

Syphilis outbreak in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: **the epidemiology**

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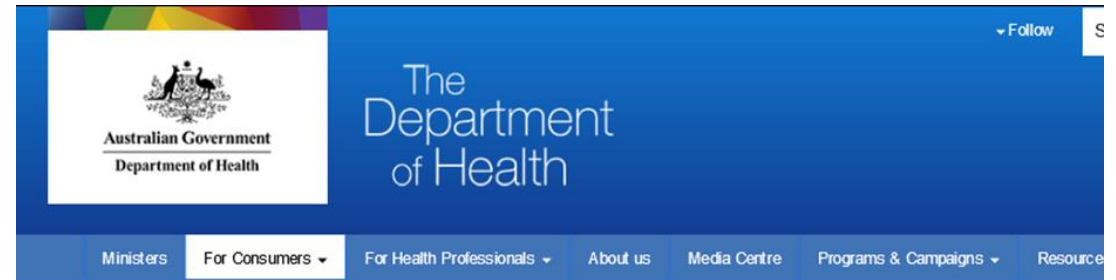
Chair, Multijurisdictional Syphilis Outbreak Working Group

Background

- Data collated by Commonwealth Office Health Protection
- Cases must:
 - meet national surveillance case definition of infectious syphilis **AND**
 - be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person residing in a declared outbreak area

OR

- be a sexual contact of an outbreak case



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Infectious syphilis outbreak

This page provides information regarding the infectious syphilis outbreak affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in northern Australia.

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Outbreak

There is an ongoing outbreak of infectious syphilis affecting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, predominately aged between 15 and 29 years, living in northern Australia.

The outbreak began in northern Queensland in January 2011, extended to the Northern Territory in July 2013, and then onto the Kimberley region of Western Australia in June 2014. In March 2017, South Australia declared an outbreak in the Western, Eyre and Far North regions from November 2016.

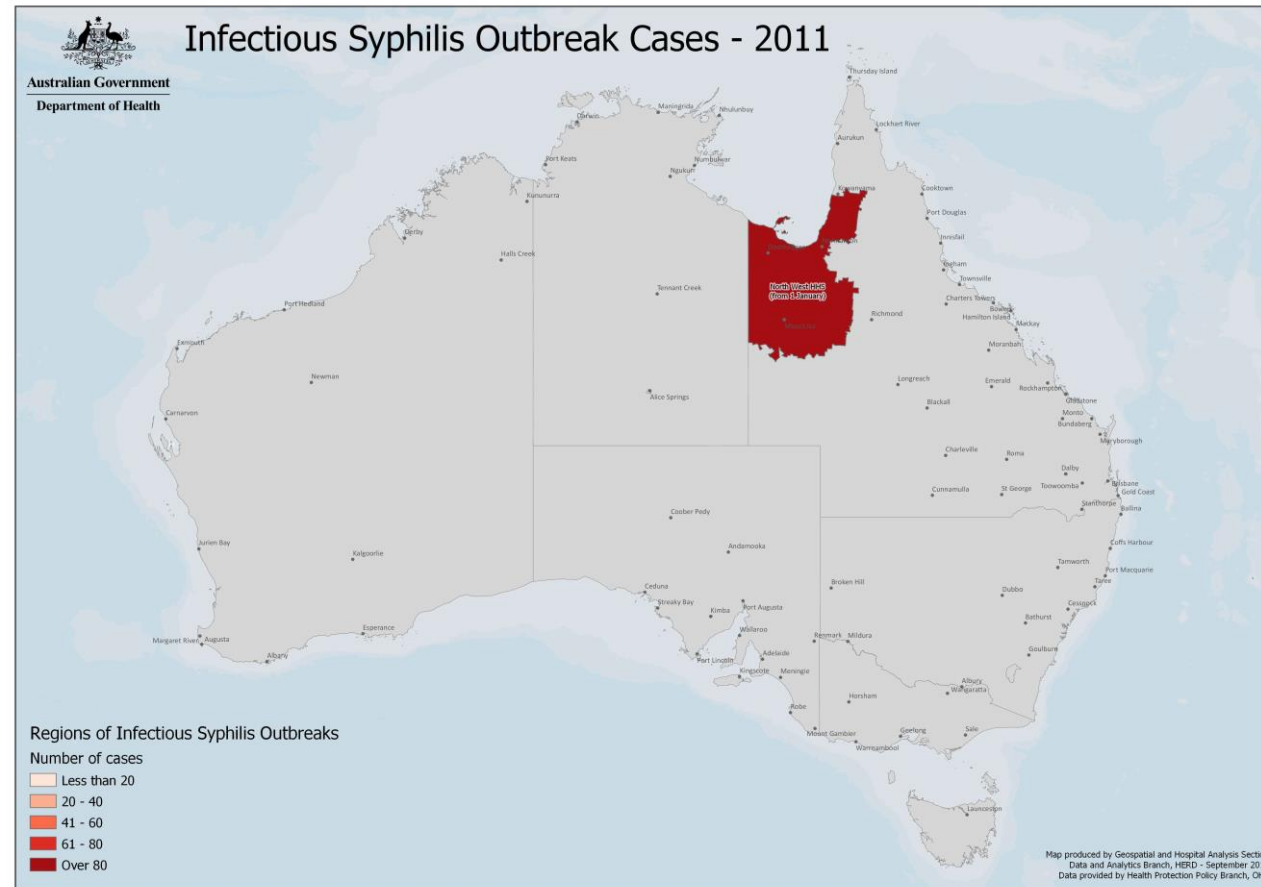
Current outbreak data to 31 July 2019 is included in the surveillance report below. For historical data, please refer to the [Reports](#) section below.

