NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN NOVA SCOTIA
2024 SURVEILLANCE DATA

INTRODUCTION

Public Health surveillance involves the systematic and continuous collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, integrated with timely dissemination to decision-makers and other interested parties, with the overall goal of improving the health of the population. [1]

The Nova Scotia *Health Protection Act* governs the surveillance of notifiable diseases and mandates the reporting of notifiable diseases by many partners within the health system.[2]

In 2023, three tickborne diseases (anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus disease) and one vaccine preventable disease (mpox) were added to Nova Scotia's notifiable disease list. There were no changes to the list in 2024.

For 2024, Public Health Surveillance is releasing data tables. These tables contain the same data as those provided in the appendices of previous annual reports, including the counts and rates for all of Nova Scotia's notifiable diseases.[3]

Provincial notifiable disease surveillance would not be possible without the timely and complete case reporting by health care providers, public health professionals, and laboratories within the province. The Public Health Surveillance team extends its thanks to all those whose contributions have helped make this report possible.

[1] Porta, M. (editor). (2014). A Dictionary of Epidemiology. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, New York.
[2] Office of the Legislative Counsel, Nova Scotia House of Assembly. (2006). Nova Scotia Health Protection Act. 2004, c. 4, s. 1. Retrieved from http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/health%20protection.pdf
[3] Influenza and COVID-19 cases are reported in Respiratory Watch, which can be found at: CDPC - Respiratory Watch Report | novascotia.ca.

DATA TABLES

Table 1: Number of cases and crude rates per 100,000 population of notifiable diseases in Nova Scotia, 2019-2024

Disease	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Bloodborne Pathogens												
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hepatitis B - Acute	4	0.4	5	0.5	3	0.3	6	0.6	3	0.3	8	0.7
Hepatitis B - Chronic	22	2.3	16	1.6	20	2.0	15	1.5	27	2.6	37	3.4
Hepatitis B - Unstaged	1	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1	2	0.2
Hepatitis C	350	35.9	247	25.0	289	28.9	372	36.3	396	37.5	354	32.9
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	17	1.7	13	1.3	16	1.6	27	2.6	33	3.1	32	3.0
Direct Contact, Respiratory, and Through the Provision of Health Care												
Clostridioides Difficile	909	93.2	835	84.4	954	95.4	917	89.4	975	92.3	1121	104.1
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Classic	2	0.2	1	0.1	0	0.0	4	0.4	2	0.2	2	0.2
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Unknown	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Variant	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Group A Streptococcal Disease Invasive	63	6.5	25	2.5	9	0.9	22	2.1	103	9.7	132	12.3
Group B Streptococcal Disease of the Newborn*	3	37.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.7	1	13.5	1	12.7
Legionellosis	7	0.7	6	0.6	15	1.5	11	1.1	29	2.7	8	0.7
Leprosy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningitis - Bacterial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningococcal Disease Invasive	7	0.7	3	0.3	2	0.2	7	0.7	8	0.8	7	0.7
Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)	485	49.7	435	44.0	554	55.4	568	55.4	673	63.7	955	88.7
Pneumococcal Disease, Invasive	88	9.0	24	2.4	38	3.8	66	6.4	97	9.2	108	10.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smallpox	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tuberculosis	5	0.5	12	1.2	17	1.7	14	1.4	13	1.2	19	1.8

