Trends in chronic hepatitis B diagnosis in Australia, 2009-2013

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Introduction: Why look at HBV notifications?

• 1.0% of the population living with CHB
• Monitoring and treatment reduce health impact of CHB
• Only 57% estimated to be diagnosed
• Liver cancer rates increasing and many people diagnosed too late in their illness to prevent adverse outcomes

Methods: notifications data

• Hepatitis B diagnosis notifiable in all jurisdictions
• Positive HBsAg = unspecified (chronic)
• Data collated and published publicly by National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
• Basic data collected: age, sex, residence
• Risk factor and demographic less complete


Trends in HBV notification, 2009-2013

Source: NNDSS

Trends in HBV notification, by state and territory

Source: NNDSS

Change in HBV notifications, by state and territory

Source: NNDSS
Trends in HBV notifications over time, by age and sex

An increase in notifications could represent:

- **Increased prevalence**
  - migration, acquisition
- **Increased diagnosis**
  - screening and testing
- **Increased reporting**
  - notification process
- **Systematic error**
  - false +ve, duplication

Conclusions and further work

- There appears to have been an increase in notifications for HBV in Australia
- Notifications could indicate a number of potential changes
- Further information needed: notification demographics, laboratory testing data, local knowledge
- Improve quality and reporting of notifications

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