[August 2019 – 17th Surveillance Report](#) - PDF 280 KB

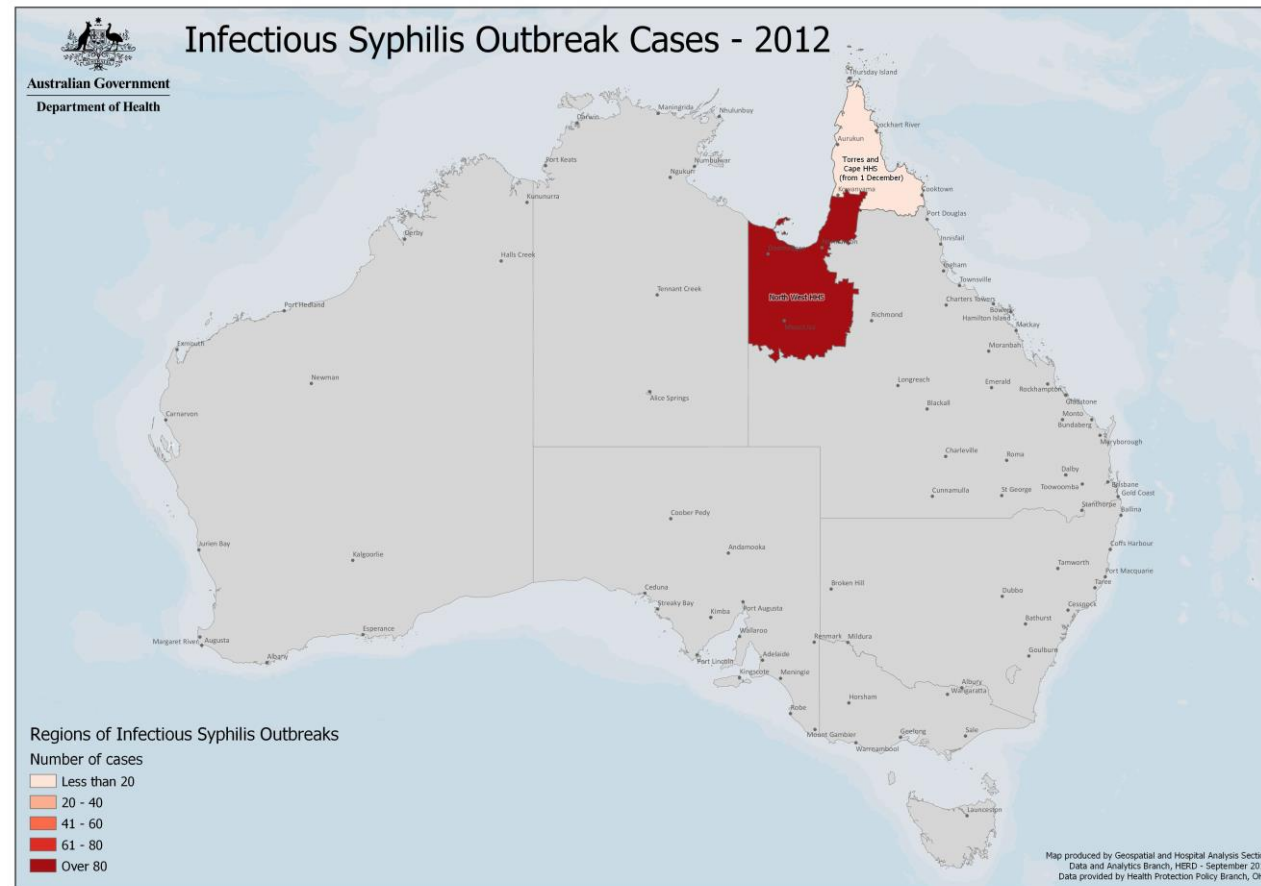
[August 2019 – 17th Surveillance Report](#) - Word 98 KB