Disease	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)	15	1.5	6	0.6	8	0.8	33	3.2	68	6.4	188	17.5
Enteric, Foodborne, and Waterborne Diseases												
Botulism	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	1.0	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Campylobacteriosis	221	22.6	193	19.5	283	28.3	184.0	17.9	227	21.5	241	22.4
Cholera	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cryptosporidiosis	40	4.1	34	3.4	19	1.9	28.0	2.7	30	2.8	35	3.3
Cyclosporiasis	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0	1.0	0.1	5	0.5	2	0.2
Giardiasis	106	10.9	88	8.9	99	9.9	86.0	8.4	88	8.3	126	11.7
Hepatitis A	4	0.4	2	0.2	3	0.3	2.0	0.2	6	0.6	5	0.5
Listeriosis Invasive	2	0.2	3	0.3	4	0.4	14.0	1.4	12	1.1	3	0.3
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Salmonellosis	131	13.4	151	15.3	95	9.5	75.0	7.3	132	12.5	99	9.2
Shigatoxigenic Escherichia Coli Infection (Shigatoxigenic E. Coli)	10	1.0	2	0.2	6	0.6	5.0	0.5	5	0.5	6	0.6
Shigellosis	7	0.7	1	0.1	4	0.4	2.0	0.2	10	0.9	4	0.4
Typhoid	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0	1.0	0.1	0	0.0	5	0.5
Sexually Transmitted Infections												
Chlamydia	3072	314.8	2146	217.0	2093	209.3	2279	222.3	2724	257.8	2509	233.1
Gonorrhea	239	24.5	89	9.0	67	6.7	200	19.5	360	34.1	369	34.3
Syphilis - Infectious	55	5.6	29	2.9	15	1.5	47	4.6	49	4.6	46	4.3
Syphilis - Non-Infectious or Unstaged	28	2.9	23	2.3	26	2.6	42	4.1	53	5.0	65	6.0
Vaccine Preventable Diseases												
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Diphtheria	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Haemophilus influenzae Type b Invasive Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Measles	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0
Mpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.1	0	0.0
Mumps	2	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pertussis**	6	0.6	13	1.3	1	0.1	4	0.4	40	3.8	127	11.8
Poliomyelitis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rubella	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Disease	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Tetanus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Vector-borne and Other Zoonoses												
Anaplasmosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	317	30.0	466	43.3
Anthrax	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Babesiosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	2	0.2
Brucellosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ebola Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lyme Disease	441	45.2	232	23.5	510	51.0	310	30.2	2057	194.7	2350	208.6
Malaria	4	0.4	1	0.1	2	0.2	8	0.8	9	0.9	8	0.7
Plague	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Powassan Virus Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rabies	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tularemia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
West Nile Virus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Yellow Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	6348		4637		5156		5354		8555		9443	

*Rate calculations for group B streptococcal disease of the newborn used the number of live births by year as the denominator for rate calculations

**All Pertussis cases in 2023, and 11 of the 2024 cases, were acquired as part of a clinical trial.

- : Disease was not provincially reportable in the corresponding year.

Table 2: Notifiable diseases reported in Nova Scotia in 2024 by sex: Number of cases and sex-specific rates per 100,000 population

Disease	Female		Male		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Bloodborne Pathogens						
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hepatitis B - Acute	1	0.2	7	1.3	8	0.7
Hepatitis B - Chronic	15	2.8	22	4.1	37	3.4
Hepatitis B - Unstaged	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.2
Hepatitis C	115	21.1	239	44.9	354	32.9
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	7	1.3	25	4.7	32	3.0
Direct Contact, Respiratory, and Through the Provision of Health Care						
Clostridioides Difficile	641	117.9	480	90.1	1121	104.1
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Classic	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.2
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Variant	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Group A Streptococcal Disease Invasive	55	10.1	77	14.5	132	12.3
Group B Streptococcal Disease of the Newborn*	1	-	0	-	1	12.7
Legionellosis	3	0.6	5	0.9	8	0.7
Leprosy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningitis - Bacterial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningococcal Disease Invasive	3	0.6	4	0.8	7	0.7
Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)	412	75.8	543	101.9	955	88.7
Pneumococcal Disease, Invasive	45	8.3	63	11.8	108	10.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smallpox	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tuberculosis	8	1.5	11	2.1	19	1.8
Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)	71	13.1	117	22.0	188	17.5
Enteric, Foodborne, and Waterborne Diseases						
Botulism	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Campylobacteriosis	116	21.3	125	23.5	241	22.4
Cholera	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cryptosporidiosis	22	4.0	13	2.4	35	3.3

