

## Northern Territory AIDS/STD Program Surveillance Update

Territory Health Services, Vol. 2, No.1 Jan-Mar 2001 & Apr-Jun 2001

This is the third report from the Northern Territory AIDS/STD Program, it covers the first and second quarters of the year 2001. Statistics for all sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses (BBVs) in the Northern Territory (NT) from January to June 2001 are presented. The data cited in this report are obtained from three sources including, the Northern Territory Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NTNDSS), the Northern Territory AIDS/STD program database and the Northern Territory Hepatitis C enhanced surveillance database. Rates of disease are calculated using Northern Territory population data obtained from the Health Gains Unit, THS.

### 1. Aims of the report

The report provides up to date information that can be used by service providers to assess the current level of infection within their district. Notifications for the first two quarters of 2001 have been included for each district and for the NT. This information will assist service providers in both public and primary health care areas to identify priority areas and to plan, implement and monitor targeted interventions. Regular reports seek to raise the awareness of all service providers about the high rates of preventable and generally easy to treat infections.

### 2. Format

The report is divided into a presentation of STIs including gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis, donovanosis and trichomoniasis. BBV's including Hepatitis C and HIV are presented separately.

### 3. Surveillance issues for Sexually Transmissible Infections

#### 3.1 STIs in children

Two notifications of sexually transmitted infections in children under 10 years of age were received to June of this year. The quality assurance safeguards implemented late last year have proven effective in reducing the data entry errors in relation to STIs in children.

### 4. Highlights

#### 4.1 Sentinel Surveillance Sites

Four sentinel surveillance sites will be established from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2001 to inform Territory Health Services of the epidemiology of Antibiotic Resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (ARNG). Two of the sites are in Darwin, with one in Katherine and Alice Springs. A further site in the Darwin Urban region is planned and is currently being negotiated. The sites will provide data to the AIDS/STD Program for an initial period of 12 months and will be used to develop empirical testing and treatment protocols specific to the Northern Territory.

#### 4.2 Hepatitis C

The enhanced hepatitis C surveillance database commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2000 and was to continue until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2001 when it would be evaluated. As evaluation has not yet commenced, the surveillance system will continue in its present form.

Due to the nature of the enhanced Hep C surveillance system, there is a delay of weeks to months before new notifications become classified as incident or prevalent cases. The data available for the first two quarters of 2001 is incomplete because of this, and also because of the absence of a Project Officer for several months.

#### *4.2.1 Summary of HCV notifications to date*

105 new notifications in the 6 months to June this year – 53 questionnaires returned (51%).

69 were males, 35 females and one gender not specified (fig. 3.1).

Indigenous status is not reported in 30% of notifications due to the absence of that information on pathology reports and outstanding questionnaires (fig 3.2).

Incident cases – there are currently 2 confirmed incident cases of Hepatitis C, both from the second quarter and both with documented seroconversion (ie evidence of a previous negative result in the last 12 months).

#### *4.3 Antibiotic Resistant N.gonorrhoeae*

Nine cases of antibiotic resistant *N.gonorrhoeae* including penicillinase-producing *N.gonorrhoeae* (PPNG) were diagnosed, all in Darwin. Seven were males and two females, and all cases were non-Aboriginal. Seven of the nine cases were associated with overseas travel, one case was acquired interstate and one was unspecified.

#### *4.4 Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)*

There were two positive HIV notifications in residents during the period from January to June 2001. Additionally, two overseas visitors from high prevalence countries were diagnosed in the NT, however as non-residents they are excluded from Territory figures.

#### *4.5 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)*

There were two cases of AIDS notified during the first six months of 2001 – both diagnosed in Darwin. The two cases of AIDS defining illnesses were in males who reported male to male sexual contacts their exposure factor for HIV. One had been HIV positive since 1986 and the other since 1985.

#### *4.6 Trichomoniasis*

District notification rates for trichomoniasis continued to vary from the district distribution of other STIs, which reflects different testing patterns. For example, Alice Springs had the highest gonorrhoea and chlamydia rates, relative to the other districts, but the incidence of trichomoniasis was much lower (fig 2.1).

## **5. Limitations to the report**

This update does not provide data on:

- complications of sexually transmitted infections such as pelvic inflammatory disease, epididymo-orchitis or infertility. These are not notifiable.
- cases diagnosed as a proportion of the number of tests performed. It cannot be determined whether the epidemiology reported here reflects testing patterns or patterns of infection.

