

Victoria's Anaphylaxis Notification System

Food Allergen Management Symposium

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Overview

- **The Victorian Anaphylaxis Notification System**
 - the why
 - the what
 - the how
- **Preliminary data and actions**
- **Reflections**
- **Questions**

Why was this introduced?

- Death of a child from anaphylaxis in 2013 related to undeclared dairy in a coconut drink.
- The drink was provided to the hospital when the child presented but food authorities were not alerted.
- 6 week delay until action able to be taken.
- Victorian Coronial report on the death recommended anaphylaxis reporting to DHHS be mandated.

Some context

- Victorian hospital presentations of anaphylaxis from all causes¹:
 - ~ **2,500** cases per year (47% food-related)
 - Increasing **13%** per year between 2012-2018
- Food recalls 2018 in Australia²:
 - 100 recalls: **46%** undeclared allergens in packaged foods

¹ DHHS Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset

² Food Standards Australia New Zealand Recall Statistics March 2019

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/foodrecalls/recallstats/Pages/default.aspx>

What is the Anaphylaxis Notification System?

- Primarily a notification system for public health action.
 - It is not a clinical register of anaphylaxis cases.
- Primary objectives:
 - To enable timely public health action in response to cases which reveal a broader public health risk.
 - To minimise the morbidity and mortality associated with anaphylaxis by identifying:
 - mislabeled packaged food in the marketplace (and overseeing its removal); and
 - poor food allergen management at council-registered food premises that provide unpackaged food such as meals at restaurants or facilities.

What is the Anaphylaxis Notification System?

Secondary objectives:

- Where possible:
 - examine trends in anaphylaxis;
 - identify gaps in the knowledge and understanding of anaphylaxis;
 - provide evidence for anaphylaxis policy, service provision and prevention strategies.

What is the new law?

Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008, effective from 1 November 2018.

- All Victorian public and private hospitals must notify the department of **all** cases presenting to hospital for treatment of anaphylaxis.
 - All ages, all causes: food, blood-derived products, drugs, vaccine, insect venom, other/unknown included.
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* prescribe the manner and period for notification.
- Australian first.

Prescribed manner and period for notification

Anaphylaxis due to packaged food

Within 24 hours

Via telephone
1300 651 160

Anaphylaxis due to all other allergens (known or unknown)

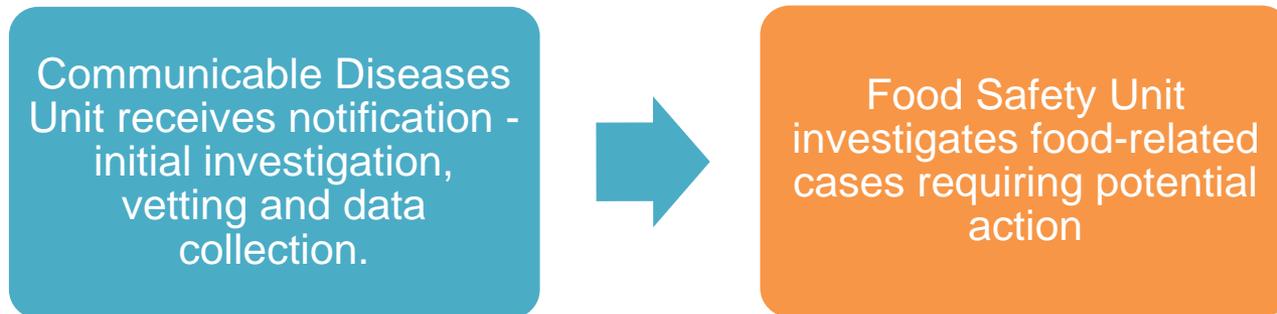
Within 5 days

Via web smart form
www2.health.vic.gov.au/notify

How was the system put in place?

Scope driven by the public health purpose and practical considerations

- Uses existing communicable disease notification system of the Department of Health and Human Services



Data gathered

Case information

- Demographics (age, gender, country of birth)
- Adrenaline auto-injector carriage
- Prior history of allergy
- Circumstances around food consumption (accidental, Precautionary Allergen Labelling)

Suspected cause of anaphylaxis

Packaged food – type and brand

Unpackaged food from food premises – food, premises

Food – other

Blood-derived product – product, batch number

Drug – type, name

Vaccine – type, name

Insect venom – insect type

Other – details of suspected cause

Unknown - any relevant details

What will the department do with this data?

Anaphylaxis cause	Department response
Packaged food	Food Safety Unit (FSU) investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Compliance Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code– +/- recall
Food from premises	FSU and Local Government investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Compliance with the Code, Food Safety Program– Review allergen management and staff knowledge
Food – other	Health Protection Branch database
Drugs, vaccines, blood-derived products	Refer to Therapeutic Goods Administration adverse events scheme
Insect venom/ other	Health Protection Branch database

Reporting:

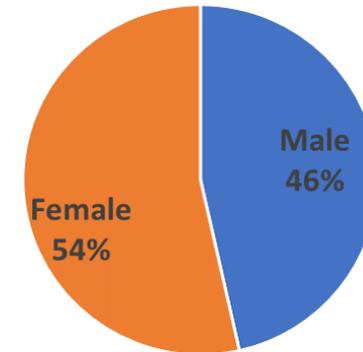
- certain data available publicly through interactive reporting site
- additional data available on request

Trend analysis to be done where possible for evidence for policy and prevention.