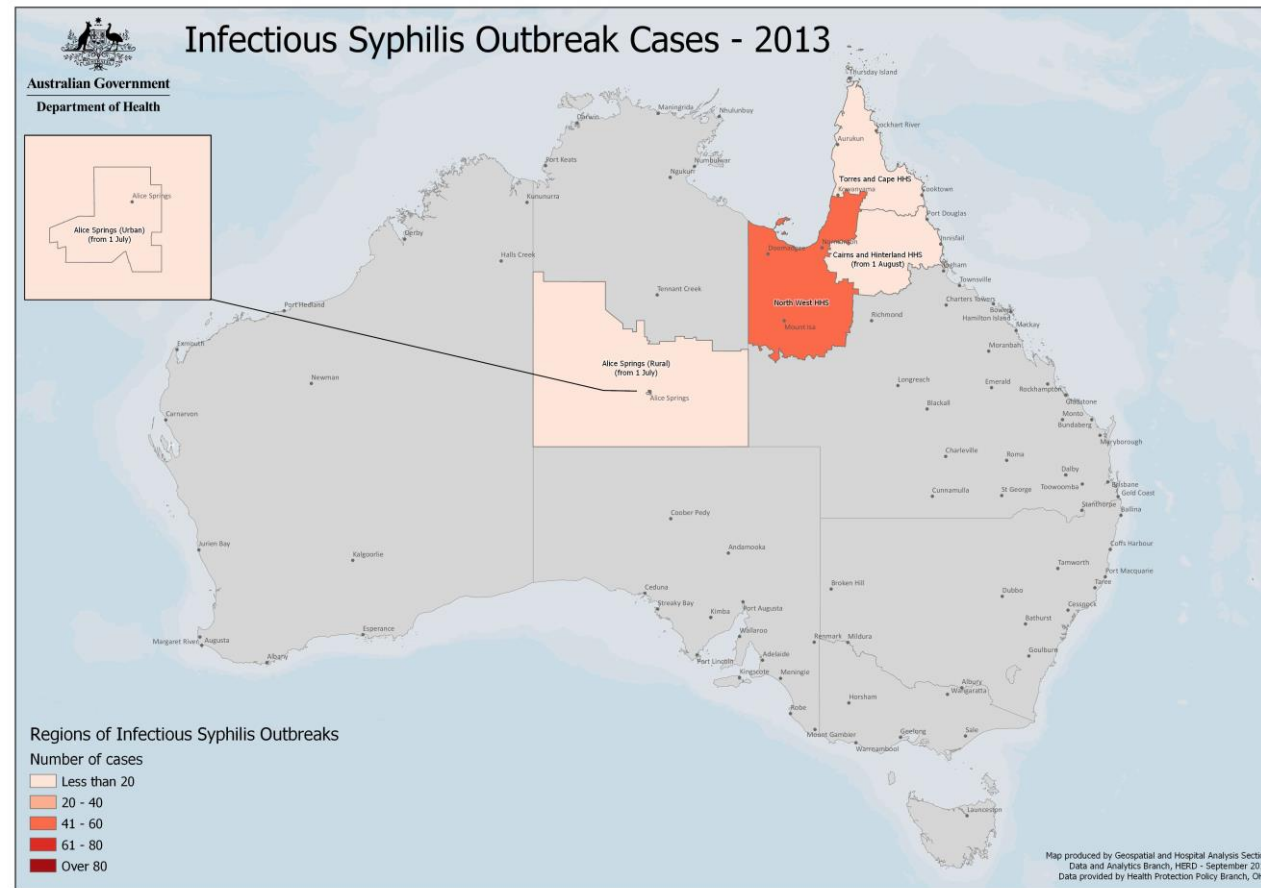
Cases by health district and year - 2011



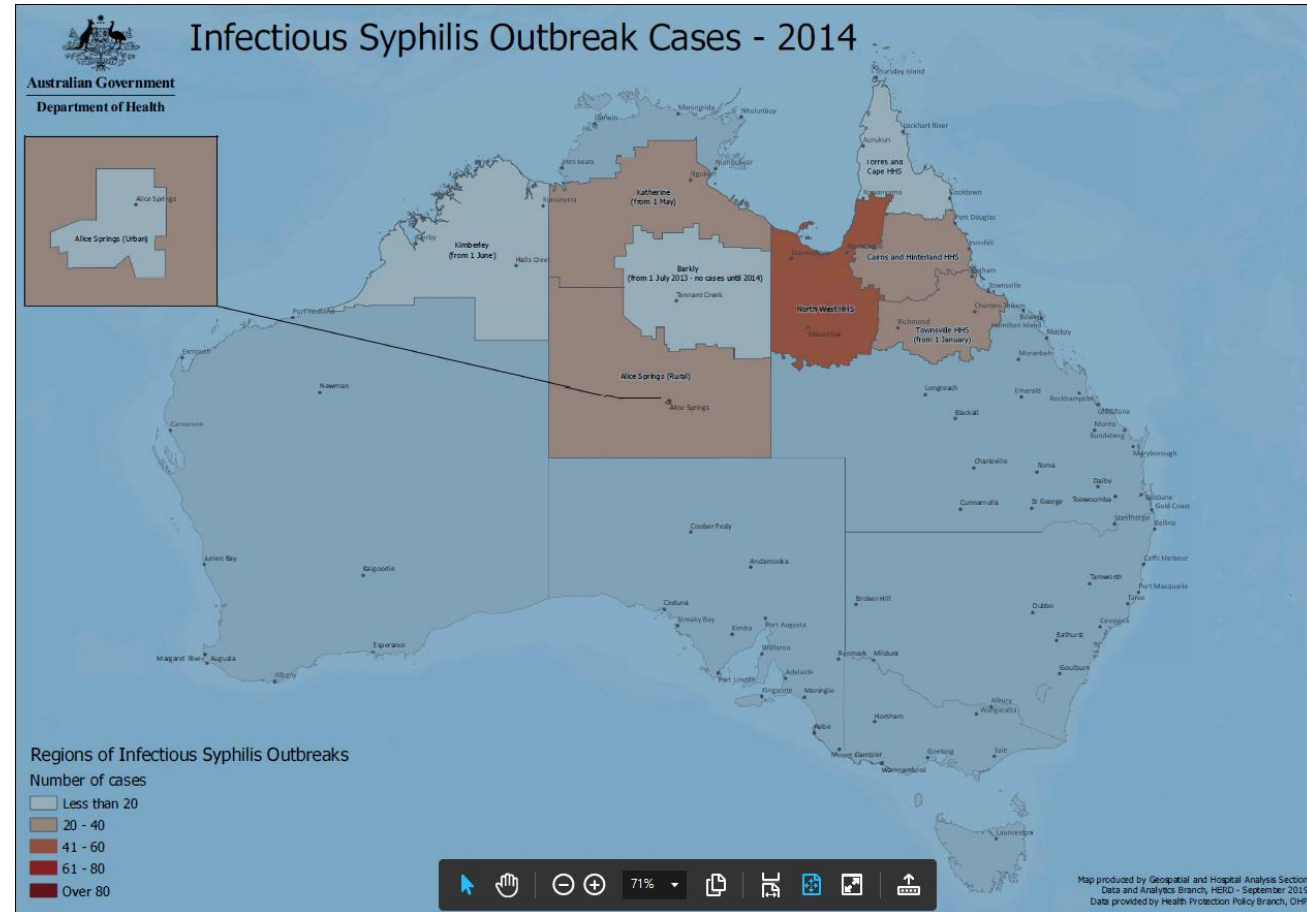
Cases by health district and year - 2012