## **6. Consumer response**

The NT AIDS/STD Program is very interested in readers' responses to this report. Please forward any comments or suggestions to:

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**All data in this report are provisional and subject to future revision.**

**NT AIDS/STD Program Surveillance Update 2001, Territory Health Services: 2(1)**

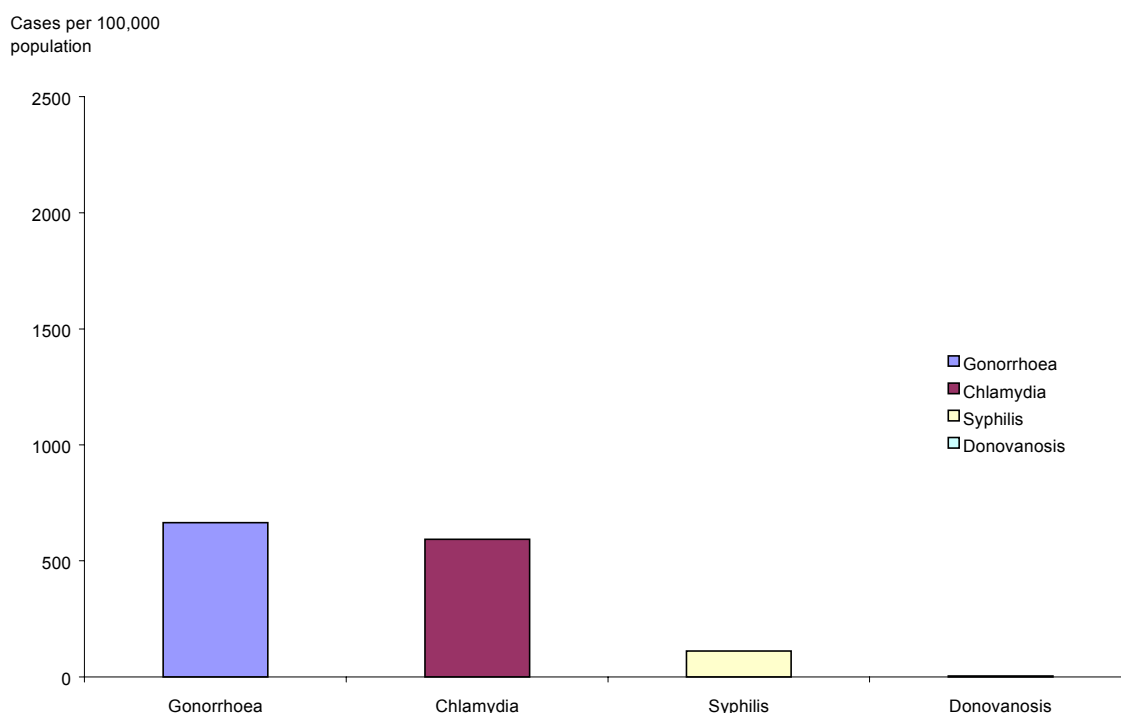
# 1. Sexually transmissible infections (STIs)

**Table 1.1 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory, January-March 2001 and April-June 2001**

NT Total	Gonorrhoea		Chlamydia		Syphilis		Donovanosis	
	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<i>Quarter</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	289	581.1	266	534.8	43	86.5	1	2.0
Apr-Jun 2001	371	745.9	324	651.4	68	136.7	3	6.0
<b>Jan - June 2001</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>663.5</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>593.1</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.0</b>