Preliminary data

1 November 2018 – 1 May 2019 (26 weeks)

1200 notifications in total
46 per week on average



Timeliness:

- Packaged food notifications received: 24 hr from diagnosis
- All other notifications received: 1-2 days on average

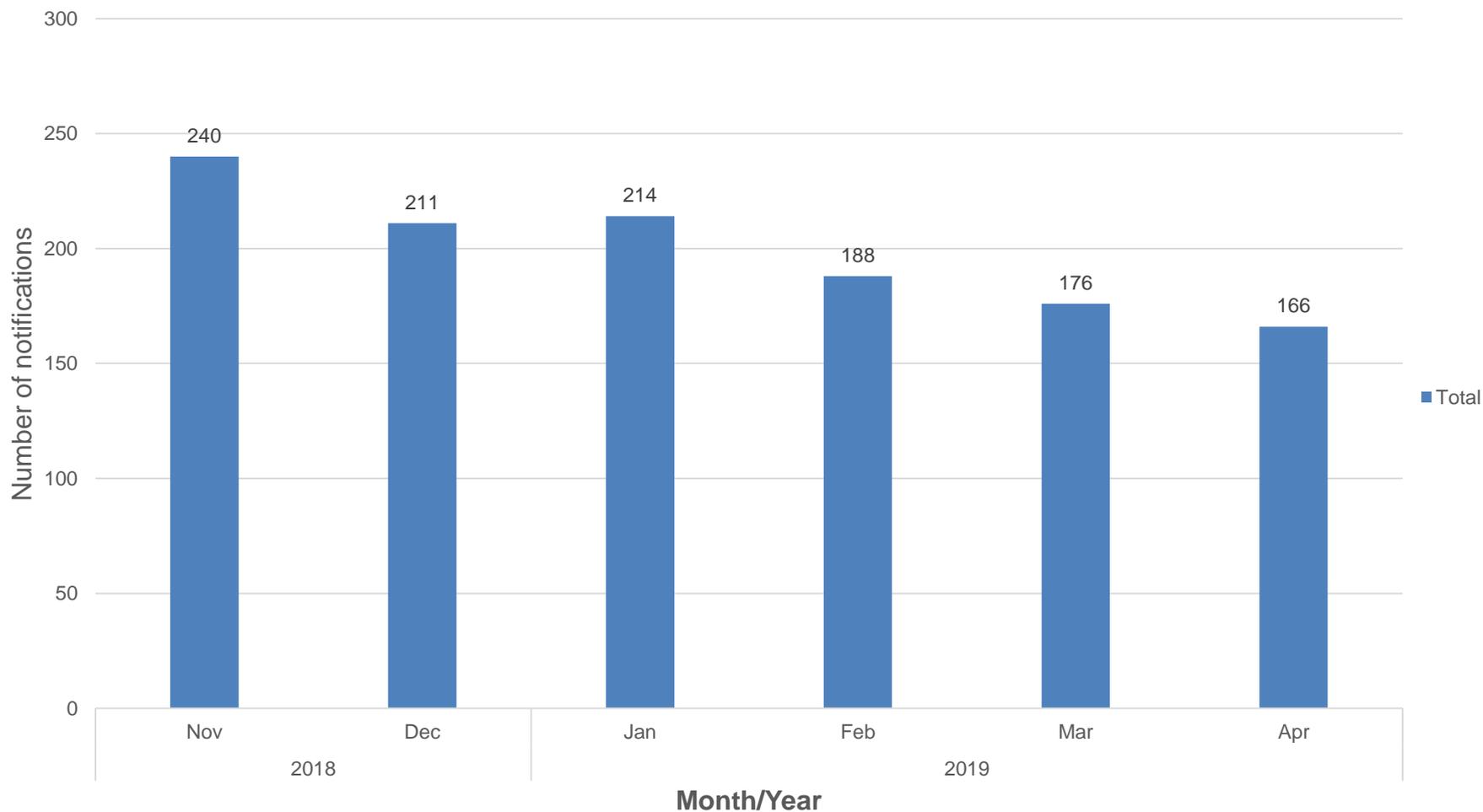
Context of reaction:

- 46% of food-related cases are **first time reactions**
- Majority of remaining food cases involve **consumption in error**

