



Infection report

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Invasive meningococcal disease (laboratory reports in England): July to September 2014 (Q3/2014)

In England between July and September 2014, a total of 95 cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) were reported to Public Health England (PHE) [1]. This was a 34% decrease from the 144 cases reported in the second quarter of 2014 and one less case than was reported in the equivalent quarter in 2013. Four cases of IMD were reported in this period in Wales.

Of the 95 cases of IMD reported in England; 62% (59) were capsular group B, 25% (24) group W, 8% (8) group Y and 4% (4) group C (MenC). The four IMD cases reported to PHE from Wales were all group B. During the third quarter of 2014 there were no reported cases for capsular groups A, X and Z/E (table 1) in England. Whilst numbers remain low, the observed increase in group W cases has been maintained in infants and those aged 15 years and over and this continues to be monitored. An increase in cases of meningococcal disease in university students also began this quarter resulting in an extension to the MenC vaccination programme for university students until March 2015 [2].

Fifty-three per cent (50/95) of IMD cases reported in England were male. In England, children aged less than one year accounted for 19% (18/95) of IMD reports. The majority of infant cases (56%; [10/18]) were aged between six and 11 months and of these; seven were group B and three were group W. In eight infants with IMD aged between zero and five months, six were cases of group B IMD, with one case each of groups C and Y. Almost a fifth (19%; [18/95]) of cases were in children aged between one and four years of which 94% (17/18) were group B disease and one group W (table 2).

Half of the group B IMD cases (51%; [30/59]) were in children under five years of age. Of the 24 group W cases, more than half (54%; [13/24]) were in adults aged 45 year and older, 21% (5/24) were aged between 15 and 19 years and 17% (4/24) were aged less than five years. Half of the group Y cases were in individuals aged 65 and older (50%; [4/8]) followed by 15 to 19 year old who accounted for 25% (2/8). There were four group C cases and three of these were aged 25 years or older.

Table 1. Invasive meningococcal disease in England by capsular group and laboratory testing method, weeks 27-39 (Q3): 2013 and 2014

Capsular groups ~	Method of diagnosis						Total		Cumulative total	
	Blood and/or CSF isolate		Blood and/or CSF PCR		Other sites culture					
	2013 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2013 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2013 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2013 (Q3)	2014 (Q3)	2013 (Q1-3)	2014 (Q1-3)
A	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
B	30	38	39	21	1	–	70	59	416	293
C	3	2	–	2	–	–	3	4	23	22
W	11	21	3	2	–	1	14	24	48	76
Y	6	8	2	–	1	–	9	8	48	53
Ungrouped	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	5
Ungroupable*	3	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	6	–
Total	50	69	44	25	2	1	96	95	543	450

~ Note: No cases capsular groups X or Z/E were confirmed during any of the periods summarised in the table.

* Ungroupable refers to invasive clinical meningococcal isolates that were non-groupable, while ungrouped cases refers to culture-negative but PCR screen (*ctrA*) positive and negative for the four genogroups [B, C, W and Y] routinely tested for.

Table 2. Invasive meningococcal disease in England by group and age at diagnosis, weeks 27-39 (Q3): 2014

Age group	B	C	W135	Y	Total
<1 year	13	1	3	1	18
1-4 years	17	–	1	–	18
5-9 years	5	–	–	–	5
10-14 years	1	–	–	–	1
15-19 years	7	–	5	2	14
20-24 years	1	–	–	–	1
25-44 years	4	2	2	1	9
45-64 years	6	1	4	–	11
>=65 years	5	–	9	4	18
Total	59	4	24	8	95

References

1. Data source: Public Health England Meningococcal Reference Unit.
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/freshers-told-its-not-too-late-for-meningitis-c-vaccine>