1 Cases per 100,000 population

**Figure 1.1 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory, January-June 2001**

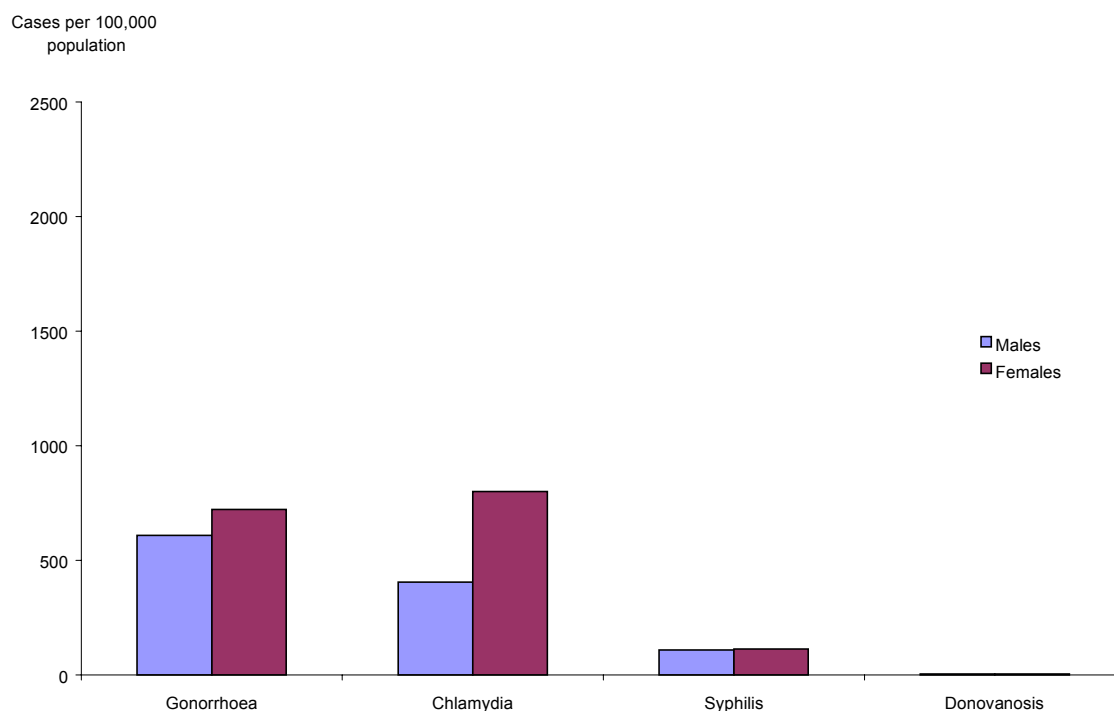


**Table 1.2 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by gender, January-March 2001 and April-June 2001**

Gender	Gonorrhoea		Chlamydia		Syphilis		Donovanosis	
	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Males</b>								
Jan-Mar 2001	139	531.6	101	386.3	24	91.8	1	3.8
Apr-Jun 2001	179	684.6	111	424.5	33	126.2	1	3.8
<b>Females</b>								
Jan-Mar 2001	150	635.9	164	695.2	19	80.5	0	0.0
Apr-Jun 2001	191	809.7	213	902.9	34	144.1	2	8.5
<b>Unknown</b>								
Jan-Mar 2001	0		1		0		0	
Apr-Jun 2001	1		0		1		0	

<sup>1</sup> Cases per 100,000 population

**Figure 1.2 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by gender, January-June 2001**

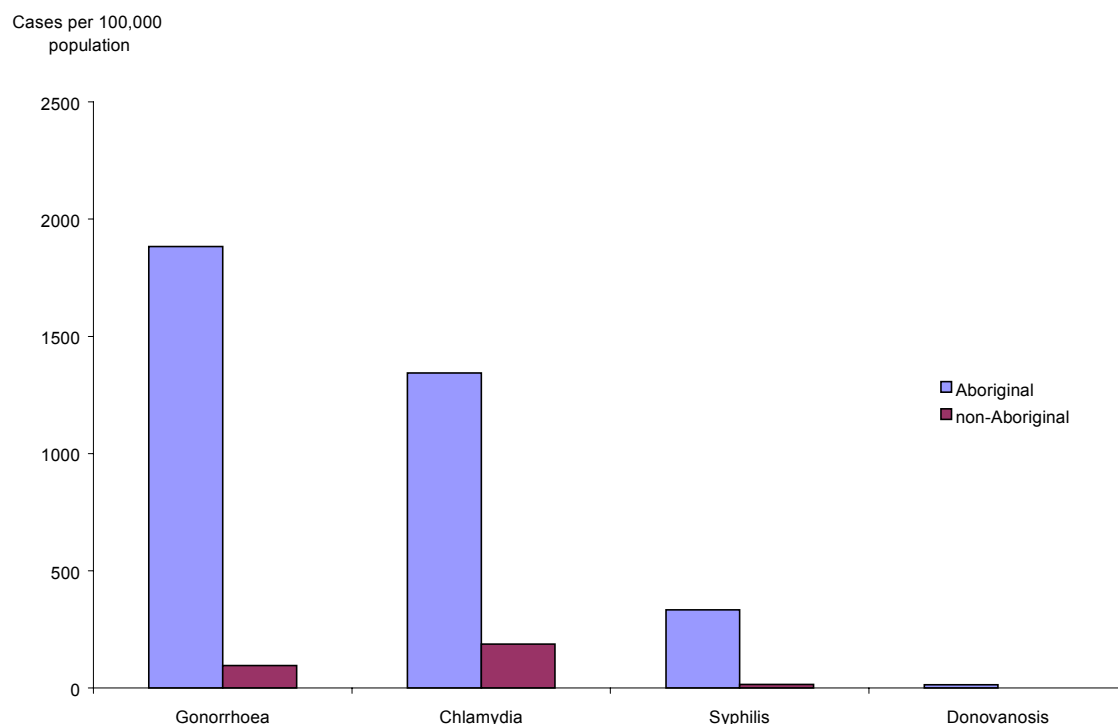


**Table 1.3 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by Indigenous status, January-March 2001 and April-June 2001**

Indigenous Status	Gonorrhoea		Chlamydia		Syphilis		Donovanosis	
	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<i>Aboriginal</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	225	1596.5	164	1163.7	35	248.4	1	7.1
Apr-Jun 2001	306	2171.3	215	1525.6	59	418.6	3	21.3
<i>non-Aboriginal</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	36	101.0	70	196.4	7	19.6	0	0.0
Apr-Jun 2001	32	89.8	64	179.6	4	11.2	0	0.0
<i>Unknown I/S</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	28		32		1		0	
Apr-Jun 2001	33		45		5		0	