Disease	Female		Male		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Cyclosporiasis	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.2
Giardiasis	55	10.1	71	13.3	126	11.7
Hepatitis A	4	0.7	1	0.2	5	0.5
Listeriosis Invasive	0	0.0	3	0.6	3	0.3
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Salmonellosis	54	9.9	45	8.4	99	9.2
Shigatoxigenic Escherichia Coli Infection (Shigatoxigenic E. Coli)	2	0.4	4	0.8	6	0.6
Shigellosis	1	0.2	3	0.6	4	0.4
Typhoid	1	0.2	4	0.8	5	0.5
Sexually Transmitted Infections						
Chlamydia	1626	299.0	883	165.8	2509	233.1
Gonorrhea	140	25.7	229	43.0	369	34.3
Syphilis - Infectious	6	1.1	40	7.5	46	4.3
Syphilis - Non-Infectious or Unstaged	21	3.9	44	8.3	65	6.0
Vaccine Preventable Diseases						
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Diphtheria	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Haemophilus influenzae Type b Invasive Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Measles	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mpox	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mumps	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pertussis	68	12.5	59	11.1	127	11.8
Poliomyelitis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rubella	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tetanus	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Vector-borne and Other Zoonoses						
Anaplasmosis	170	31.3	296	55.6	466	43.3
Anthrax	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Babesiosis	2	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.2
Brucellosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ebola Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Disease	Female		Male		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Lyme Disease	1070	196.8	1280	240.3	2350	208.6
Malaria	3	0.6	5	0.9	8	0.7
Plague	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Powassan Virus Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rabies	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tularemia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
West Nile Virus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Yellow Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	4742		4701		9443	

*Rate calculations by sex for group B streptococcal disease of the newborn were not calculated as number of live births stratified by sex was unavailable. This case is included in the Nova Scotia total column.

Table 3: Notifiable diseases reported in Nova Scotia in 2024 by age group: Number of cases and age-specific rates per 100,000 population

Disease	0-4		5-14		15-24		25-39		40-59		60+		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Bloodborne Pathogens														
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hepatitis B - Acute	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.9	5	1.9	1	0.3	8	0.7
Hepatitis B - Chronic	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.7	18	8.0	14	5.3	3	0.9	37	3.4
Hepatitis B - Unstaged	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2
Hepatitis C	1	3.0	0	0.0	14	11.7	184	81.7	118	44.5	37	11.6	354	32.9
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	4.2	15	6.7	9	3.4	3	0.9	32	3.0
Direct Contact, Respiratory, and Through the Provision of Health Care														
Clostridioides Difficile	10	30.2	13	12.3	35	29.3	73	32.4	170	64.1	820	256.1	1121	104.1
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Classic	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.3	2	0.2
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Variant	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Group A Streptococcal Disease Invasive	7	21.1	8	7.6	2	1.7	23	10.2	42	15.8	50	15.6	132	12.3
Group B Streptococcal Disease of the Newborn*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12.7
Legionellosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.8	6	1.9	8	0.7
Leprosy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningitis - Bacterial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningococcal Disease Invasive	2	6.0	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.4	3	0.9	7	0.7
Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)	26	78.4	19	18.0	52	43.5	189	83.9	218	82.2	451	140.8	955	88.7
Pneumococcal Disease, Invasive	2	6.0	3	2.8	1	0.8	7	3.1	27	10.2	68	21.2	108	10.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smallpox	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tuberculosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	4.2	9	4.0	3	1.1	2	0.6	19	1.8
Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.7	7	3.1	30	11.3	149	46.5	188	17.5
Enteric, Foodborne, and Waterborne Diseases														
Botulism	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Campylobacteriosis	6	18.1	10	9.5	18	15.0	41	18.2	73	27.5	93	29.0	241	22.4
Cholera	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cryptosporidiosis	4	12.1	2	1.9	6	5.0	11	4.9	7	2.6	5	1.6	35	3.3
Cyclosporiasis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.8	0	0.0	2	0.2
Giardiasis	10	30.2	6	5.7	7	5.9	20	8.9	40	15.1	43	13.4	126	11.7