Preliminary data

1 November 2018 – 1 May 2019, Victoria

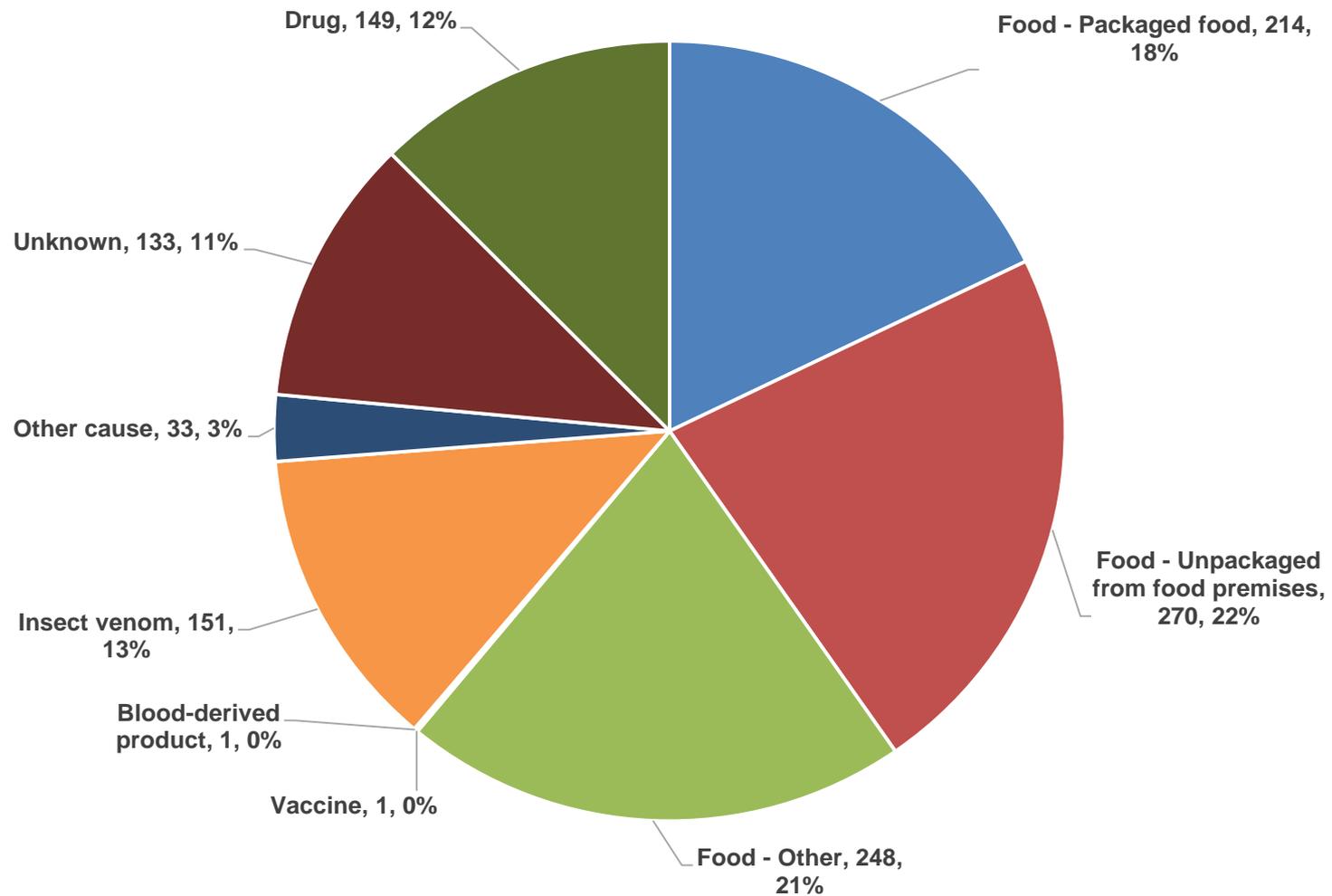
Number of anaphylaxis notifications by month.



Preliminary data

1 November 2018 – 1 May 2019, Victoria

Number and proportion of anaphylaxis notifications by suspected cause (n=1200)



Actions and Outcomes

1 November 2018 - 1 May 2019

214 cases referred to Food Safety Unit for further investigation

Packaged food (93 cases)

- **1** food recall, within 48 hours of notification

Unpackaged food from a council-registered food premises (121 cases)

- **44** referred to local council: 27 education, 2 Food Act orders

Victorian Food Act 1984:

Section 10A Falsely describing food in other circumstances

(2) A person must not sell food that the person ought reasonably to know is falsely described and is likely to cause physical harm to a consumer of the food who relies on the description.

Section 14 Sale of food not complying with purchaser's demand

(1) A person must not, in the course of carrying on a food business, supply food by way of sale if the food is not of the nature or substance demanded by the purchaser.

Reflections

- Primary objectives being met: timely action on undeclared food allergens and poor allergen management in food businesses.
- Food premises a greater risk in terms of anaphylaxis numbers.
- System generally well received – notifiers positive about aims.
- Some disappointment voiced by specialists and researchers that the system is not a clinical register.
- Rich data source.
- Early insights into consumer attitudes, knowledge, behaviour.
- Need for further education around allergens.

Information

- Further information and link to notification form:
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/anaphylaxis-notifications>
- Interactive reports can be accessed through our infectious disease surveillance reporting system:
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/infectious-diseases-surveillance/interactive-infectious-disease-reports>
- Queries: anaphylaxis@dhhs.vic.gov.au