<sup>1</sup> Cases per 100,000 population

**Figure 1.3 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by Indigenous status, January-June 2001**

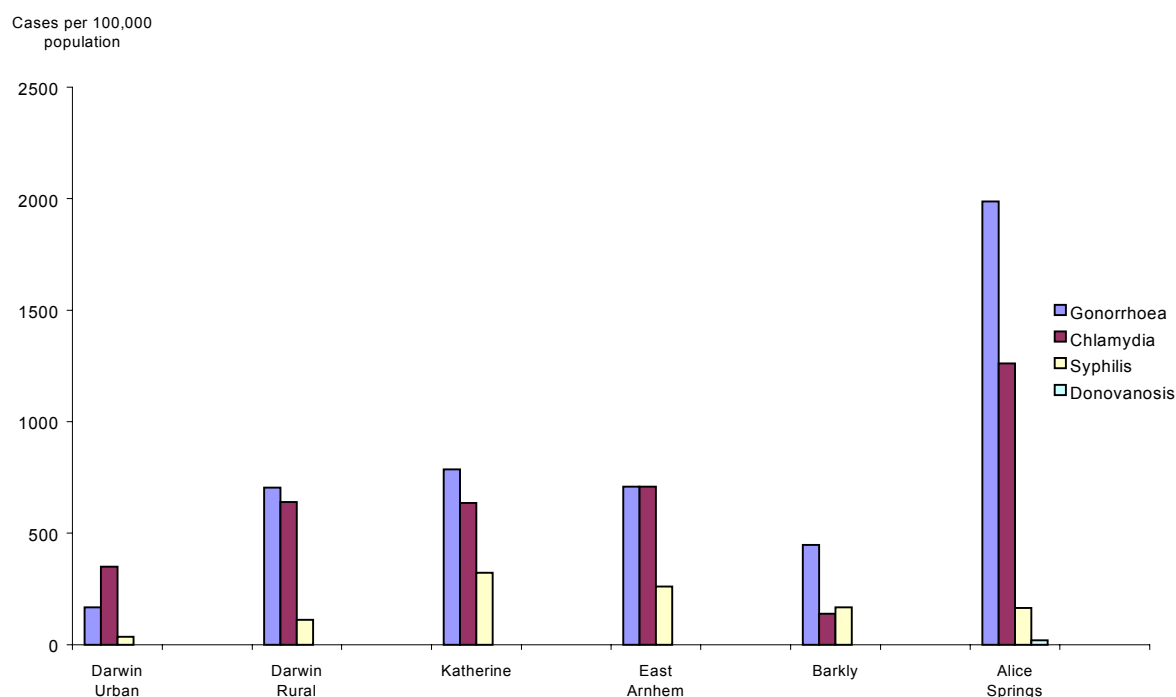


**Table 1.4 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by district, January-March 2001 and April-June 2001**

District	Gonorrhoea		Chlamydia		Syphilis		Donovanosis	
	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<i>Darwin Urban</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	53	197.7	102	380.5	14	52.2	0	0
Apr-Jun 2001	37	138	86	320.8	5	18.7	0	0
<i>Darwin Rural</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	9	288.2	8	256.2	1	32.0	0	0.0
Apr-Jun 2001	35	1120.7	32	1024.7	6	192.1	0	0.0
<i>Katherine</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	32	688.5	23	494.8	11	236.7	0	0.0
Apr-Jun 2001	40	860.6	36	774.5	19	408.8	0	0.0
<i>East Arnhem</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	32	925.1	31	896.2	14	404.7	0	0.0
Apr-Jun 2001	16	462.6	18	520.4	4	115.6	0	0.0
<i>Barkly</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	5	279.8	2	111.9	3	167.9	0	0.0
Apr-Jun 2001	11	615.6	3	167.9	3	167.9	0	0.0
<i>Alice Springs</i>								
Jan-Mar 2001	158	1593.7	100	1008.7	0	0.0	1	10.1
Apr-Jun 2001	232	2340.1	149	1502.9	31	312.7	3	30.3

