

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SITUATION

In this issue of the Communicable Diseases Surveillance report, all notifications of infectious diseases received during the year 2014 have been included. However, notifications of cases seeking medical treatment in Singapore for infectious diseases have been excluded from selected morbidity statistics which reflect the status in Singapore citizens, Singapore permanent residents and foreigners residing in Singapore (i.e. non-citizens who have not been granted permanent residence status).

AIR-/DROPLET-BORNE DISEASES

In 2014, hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) continued to contribute significantly to the burden of air-/droplet-borne diseases. There were 22,171 notified cases (405.3 per 100,000 population) of HFMD, a decrease of 30.2% from 31,741 cases in 2013.

A total of 142 measles cases were notified in 2014 compared to 46 cases in 2013.

A total of 17 rubella cases were notified compared with 48 cases in 2013. There was no reported termination of pregnancy resulting from acquired maternal rubella infection.

There were 478 notified cases of mumps (8.7 per 100,000 population) in 2014 compared to 495 cases (9.3 per 100,000 population) in 2013.

VECTOR-BORNE/ZOONOTIC DISEASES

In 2014, dengue fever (DF)/dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) contributed significantly to the burden of vector borne diseases. A total of 18,326 dengue fever (DF)/dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases were notified compared with 22,170 cases in Year 2013. The majority of the cases were infected locally. DEN-1 was the predominant circulating strain in 2014.

A total of 182 chikungunya fever cases were notified in 2014 compared with 1,059 cases in Year 2013.

In addition, there were 62 notified cases of malaria in 2014, all were acquired overseas. All vector-borne diseases were thoroughly investigated on notification, followed by a multi-agency response. Intensive vector control remained the main strategy for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases.

FOOD-/WATER-BORNE DISEASES

There were 73 cases of Hepatitis A notified in 2014, a decrease of 17.0% compared to 88 cases in 2013. The incidence of enteric fevers (typhoid and paratyphoid fevers) showed a 28.0% decrease from 107 cases in 2013 to 77 cases in 2014. Campylobacteriosis and non-typhoidal salmonellosis contributed significantly to foodborne disease morbidity. There were 435 cases of campylobacteriosis and 1,920 cases of salmonellosis reported in 2014. Although most cases were sporadic in nature, strict measures were implemented to ensure that a high standard of food and environmental hygiene was maintained. These measures were carried out by the Ministry of Health (MOH), in close collaboration with the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA).

ENVIRONMENT-RELATED DISEASES

In 2014, 37 cases of legionellosis and 34 cases of melioidosis were notified. Two patients died of melioidosis-related conditions giving an overall case fatality rate of 6.3%, much lower than that reported in 2013 (23.5%).

HIV/AIDS, STIs, TUBERCULOSIS & LEPROSY

The number of HIV/AIDS infection notifications in Year 2014 was 456 compared with 454 in 2013.

The three main sexually transmitted infections (STIs) notified in Singapore in 2014 were chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis. The overall incidence rate for STIs was 186 cases per 100,000 population. Chlamydia was the most common STI with an incidence rate of 44.8 cases per 100,000 population.

In 2014, a total of 2,018 new cases of TB were reported (1,454 residents and 564 long staying foreigners), a decrease of 0.5% from 2013.

In 2014, a total of 6 cases of leprosy were notified (1 resident and 5 non-residents). The resident incidence rate was 0.03 per 100,000 population.

The annual statistics on infectious disease notifications and deaths are presented in the following table. Detailed updates on individual diseases are provided in the respective chapters of the report.

Infectious disease notifications and deaths in 2014

Diseases	No. of notified cases	No. of Deaths+	Morbidity rate*	Mortality rate*
Air-/Droplet-Borne Diseases				
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	22,171	0	405.3	0.0
Measles	142	0	2.6	0.0
Meningococcal Infection	9	0	0.2	0.0
Mumps	478	0	8.7	0.0
Rubella	17	0	0.3	0.0
Vector-Borne/Zoonotic Diseases				
Chikungunya Fever	182	0	3.3	0.0
Dengue Fever/Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever	18,326	6	335.2	0.1
Malaria	62	1	1.1	0.0
Food-/Water-Borne Diseases				
Campylobacteriosis	435	0	8.0	0.0
Cholera	2	0	0.0	0.0
Hepatitis A	73	0	1.3	0.0
Hepatitis E	68	0	1.2	0.0
Paratyphoid	19	0	0.3	0.0
Salmonellosis	1,920	0	35.1	0.0
Typhoid	58	0	1.1	0.0
Blood-Borne Diseases				
Hepatitis B	48	0	0.9	0.0
Hepatitis C	5	0	0.1	0.0
Environmental-Related Diseases				
Legionellosis	37	0	0.7	0.0
Melioidosis	34	1	0.6	0.0
HIV/AIDS, STIs, TB & Leprosy				
HIV/AIDS**	456	87	11.9	2.2
STIs	10,183	0	186.2	0.0
Tuberculosis***	2,018	55	36.9	1.4
Leprosy	6	0	0.0	0.0

+Source: Registry of Births & Deaths

*Rates per 100,000 population, based on estimated mid-year total population, 2014
(Source: Singapore Department of Statistics)

** Refers to Singaporeans/PR cases

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