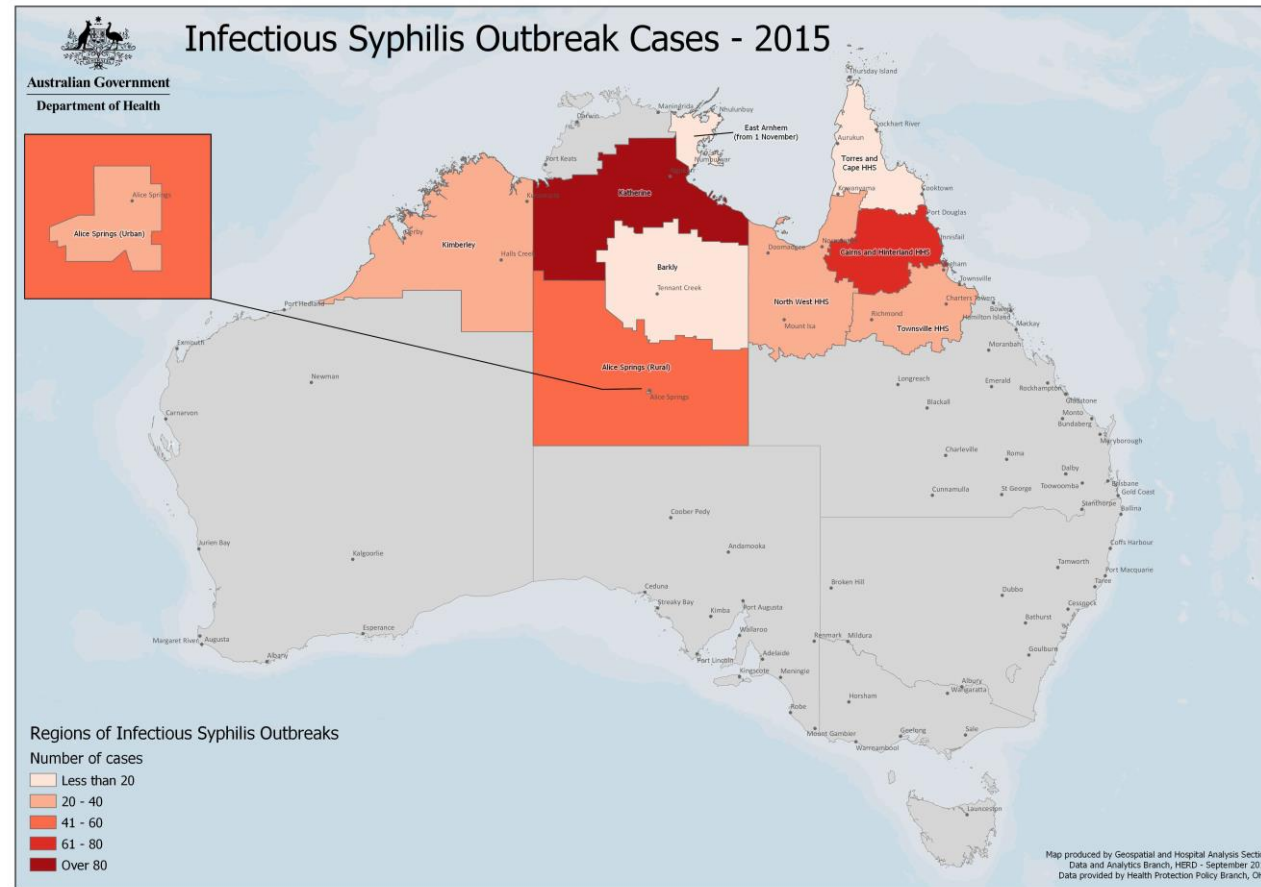
Cases by health district and year - 2013



