notifications in pregnant women associated with the ongoing infectious syphilis outbreak, and 28 notifications in pregnant women were from the non-outbreak region (data not shown in Table 7).
- Notifications in First Nations Queenslanders accounted for 20 per cent of the total infectious syphilis notifications, with 77 per cent in other Queenslanders. Notifications in First Nations people remained stable, however there was a 34 per cent increase among other Queenslanders.
- Infectious syphilis cases were largely evenly distributed in the adult age groups (20 years or older).
- The highest number of infectious syphilis notifications was from Metro North HHS (n=288), followed by Metro South HHS (n=210), Gold Coast HHS (n=131), and Central Queensland HHS (n=70). Compared with their previous 5-year YTD averages, in 2023 YTD there was an increase in notifications of infectious syphilis in most HHS areas, with the exception of Torres and Cape HHS, North West HHS, and Cairns and Hinterland HHS where a decrease in notifications was observed.

Figure 6: Infectious syphilis notification counts in Queensland, by quarter, 1 January 2018–30 September 2023, and annual notification rates (per 100,000 population per year).



In 2023 YTD (1 January–September):

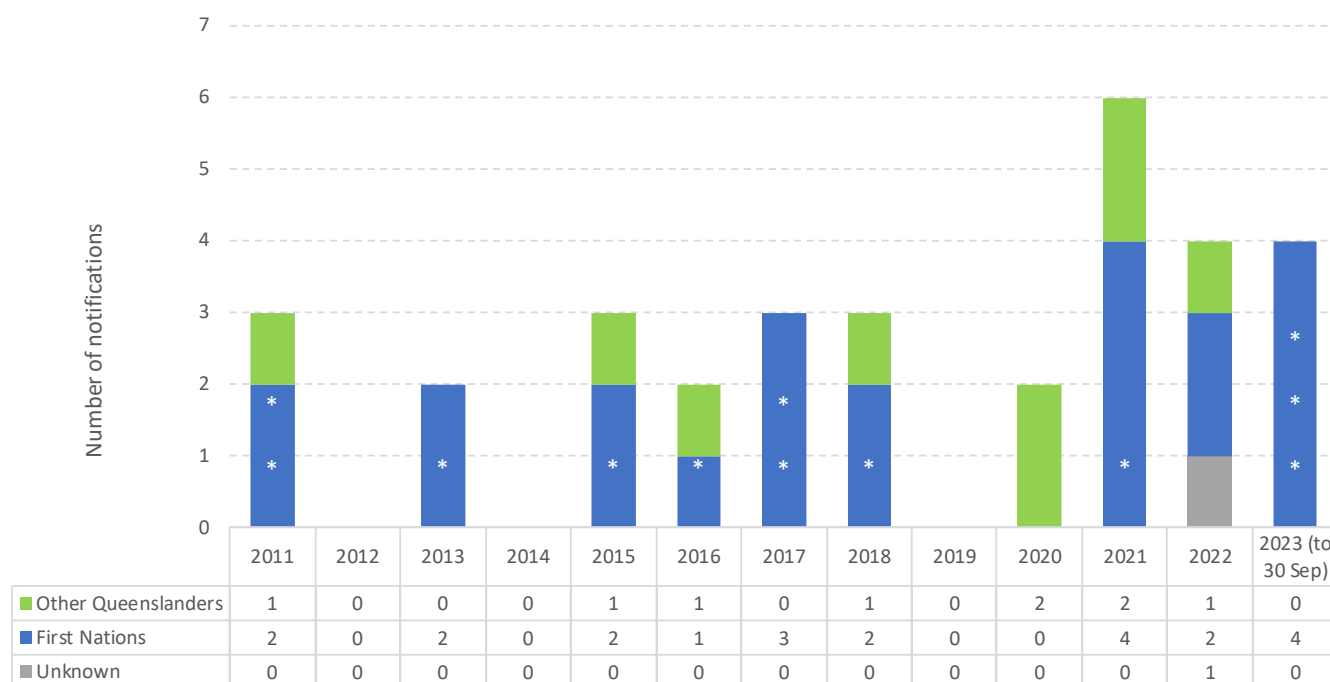
- There were 1,049 infectious syphilis notifications, a 30 per cent increase when compared with the 5-year YTD average (n=809.4; Figure 6).

2018 to 2022:

- Infectious syphilis notification rates remained stable during this period.

Congenital syphilis notifications

Figure 7: Congenital syphilis notification counts in Queensland, by First Nations status, 1 January 2011–30 September 2023



* Denotes deaths in congenital syphilis cases.

- There were four congenital syphilis cases notified in 2023 YTD (1 January–30 September; Figure 7).
- Between 1 January 2011 and 30 September 2023, there were 32 congenital syphilis notifications (22 in First Nations Queenslanders and 9 in other Queenslanders; one with First Nations status under investigation).
- Twelve congenital syphilis cases were associated with intrauterine foetal deaths or died after birth (all in First Nations Queenslanders).

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