Disease	0-4		5-14		15-24		25-39		40-59		60+		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Hepatitis A	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.7	3	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.5
Listeriosis Invasive	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.9	3	0.3
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Salmonellosis	6	18.1	5	4.7	7	5.9	20	8.9	22	8.3	39	12.2	99	9.2
Shigatoxigenic Escherichia Coli Infection (Shigatoxigenic E. Coli)	0	0.0	2	1.9	0	0.0	1	0.4	2	0.8	1	0.3	6	0.6
Shigellosis	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.9	4	0.4
Typhoid	0	0.0	1	0.9	1	0.8	3	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.5
Sexually Transmitted Infections														
Chlamydia	2	6.0	10	9.5	1424	1190.6	904	401.3	156	58.8	13	4.1	2509	233.1
Gonorrhea	0	0.0	0	0.0	128	107.0	170	75.5	65	24.5	6	1.9	369	34.3
Syphilis - Infectious	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	5.9	28	12.4	11	4.1	0	0.0	46	4.3
Syphilis - Non-Infectious or Unstaged	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	4.2	26	11.5	22	8.3	12	3.7	65	6.0
Vaccine Preventable Diseases														
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Diphtheria	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Haemophilus influenzae Type b Invasive Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Measles	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mpox	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mumps	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pertussis	18	54.3	30	28.5	51	42.6	14	6.2	10	3.8	4	1.2	127	11.8
Poliomyelitis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rubella	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tetanus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Vector-borne and Other Zoonoses														
Anaplasmosis	1	3.0	2	1.9	4	3.3	28	12.4	112	42.2	319	99.6	466	43.3
Anthrax	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Babesiosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6	2	0.2
Brucellosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ebola Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lyme Disease	52	156.8	222	210.8	97	81.1	239	106.1	583	219.7	1157	361.3	2350	208.6
Malaria	0	0.0	2	1.9	3	2.5	3	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	0.7
Plague	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Powassan Virus Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Disease	0-4		5-14		15-24		25-39		40-59		60+		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Rabies	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tularemia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
West Nile Virus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Yellow Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	147		337		1879		2040		1745		3294		9443	

*Rate calculations by age group for group B streptococcal disease of the newborn were not calculated as only live births are considered in the denominator. This case is included in the Nova Scotia total column.

Table 4: Notifiable diseases reported in Nova Scotia in 2024 by Health Management Zone: Number of cases and crude rates per 100,000 population

Disease	Central Zone		Eastern Zone		Northern Zone		Western Zone		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Bloodborne Pathogens										
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hepatitis B - Acute	4	0.8	2	1.1	2	1.2	0	0.0	8	0.7
Hepatitis B - Chronic	28	5.3	5	2.8	1	0.6	3	1.4	37	3.4
Hepatitis B - Unstaged	1	0.2	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2
Hepatitis C	144	27.4	78	43.9	66	41.2	66	31.0	354	32.9
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	24	4.6	2	1.1	2	1.2	4	1.9	32	3.0
Direct Contact, Respiratory, and Through the Provision of Health Care										
Clostridioides Difficile	469	89.3	281	158.1	192	119.7	179	84.0	1121	104.1
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Classic	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.5	2	0.2
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Variant	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Group A Streptococcal Disease Invasive	56	10.7	21	11.8	32	20.0	23	10.8	132	12.3
Group B Streptococcal Disease of the Newborn*	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	12.7
Legionellosis	4	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.9	8	0.7
Leprosy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningitis - Bacterial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Meningococcal Disease Invasive	4	0.8	1	0.6	0	0.0	2	0.9	7	0.7
Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)	417	79.4	237	133.3	203	126.6	98	46.0	955	88.7
Pneumococcal Disease, Invasive**	44	8.4	16	9.0	29	18.1	18	8.4	108	10.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smallpox	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tuberculosis	11	2.1	6	3.4	2	1.2	0	0.0	19	1.8
Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)	73	13.9	49	27.6	56	34.9	10	4.7	188	17.5
Enteric, Foodborne, and Waterborne Diseases										
Botulism	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Campylobacteriosis	94	17.9	32	18.0	41	25.6	74	34.7	241	22.4
Cholera	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cryptosporidiosis	13	2.5	4	2.2	10	6.2	8	3.8	35	3.3
Cyclosporiasis	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2
Giardiasis	57	10.9	15	8.4	15	9.4	39	18.3	126	11.7