<sup>1</sup> Cases per 100,000 population

**Figure 1.4 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by district, January-June 2001**

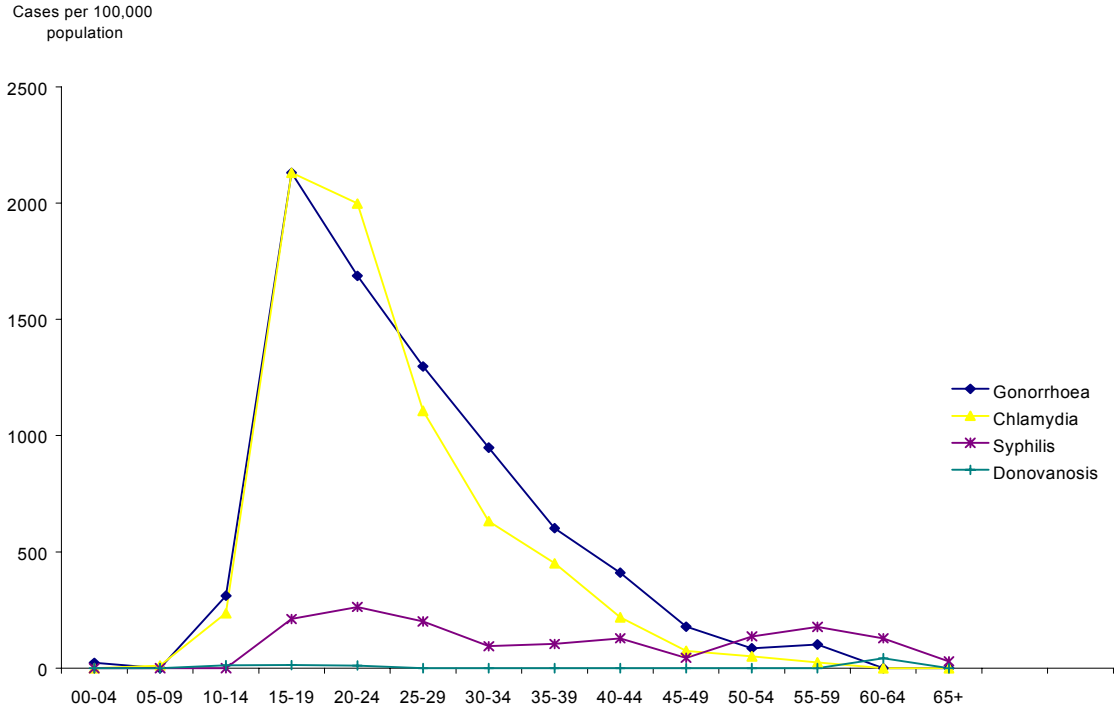


**Table 1.5 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by five-year age group, January-June 2001**

Age group	Gonorrhoea		Chlamydia		Syphilis		Donovanosis	
	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<i>Jan-June 2001</i>								
00-04	1	11.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
05-09	0	0.0	1	11.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
10-14	25	311.9	19	237.0	0	0.0	1	12.5
15-19	161	2130.5	161	2130.5	16	211.7	1	13.2
20-24	141	1686.8	167	1997.8	22	263.2	1	11.9
25-29	129	1297.8	110	1106.6	20	201.2	0	0.0
30-34	90	948.7	60	632.4	9	94.9	0	0.0
35-39	52	601.9	39	451.4	9	104.2	0	0.0
40-44	32	423.9	17	218.4	10	128.5	0	0.0
45-49	12	178.9	5	74.6	3	44.7	0	0.0
50-54	5	85.5	3	51.3	8	136.7	0	0.0
55-59	4	101.5	1	25.4	7	177.6	0	0.0
60-64	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	128.6	1	42.9
65+	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	58.4	0	0.0
Unknown	8		7		2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>7778.9</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>6936.9</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1549.7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>80.5</b>

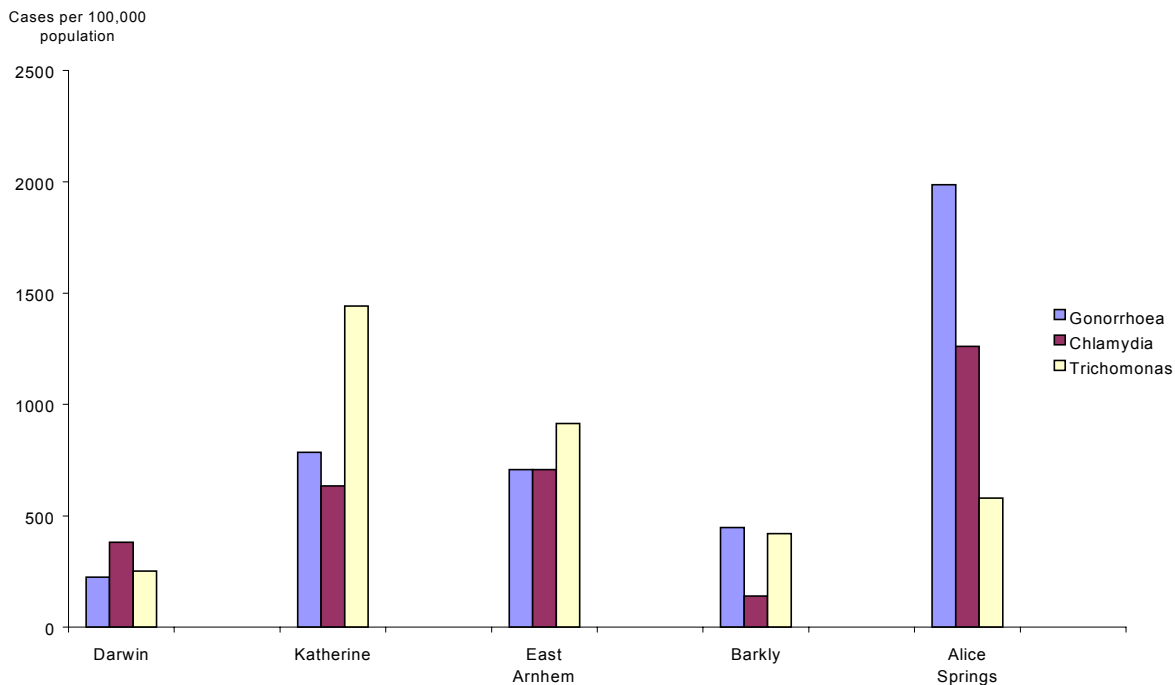
<sup>1</sup> Cases per 100,000 population