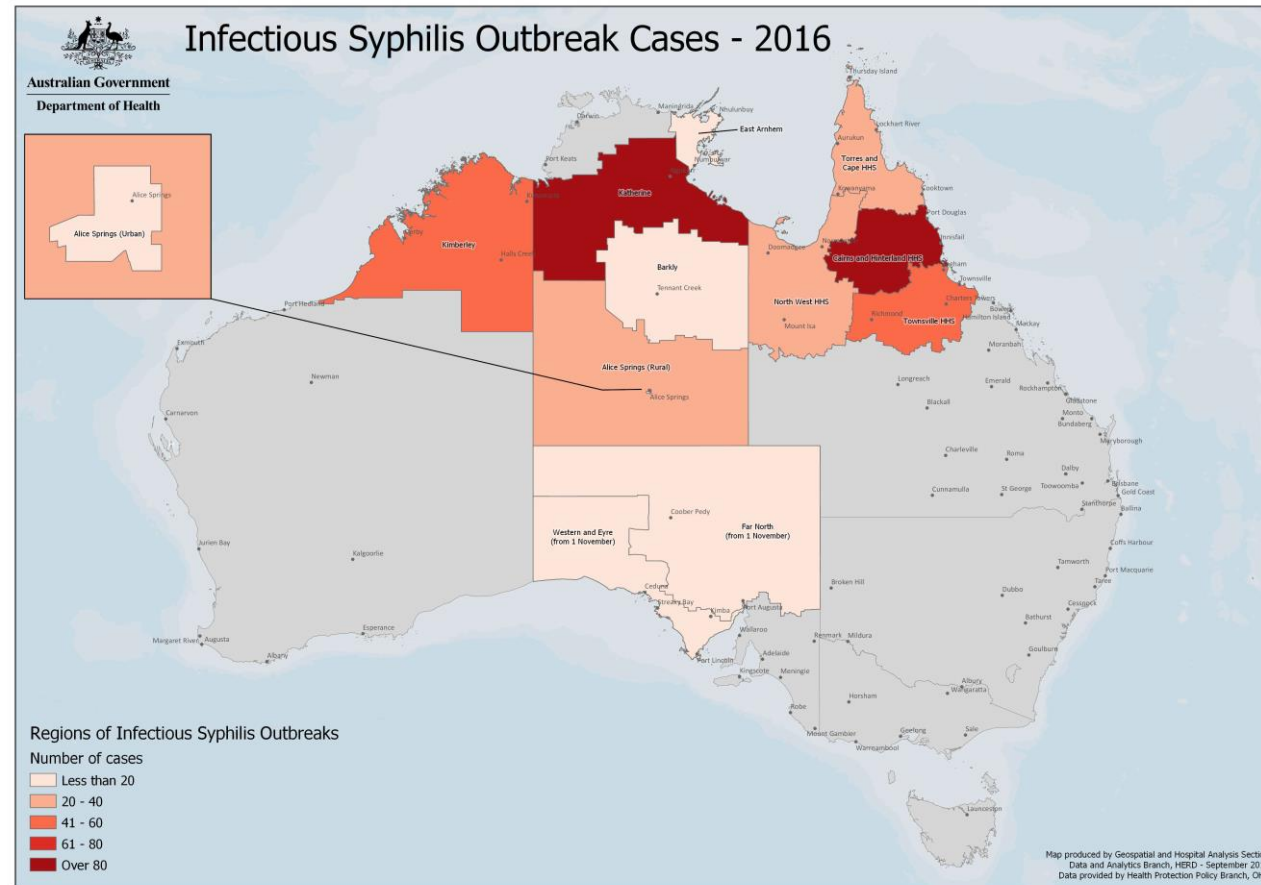
Cases by health district and year – 2014



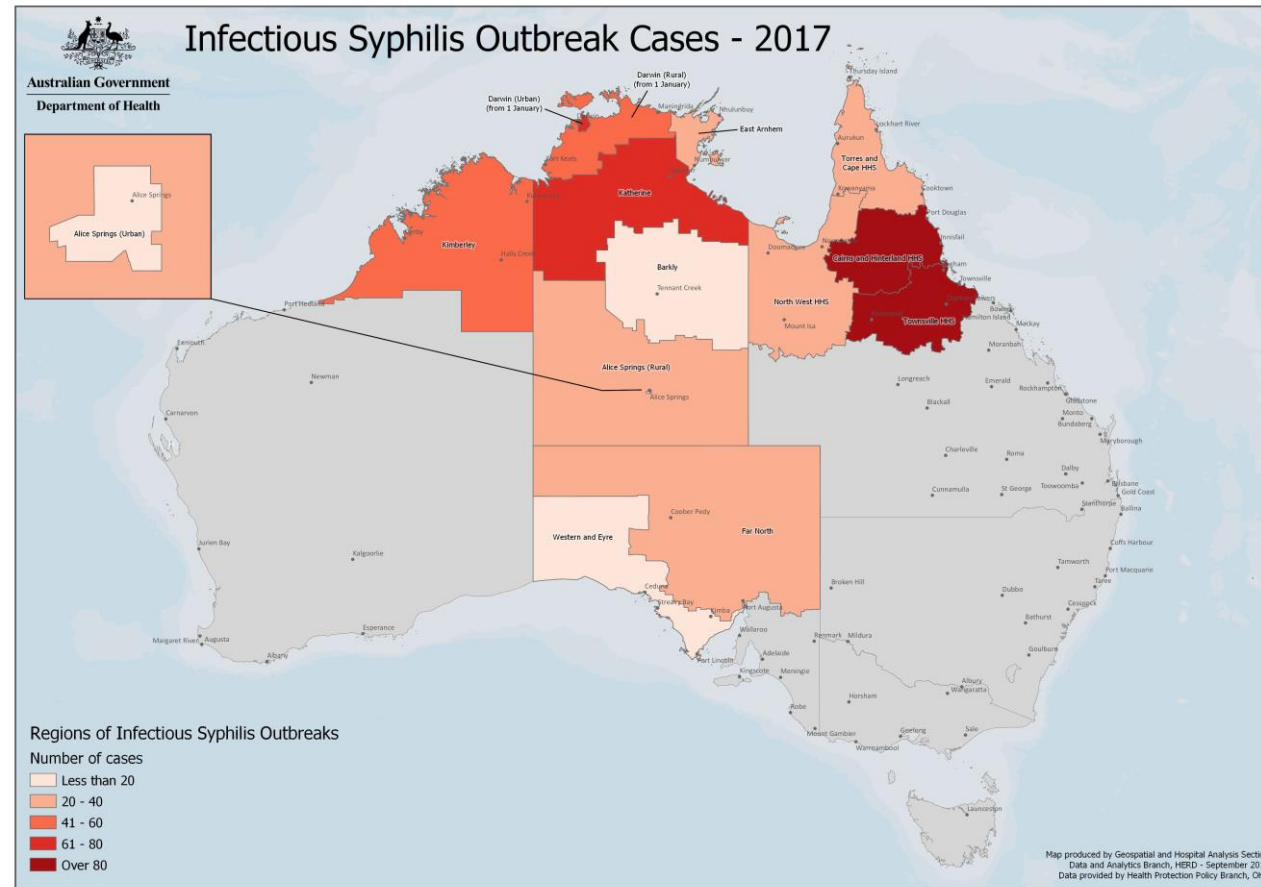
Cases by health district and year – 2015