Disease	Central Zone		Eastern Zone		Northern Zone		Western Zone		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Hepatitis A	3	0.6	1	0.6	1	0.6	0	0.0	5	0.5
Listeriosis Invasive	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.9	3	0.3
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Salmonellosis	54	10.3	12	6.7	11	6.9	22	10.3	99	9.2
Shigatoxigenic Escherichia Coli Infection (Shigatoxigenic E. Coli)	6	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.6
Shigellosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.2	2	0.9	4	0.4
Typhoid	5	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.5
Sexually Transmitted Infections										
Chlamydia	1504	286.4	343	192.9	303	189.0	359	168.5	2509	233.1
Gonorrhea	281	53.5	26	14.6	31	19.3	31	14.5	369	34.3
Syphilis - Infectious	38	7.2	3	1.7	2	1.2	3	1.4	46	4.3
Syphilis - Non-Infectious or Unstaged	46	8.8	8	4.5	5	3.1	6	2.8	65	6.0
Vaccine Preventable Diseases										
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Diphtheria	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Haemophilus influenzae Type b Invasive Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Measles	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mpox	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mumps	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pertussis	48	9.1	22	12.4	48	29.9	9	4.2	127	11.8
Poliomyelitis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rubella	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tetanus	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Vector-borne and Other Zoonoses										
Anaplasmosis	64	12.0	8	4.5	29	18.1	365	166.6	466	43.3
Anthrax	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Babesiosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.9	2	0.2
Brucellosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ebola Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lyme Disease	571	108.7	38	21.4	382	238.2	1359	637.8	2350	208.6
Malaria	7	1.3	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	8	0.7
Plague	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Powassan Virus Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Disease	Central Zone		Eastern Zone		Northern Zone		Western Zone		Nova Scotia	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate	n	Rate
Rabies	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tularemia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
West Nile Virus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Yellow Fever	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	4074		1212		1467		2689		9443	

*Rate calculations by zone for group B stretococcal disease of the newborn were not calculated as number of live births stratified by zone was unavailable. This case is included in the Nova Scotia total column.

**There was 1 case of pneumococcal disease, invasive of unknown zone. This occurs when zone is not identified during case investigation or through laboratory reports. This case is included in the Nova Scotial total column.

APPENDIX I: METHODOLOGY

The Nova Scotia *Health Protection Act* mandates notifiable disease reporting.[2] As part of case management, Public Health documents information about notifiable disease cases that can include demographic, clinical, exposure, risk factor, treatment, and laboratory information. Specific data collected varies by disease.

Cases are classified based on standard case definitions and are reported for provincial public health surveillance purposes through the electronic public health information system, Panorama. Panorama was implemented provincially in 2018 and contains data on case classification, as well as demographic, clinical, and risk factor information.[4] Cases of notifiable diseases are reported based on their place of residence (e.g., health management zone) at the time of diagnosis, with some exceptions.[5] For more information on the guidelines for reporting and counting of cases, refer to the Case Counting for Surveillance document. For the current report, all case data were extracted between January 1st, 2018, to December 31st, 2024, from Panorama and are current as of November 19th, 2025.

Further information on the case definitions, reporting procedures, and forms can be found in the Nova Scotia Surveillance Guidelines for Notifiable Diseases and Conditions. Information on public health case management and control measures can be found in the Nova Scotia Communicable Disease Control Manual.