**Figure 1.5 Gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and donovanosis rates in the Northern Territory by five-year age group, January-June 2001**

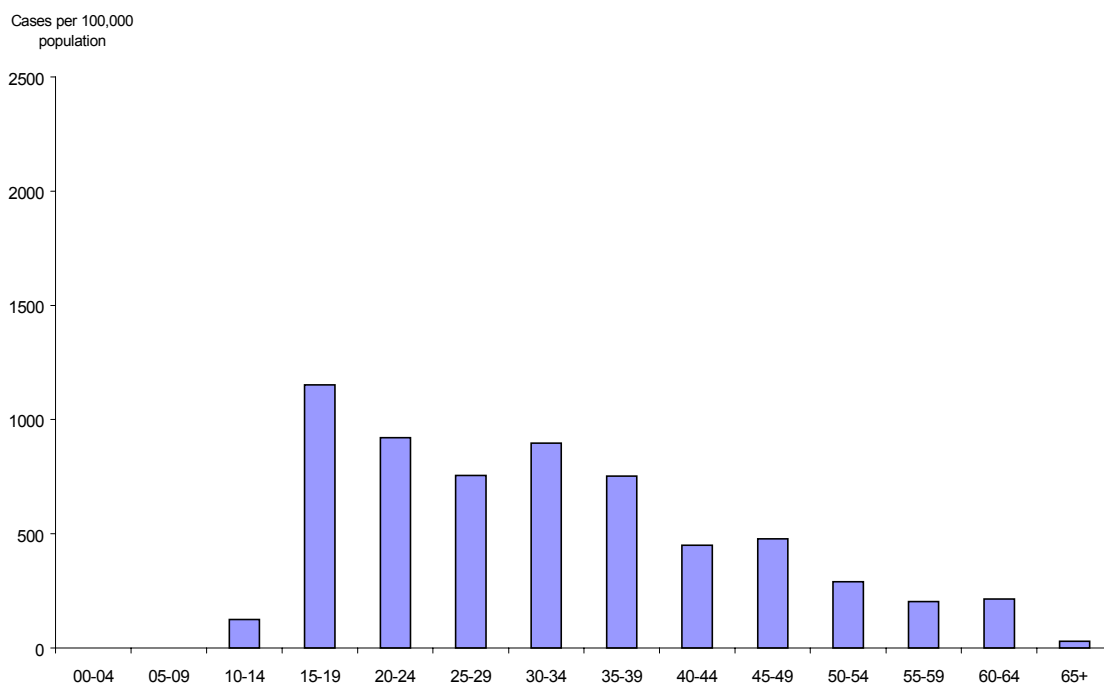


## 2. Trichomoniasis

**Figure 2.1 Gonorrhoea, Chlamydia and Trichomoniasis rates in the Northern Territory by district, January-June 2001**



**Figure 2.2 Trichomoniasis rates in the Northern Territory by five-year age group, January-June 2001**



### 3. Hepatitis C

Figure 3.1 Percentage of hepatitis C cases in the Northern Territory by gender, January-June 2001