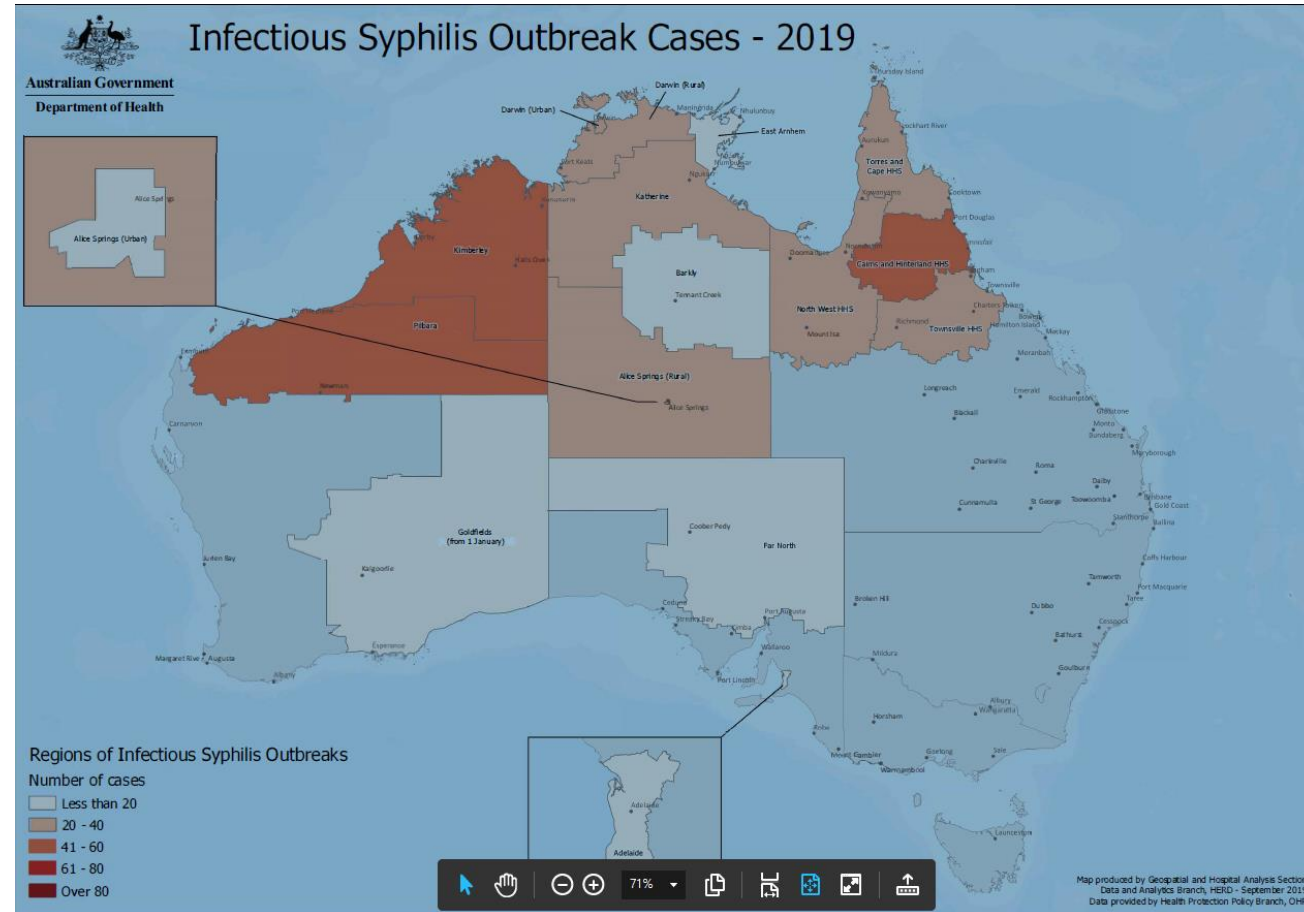
Cases by health district and year - 2016



