

## NEISSERIA GONORRHOEA INFECTIONS IN BRISBANE, QLD, 2012-2017

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**Background:** Rates of identified *Neisseria gonorrhoea* infection in Australia have risen by 116% over the 2009-2015 period.

Such an increase requires informed action.

A retrospective analysis of available public health data will be undertaken to further define characteristics of identified cases in the Brisbane Metro North and Metro South area.

**Methods:** Data has been requested from Public Health, Communicable Diseases Branch for all *Neisseria gonorrhoea* cases in Year to Date (YTD) 2017, and 2012-2016.

Analysed parameters:

- Population rates
- Clinician type
- Site of isolate
- Gender
- Age
- Indigenous status
- Rates of reinfection

Analysed parameters will be compared over time to assess population trends of *Neisseria gonorrhoea* acquisition. The time frame includes the commencement of PrEP. Descriptive statistics will be employed and p-values derived where appropriate.

Analysis will be completed in August, 2017.

**Results:** Queensland wide gonorrhoea notifications have increased by 70% compared to the average of the past five years. The incidence has risen 1.5 fold; from 2689 cases in 2012 to 4032 in 2016.

In Brisbane Metro North region, cases increased by 130%, and in Metro South, 110%. The urban burden is disproportionate. Year to Date data in Queensland shows diagnosed cases are more frequent in urban populations; 53.23% of all identified cases in 2017 YTD identified in the Metro North or Metro South area, compared with 31.4% YTD in 2012.

Other parametric data is currently being finalised and is expected to demonstrate more clearly the changing epidemiology over time in the disproportionately affected regions.

**Conclusion:** With rising rates of gonorrhoea incidence and antimicrobial resistance, it is vital to delineate target populations for screening and public health interventions. This data expands current knowledge, guiding patient and clinician education, and laying a framework for response implementation.