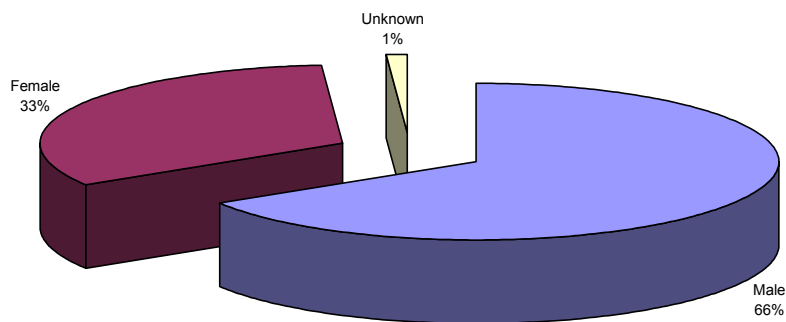
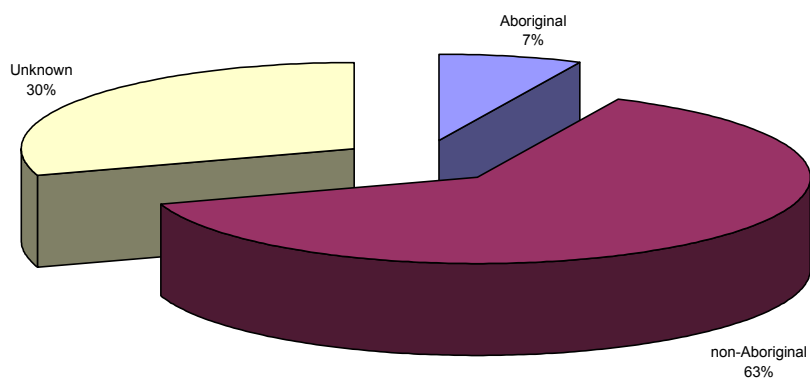


Figure 3.2 Percentage of hepatitis C cases in the Northern Territory by Indigenous status, January-June 2001

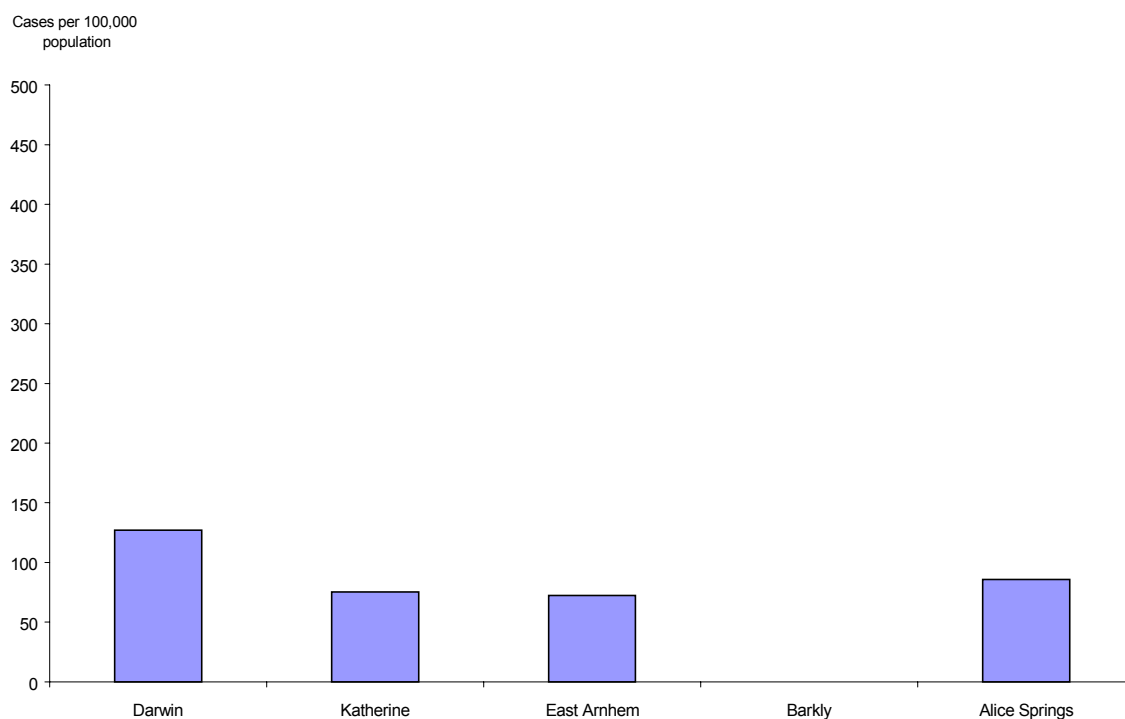


**Table 3.1 Hepatitis C rates in the Northern Territory by district, January-March 2001 and April-June 2001**

Gender	Darwin		Katherine		East Arnhem		Barkly		Alice Springs	
	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<i>Jan-Mar 2001</i>										
Male	33	209.0	2	79.0	2	110.4	0	0.0	5	98.9
Female	13	92.0	0	0.0	1	60.6	0	0.0	5	103.0
Unknown	0		0		1		0		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>153.7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.9</b>
<i>Apr-Jun 2001</i>										
Male	19	120.3	4	157.9	1	55.2	0	0.0	3	59.3
Female	11	77.8	1	47.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	82.3
Unknown	0		0		0		0		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>107.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>70.6</b>
<b>Jan - June 2001</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>127.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Cases per 100,000 population