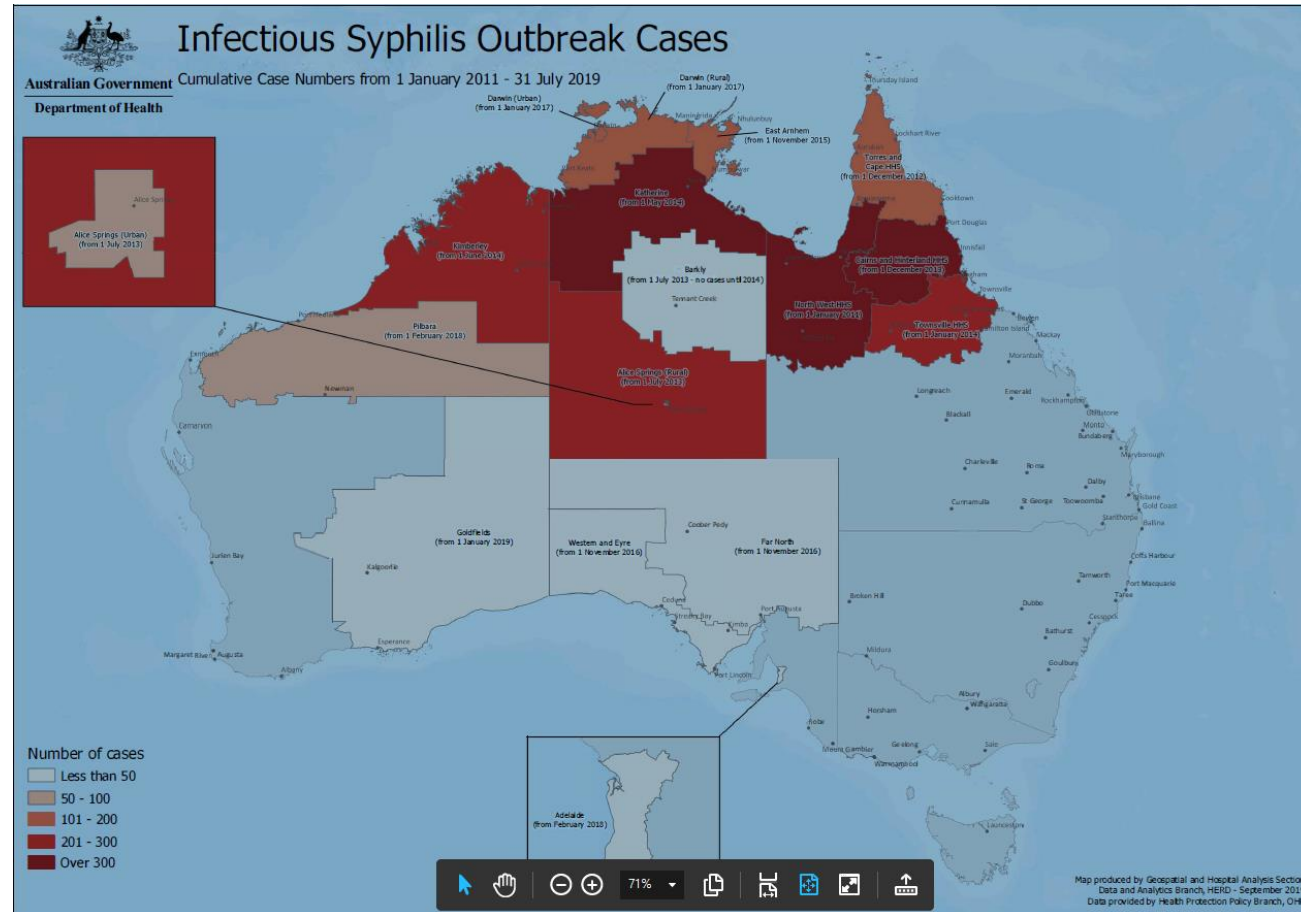
Cases by health district and year - 2017



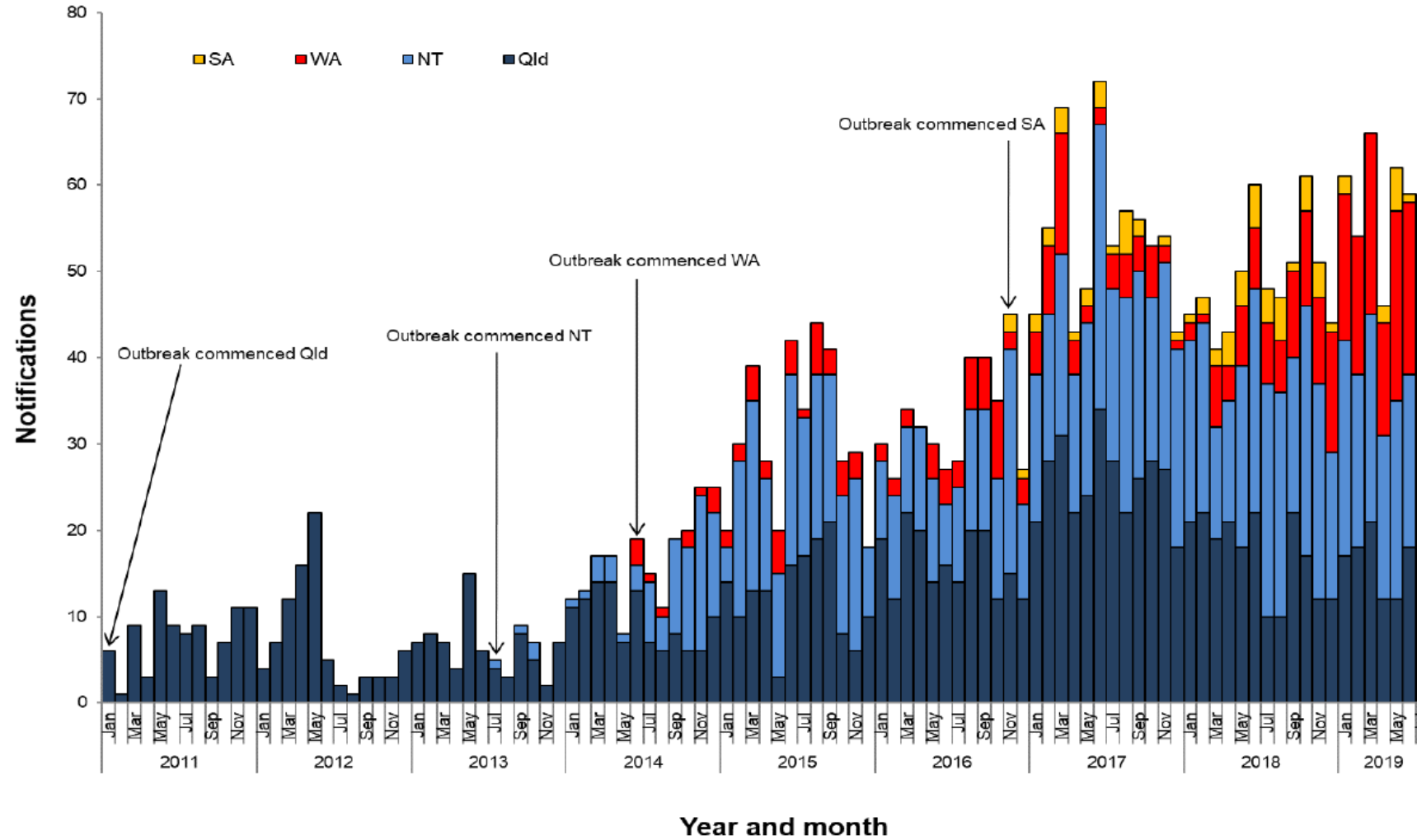
Cases by health district and year - 2019



