



Volume 10 Number 4 Published on: 29 January 2016

Current News

- ▶ **Cessation of rubella susceptibility screening in pregnancy in England**
- ▶ **Shingles vaccine coverage and hepatitis disease reports in this issue of *HPR***

Routine reports

Vaccine preventable infections

- ▶ **Laboratory reports of hepatitis A and C (England and Wales): July-September 2015**

Vaccine coverage

- ▶ **Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, July-September 2015**

News

Volume 10 Number 4 Published on: 29 January 2016

Cessation of rubella susceptibility screening in pregnancy in England

Rubella (German measles) susceptibility screening in pregnancy in England will cease from 1 April 2016, taking account of the conclusions of recent screening policy reviews carried out by the UK National Screening Committee [1].

The NSC reviews found that screening for rubella susceptibility during pregnancy no longer met the criteria for a screening programme and should be discontinued because:

- rubella infection levels in the UK are so low they are defined as eliminated by the World Health Organization
- rubella infection in pregnancy is very rare
- immunisation with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine before they become pregnant is a more effective means of protecting women against rubella in pregnancy
- the screening test used can potentially give inaccurate results and cause unnecessary stress among women.

Cessation of screening has been made possible by high uptake rates of MMR vaccine in children in England, which are close to the WHO's target of 95%, resulting in rubella infection being now very uncommon in the country. In 2014 and 2015, 91.5% of children aged up to two years had received at least one MMR vaccination; and 94.5% had received at least one dose of MMR by five years [1].

References

1. Rubella susceptibility screening in pregnancy to end in England, PHE press release, 27 January 2016.
 2. NSC (October 2015). "Criteria for appraising the viability, effectiveness and appropriateness of a screening programme".
-

Shingles vaccine coverage and hepatitis disease reports in this issue of *HPR*

A report on vaccine coverage achieved during the first quarter of the third year of the herpes zoster (shingles) immunisation programme in England is published in the routine reports section of this issue of *HPR* [1]. The report presents provisional cumulative coverage data for each of the two relevant age cohorts – the 70-year-old “routine” cohort and the 78-year-old “catch-up” cohort – by NHS England Area Team, but not by CCG due to incompleteness of data.

There was 37.8% coverage for the 70-year-old routine cohort, and 38.2% coverage for the 78-year-old catch-up cohort. Compared with November 2014, coverage decreased by 2% for the routine cohort and by 0.4% for the catch-up cohort.

Although it is noted that the data are provisional and need to be interpreted with caution, they indicate the importance of GPs continuing to offer the vaccine to eligible patients in order to prevent the significant burden of disease associated with shingles among older adults in England.

Further provisional cumulative coverage data will be published on a quarterly basis, with the finalised annual coverage data due to be published in autumn 2016.

Further information on shingles vaccine eligibility is available in “Immunisation against infectious disease” (the Green Book) [2].

Also in this issue, a third quarter 2015 infection report on laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A virus and hepatitis C reports in England and Wales [3].

References

1. Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2015 to November 2015, *HPR* 10(4): immunisation, 29 January 2016.
2. PHE/DH (October 2015). Immunisation against infectious disease (chapter 28a): Shingles (herpes zoster).
3. Laboratory reports of hepatitis A and C (England and Wales): July-September 2015, *HPR* 10(4): immunisation, 29 January 2016.



Public Health
England

Health Protection Report

weekly report

Volume 10 Numbers 4 Published on: 29 January 2016

Routine Reports

Vaccine preventable infections

- ▶ **Laboratory reports of hepatitis A and C (England and Wales): July-September 2015**

Vaccine coverage

- ▶ **Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, July-September 2015**

Routine reports / Vaccine preventable infections

Volume 10 Number 4 Published on: 29 January 2016

Laboratory reports of hepatitis A and C (England and Wales): July-September 2015

Laboratory reports of hepatitis A in England and Wales (July-September 2015)

There were a total of 113 laboratory reports of hepatitis A reported to Public Health England (PHE) during the third quarter of 2015 (July-September 2015). This was a 43% increase on the number of reports during the second quarter of 2015 (n=79) and a 52.7% increase on the same quarter in 2014 (n=74).