Cases are assigned to a year, which runs from January 1st to December 31st, based on episode date. The episode date corresponds to the earliest known date associated with the disease episode, reflecting symptom onset date (if applicable), or the closest available date (specimen collection date, clinical diagnosis date, or test result date).

Only cases meeting a confirmed case definition are included in this report. The majority of notifiable diseases are investigated by Public Health and classified according to the case definitions found in the Surveillance Guidelines. For a subset of diseases, surveillance relies only on positive laboratory results from the Provincial Public Health Laboratory Network (i.e. Public Health does not actively investigate). For these diseases, analytical code applies inclusion and exclusion criteria to verify that the lab results meet case definition. There are limitations to this method, and it is possible that cases of diseases under laboratory-only surveillance are mis-classified (i.e., a result is excluded when it should have been included, or vice versa). Diseases currently under laboratory-only surveillance in Nova Scotia include anaplasmosis, chlamydia, *Clostridium difficile*, COVID-19, influenza, invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), Lyme disease, MRSA, and VRE.

Diseases are primarily grouped into six categories according to their route of transmission (e.g., through blood or bodily fluids). The exception is vaccine preventable diseases. Note that some diseases in other categories are also vaccine preventable (i.e., hepatitis B, meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases). In addition, two non-specific syndromes are included: bacterial meningitis and acute flaccid paralysis.

[4] Data collected prior to the implementation of Panorama were housed in the Application for Notifiable Disease Surveillance (ANDS) and the Application for Notifiable Disease Surveillance and Immunization (ANDI); these were merged in Panorama in 2018.

[5] For chronic infectious conditions (e.g., HIV), only residents with a first-time diagnosis in Nova Scotia are included in this report. If information on previous diagnosis for a case is not available, these cases are counted as Nova Scotia cases.

APPENDIX II: LIMITATIONS

The numbers cited in this report reflect only those cases that are reported to Public Health within Nova Scotia and may under-represent the true number of cases in the population. This is more likely for diseases that may remain asymptomatic (e.g., chlamydia) and those that have a wide clinical spectrum (e.g., Lyme disease). Diseases where the illness is almost always severe are more likely to present for medical care and be diagnosed and reported to Public Health (e.g., invasive meningococcal disease). As a result, these diseases are likely well-captured in the surveillance data. Additional limitations in surveillance data may also be present for specific diseases (e.g., misclassification of hepatitis B cases as acute or chronic) and for laboratory-only diseases, as described in Appendix I.

Positive cases reported to Public Health who were tested anonymously (e.g., from anonymous HIV testing programs) are not included in this report. Anonymous positive test results are not routinely reported to Public Health. For HIV, cases must be tested nominally before receiving treatment for their infection, so it is assumed that most HIV cases who first test anonymously are reported nominally to Public Health and, in turn, are included in the provincial surveillance data.

Changes in case finding procedures (e.g., changes to laboratory testing methods, access to testing, or case definitions) may result in an increase or decrease in the number of reported cases that may not be reflective of true changes in disease occurrence within the province. An example of this is the change in the Lyme disease case definition in 2023, moving to a laboratory only surveillance system.

Trends in disease measures during the pandemic years (2020 to 2022) may not be comparable with the time periods before and after these years. Impacts of the pandemic may have included: reduced access to testing and diagnosis, change in healthcare seeking behaviours, as well as reduced Public Health capacity to carry out certain investigations. This may underestimate rates of some diseases during this time. Additionally, reduced social mixing and fewer students living in dormitories where universities switched to virtual learning likely resulted in a true decrease for some diseases. Different diseases would have been affected differently: diseases with severe manifestations would be less likely to remain undiagnosed compared to less severe diseases or those that may remain asymptomatic. While we cannot quantify the exact impact of this combination of factors, data from the pandemic years should be interpreted with caution, especially when looking at trends over time spanning this period.

Since Panorama is a real-time public health surveillance system, numbers and rates reported here may change as information is updated.