10. Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR)

Summary

STI surveillance on CIDR was implemented nationally

- The highest ever annual number of notifications was recorded on CIDR in 2013
- Major infrastructure and software upgrade from CIDR2 (32 bit) to CIDR3 (64 bit) virtual environment was completed
- IS27001 Information Security accreditation was retained
- The number of active CIDR users in 2013 was 246
- Delivery of CIDR user training transferred from central delivery at HPSC to local delivery in Public Health Departments and Laboratories
- Outbreak management functionality was improved

CIDR OPERATIONS

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION SURVEILLANCE ON CIDR

Initiated at the end of 2012, implementation of the notification of case-based laboratory-identified notifiable sexually transmitted infections using CIDR was completed in 2013. The completion of this implementation led to significant improvements in accuracy and timeliness of notification, analysis and reporting of these diseases. The inclusion of STI surveillance on CIDR resulted in an expected increase in the total number of infectious disease notifications made through CIDR in 2013 and represents the highest annual number of notifications recorded on CIDR to date.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOFTWARE UPGRADE FOR CIDR

Building on the virtualisation of the CIDR architecture in 2012, the infrastructure and software were upgraded from the CIDR2 (32-bit) to CIDR3 (64-bit) virtual environment in 2013. Use of the 64-bit server, database and CIDR Application software improved system performance by maximising the use of additional memory available in the CIDR infrastructure. The upgrade also ensured that the latest 64-bit tools and applications can be used in the CIDR architecture where required.

INFORMATION SECURITY ACCREDITATION

Following a full re-accreditation audit as required every four years, HPSC and CIDR retained ISO 27001 accreditation in 2013. The HPSC Information Governance Framework, which includes CIDR, provides re-assurance to users and partners of the CIDR system, the Data Protection Commissioner and the data

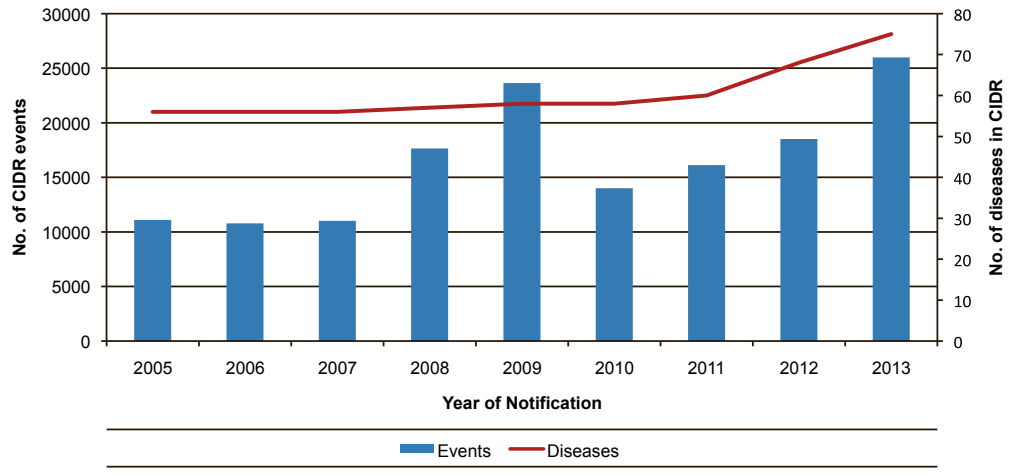

Figure 1. The volume of statutory infectious disease notifications and corresponding number of diseases in CIDR per year, since 2005 when national implementation commenced (as of 18th September 2014)

subjects relating to sensitive data stored and managed by the system. Maintenance of this accreditation standard is vital to information security.

CIDR USER TRAINING

Delivery of CIDR User training was transferred from central delivery at HPSC to local delivery in Public Health Departments and Laboratories. The de-centralisation of CIDR training became necessary as a result of reduced resources in Public Health and Laboratories where staff were finding it increasingly difficult to travel to HPSC for training and at HPSC where availability of trainers was reduced due to other duties. Local training by previously trained and experienced users was made possible by the virtualisation of the CIDR environment and the availability of the CIDR Test / Training system on the Government Virtual Private Network.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONALITY IMPROVED

The outbreak management functionality of CIDR was re-designed according to end-user specification in 2013 for delivery early in 2014. The changes to the system were extensive and designed to simplify and streamline the use of the outbreak functions. The enhanced surveillance data associated with outbreak management was expanded significantly in this re-design.

GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The National CIDR Steering Group continued to provide guidance and oversight of CIDR through 2013 and met by teleconference on four occasions during the year. The wider National CIDR User Group convened on four occasions throughout the year, also by teleconference, to discuss the ongoing use of CIDR and associated developments.

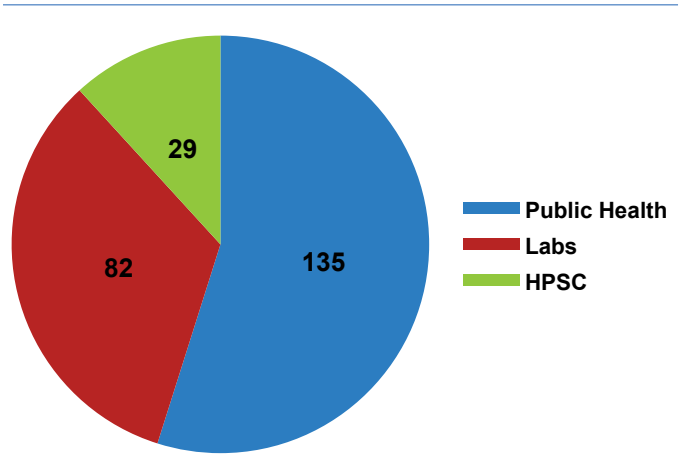

Figure 2. The number of users of the CIDR system in Departments of Public Health, in diagnostic and reference laboratories and in HPSC in 2013 (total=246)