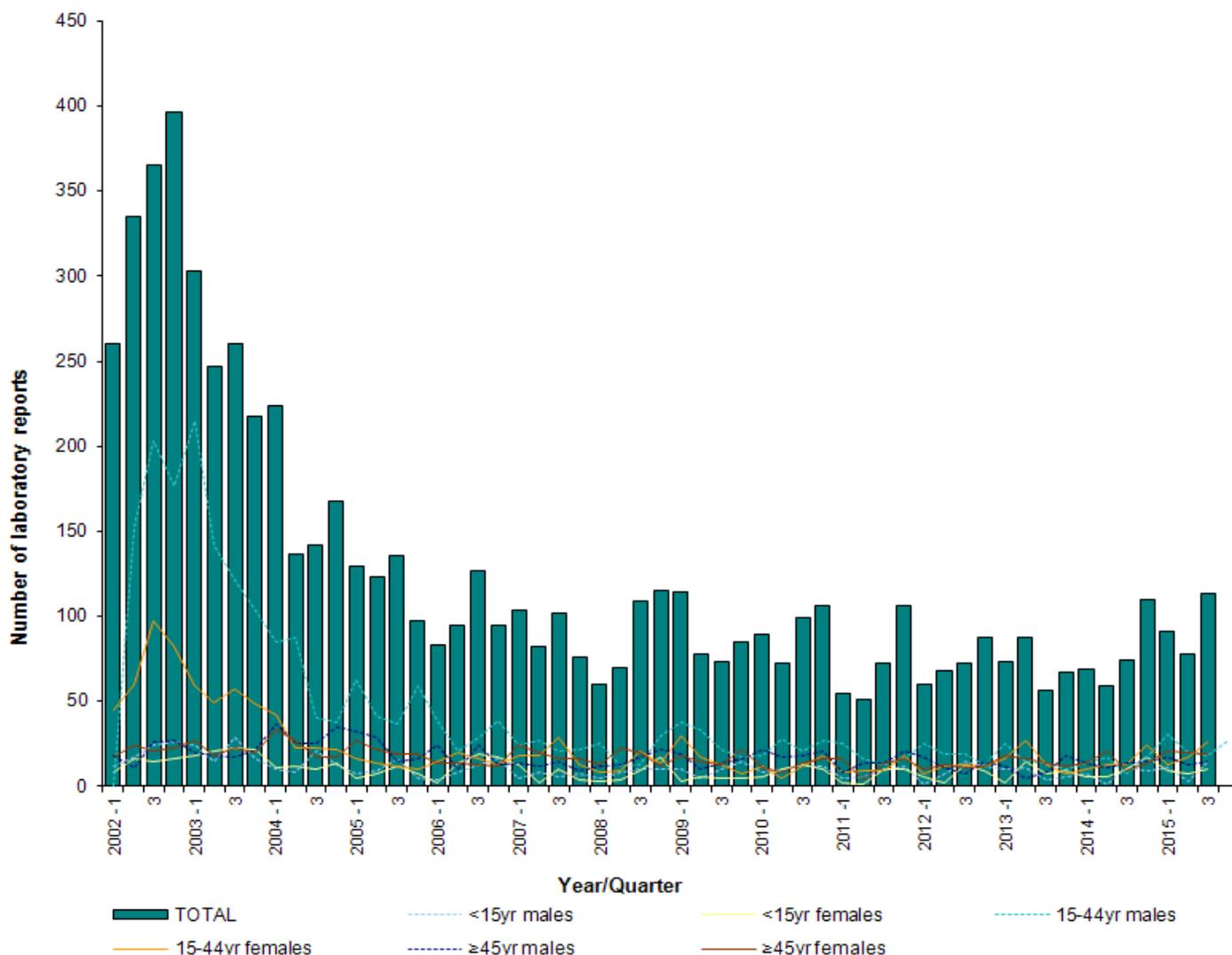
Age-group and sex were well reported (>99% complete). Fifty four (47.8%) reports were among those aged 15-44, a further 34 (30.1%) reports were among the over 44 years old-age group, and 25 (22.1%) reports were from the under 15 year age-group.