Cases to July 2019 by health district

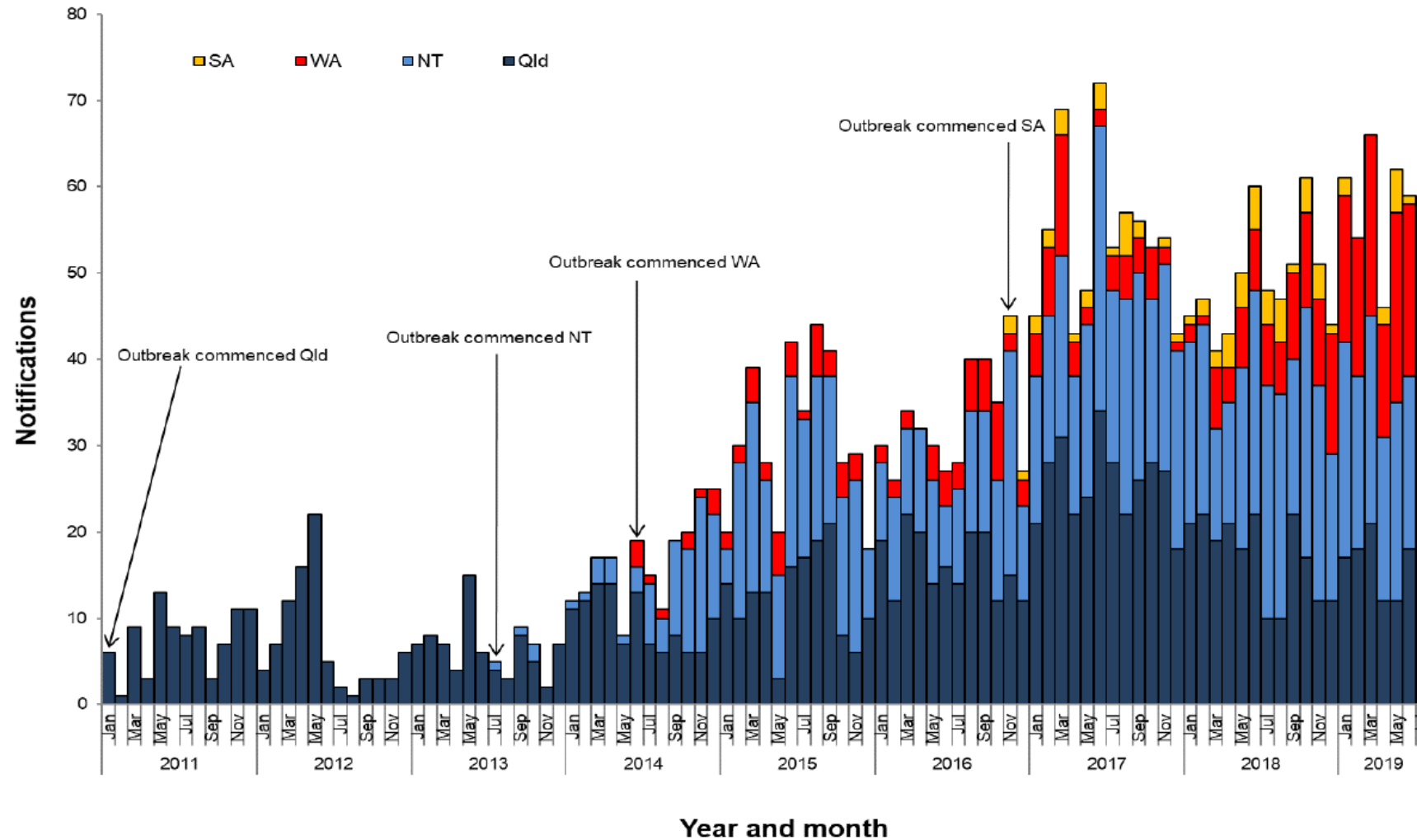


Epidemic curve



Epidemic curve

Total to July 2019: **2,863**



Cases to July 2019

	North Qld (four HHSs ^β)	NT (seven regions ^β)	WA (three regions ^β)	SA (three regions ^β)
Situation to-date, 31 July 2019				
Outbreak commencement month/year	January 2011	July 2013	June 2014	November 2016
Total number of cases ^α	1340	1091	358	74
% Male / % Female	47% / 53%	46% / 54%	42% / 58%	54% / 46%
% 15-29 year age group	66%	61%	68%	47%
Congenital cases, confirmed (probable) ^α	4 (5)	2 (3)	1 (0)	1 (0)
-number of deaths in congenital cases, confirmed (probable)	3 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

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Category 2 cases

Table 2. Number of category 2 infectious syphilis^α cases, to 31 July 2019^{‡,‡}

	North Qld (four HHSs ^β)	NT (seven regions ^β)	WA (three regions ^β)	SA (three regions ^β)
Situation to-date, 31 July 2019				
Outbreak commencement month/year	January 2011	July 2013	June 2014	November 2016
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people [§]	13	2	-	-
Non-Indigenous people ^μ	20	9	-	2