**Figure 3.3 Hepatitis C rates in the Northern Territory by district, January-June 2001**

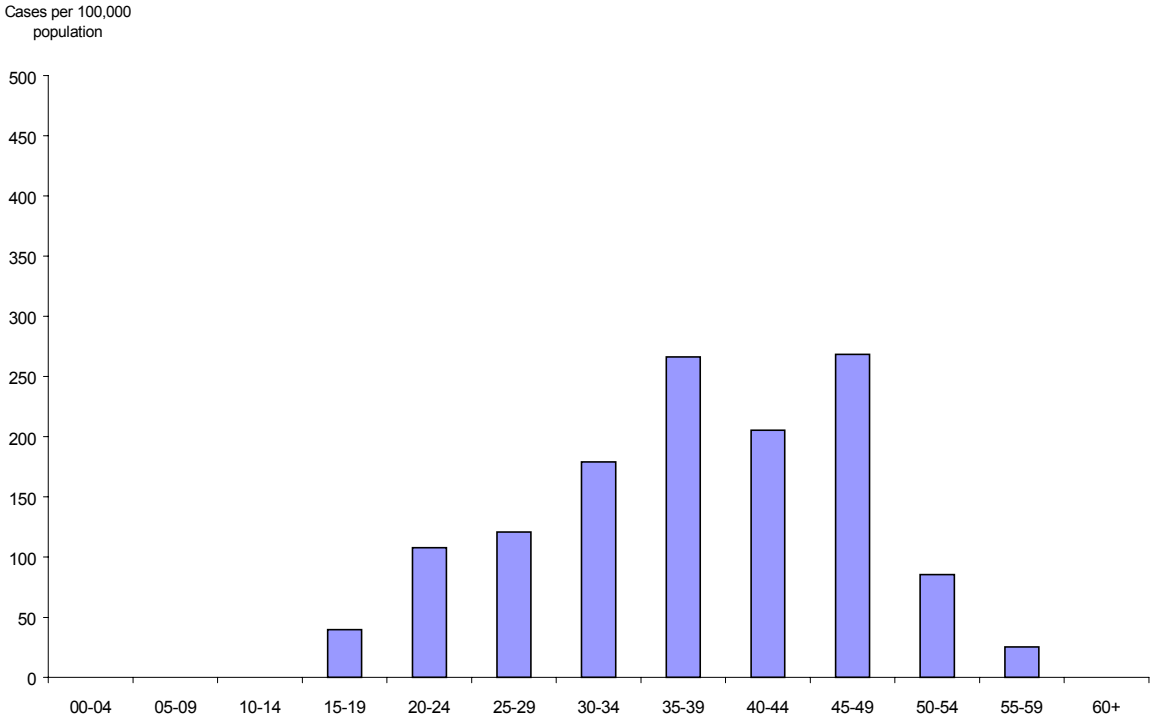


**Table 3.2 Hepatitis C rates in the Northern Territory by five-year age group, January-June 2001**

Hepatitis C		
Age Group	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<i>Jan-June 2001</i>		
00-04	0	0.0
05-09	0	0.0
10-14	0	0.0
15-19	3	39.7
20-24	9	107.7
25-29	12	120.7
30-34	17	179.2
35-39	23	266.2
40-44	16	205.5
45-49	18	268.5
50-54	5	85.5
55-59	1	25.4
60+	0	0.0
Unknown	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1298.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Cases per 100,000 population

**Figure 3.4 Hepatitis C rates in the Northern Territory by five-year age group, January-June 2001**



## 4. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

**Table 4.1 Number of cases of HIV during the first two quarters of 2001 by gender, Indigenous status, age group and mode of transmission**

Quarter	Gender	Indigenous status	Age group	Mode of transmission
<i>Jan-Mar 2001</i>	Male	Aboriginal	20-24	Homosexual transmission
<i>Apr-Jun 2001</i>	Male	non-Aboriginal	40-44	Homosexual transmission
<b>Jan-Jun 2001 Total = 2 cases</b>				

**Table 4.2 Notifications of HIV in the Northern Territory by age group and gender 1985 – 2000**

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
<i>00-12</i>	0	1	<b>1</b>
<i>13-19</i>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<i>20-29</i>	4	34	<b>38</b>
<i>30-39</i>	1	43	<b>44</b>
<i>40-49</i>	3	21	<b>24</b>
<i>50-59</i>	2	8	<b>10</b>
<i>60+</i>		1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>118</b>

## 5. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

**Table 5.1 Notifications of AIDS cases in the Northern Territory January – June 2001 by gender, Indigenous status, age group and mode of transmission**

Quarter	Gender	Indigenous status	Age group	Mode of transmission
<i>Jan-Mar 2001</i>	Male	non-Aboriginal	45-49	Homosexual transmission
	Male	non-Aboriginal	35-39	Homosexual transmission
<b>Jan-Jun 2001 Total = 2 cases</b>				