Males accounted for 50.9% of all reports. A similar proportion of males and females were reported in the 15-44 years age-group (46.9% males) and in the over 45 years old group (30.1% males). A considerably lower proportion of males (22.1% males) were reported in the less than 15 years age-group.

Laboratory reports of hepatitis A in England and Wales, July-September 2015

Age group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
<1 year	0	1	0	1
1-4 years	4	1	0	5
5-9 years	6	8	0	14
10-14 years	5	0	0	5
15-24 years	11	11	1	23
25-34 years	6	8	0	14
35-44 years	10	7	0	17
45-54 years	4	5	0	9
55-64 years	3	5	0	8
>65 years	8	9	0	17
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	57	55	1	113

Figure 1. Laboratory reports of hepatitis A by age and sex (England and Wales): Jan 2002 to March 2015

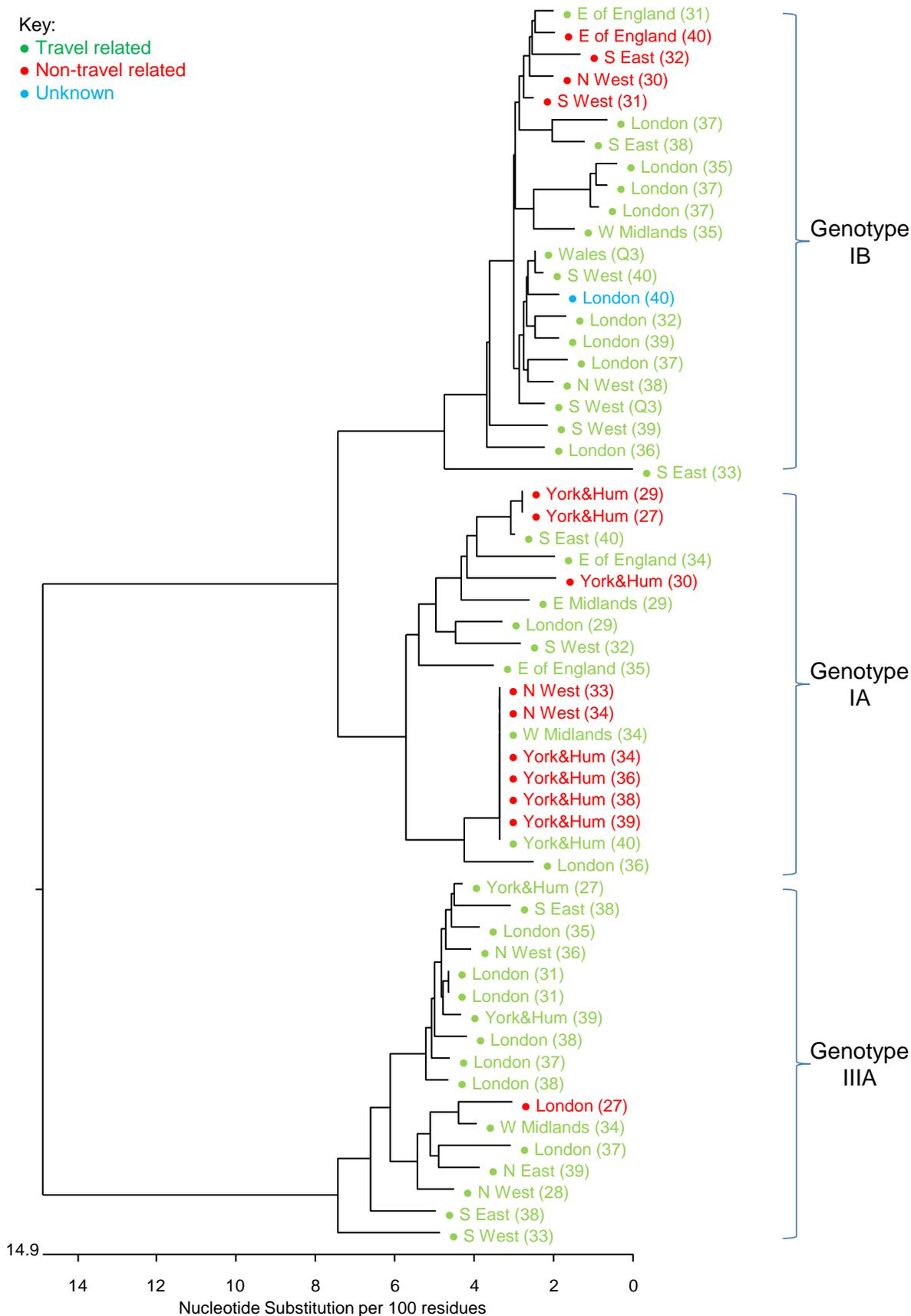


Reference laboratory confirmation and phylogeny of hepatitis A infection

Of the 113 patients notified as having acute HAV infection during the third quarter of 2015, 67 had samples forwarded to the Virus Reference Department for confirmation. Seventeen of the patients were not confirmed to have acute HAV infection. The remaining 50 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection. In addition 14 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection that had not been reported through the laboratory reporting system, with the exception of one they were all recorded on HPzone.

A total of 57 patients could be genotyped over this period; 18 were genotype IA (31.6%), 22 were genotype IB (38.6%) and 17 were genotype IIIA (29.8%). Of these samples 42 were associated with travel (73.7%), 14 had no travel history (24.6%) and 1 had no information (1.7%). This information is presented as a phylogenetic tree. Each sequence is represented by a dot with the patient region and the week of sampling in brackets.

Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of genotype IA, IB, and IIIA sequences July-September 2015 (n=57)



Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales (July-September 2015)

There were a total of 2,721 laboratory reports of hepatitis C reported to PHE between July and September 2015. There was a 1.3% decrease in the number of reported cases compared to the second quarter of 2015 (n=2,758), and a 4.9% increase on the same quarter in 2014 (n=2,593). Age-group and sex were well reported (>99% complete). Where known males accounted for 68.5% of reports (1,852/2,704), which is consistent with previous quarters. Adults aged 25-44 years accounted for 49.9% of the total number of hepatitis C reports.

Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, July-September 2015

Age group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
<1 year	2	5	0	7
1-4 years	2	1	0	3
5-9 years	4	2	0	6
10-14 years	4	2	0	6
15-24 years	64	41	3	108
25-34 years	388	206	5	599
35-44 years	517	231	3	751
45-54 years	514	174	3	691
55-64 years	247	124	0	371
>65 years	104	61	1	166
Unknown	6	5	2	13
Total	1852	852	17	2721

Routine reports / Vaccine coverage

Volume 10 Number 4 Published on: 29 January 2016

Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2015 to November 2015

Provisional cumulative vaccine coverage estimates show 37.8% coverage for the 70 year old routine cohort and 38.2% coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Compared with November 2014, coverage has decreased by 2% for the routine cohort and by 0.4% for the catch-up cohort.

Introduction

This report describes the first quarter (September to November 2015) of the third year of the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination programme in England, comparing cumulative vaccine coverage estimates with the first quarter of the 2014/15 and 2013/14 programmes [1,2].

In this year of the programme (1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016) shingles vaccine is routinely offered to patients aged 70 years old on 1 September 2015 (born between 2 September 1944 and 1 September 1945) and to a catch-up cohort comprised of adults aged 78 years old on 1 September 2015 (born between 2 September 1936 and 1 September 1937). GPs may continue to offer immunisation to anyone who was eligible for shingles vaccine in the first two years of the programme but has not yet been vaccinated, up until their 80th birthday. This includes people aged 71, 72 or 79 on 1 September 2015 [3,4].

As a live viral vaccine, the shingles vaccine is contraindicated for individuals with severe immunosuppression and pregnant women. It is essential to assess the eligibility of individuals prior to offering the shingles vaccine and ensure that those who can benefit are not excluded. Further information on shingles vaccine eligibility is available in the “Immunisation against infectious disease” book (the [Green Book](#)) [5].

Methods

GP practice level shingles vaccine coverage data are automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm* website on a monthly basis. These data are then validated and analysed by PHE to check data completeness, identify and query any anomalous results and describe epidemiological trends.

* ImmForm is the system used by Public Health England to record vaccine coverage data for some immunisation programmes and to provide vaccine ordering facilities for the NHS

The automated monthly surveys measure the proportion vaccinated in two ways:

- vaccine **coverage** – the total number of patients aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 **who have ever received the vaccination** (numerator) as a proportion of the number of patients registered aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 (denominator)
- vaccine **uptake** – the total number of patients aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 **who received the vaccination between 1 September 2015 and 31 November 2015** (numerator) as a proportion of the number of patients registered aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 (denominator)

This report describes vaccine **coverage** of each eligible cohort for England and by NHS England area team (AT).

Participation and data quality

These cumulative data are provisional and should be interpreted with caution.

Due to problems uploading data, coverage estimates for September and October 2015 (figures 1 and 2) include data from two of four IT suppliers, representing 60.2% GP practices. Coverage estimates to November 2015 include data from three of four IT suppliers, representing 81.7% GP practices (compared to 94.1% in November 2014). This decrease is due to incomplete data from one of these three data suppliers.

It is important to note that specific geographical areas are supplied by specific GP IT suppliers. In particular, the GP IT supplier not submitting data for this collection supplies a high proportion (34%) of GP practices in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, compared with other ATs.

As a result of incomplete data, CCG level coverage estimates are not presented.

Results

In total 6310/7723 (81.7%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data in November 2015. This ranged from 48.6% of practices in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (see participation and data quality), to 97.3% of practices in Lancashire (table). Coverage by AT ranged from 32.7% (London) to 42.5% (Durham, Darlington and Tees) for the routine 70 year old cohort, and from 33.2% (London) to 42.2% (Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral) for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (table).

Overall coverage of the shingles vaccination programme, including those vaccinated since September 2013 is 37.8% for the routine 70 year old cohort (compared to 39.8% in November 2014 and 37.9% in November 2013) and 38.2% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (compared to 38.6% in November 2014) (see figures 1 and 2).

Discussion

Provisional cumulative shingles vaccine coverage estimates to the end of November 2015 show a drop of 2% for the routine cohort (compared to November 2014), back to coverage comparable to November 2013. The coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort has dropped by 0.4% (compared to November 2014). Whilst these data are to be interpreted with caution due to partial GP IT supplier participation and data quality, it is important that GPs continue to offer the shingles vaccine to eligible patients in order to prevent the significant burden of disease associated with shingles among older adults in England.

Further provisional cumulative coverage data will be published on a quarterly basis, with the finalised annual coverage data due to be published in autumn 2016.

References

1. Public Health England, *Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September to November 2014*. HPR, 2015. **9**(3).
2. Public Health England. *Herpes zoster (shingles) immunisation programme 2013/2014: Report for England*. 2015; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake#shingles-vaccine-uptake>.
3. Public Health England. *Shingles immunisation programme letter*. 2014; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-immunisation-programme-letter>.
4. England, N. *Who can have the shingles vaccine?* 2015; Available from: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/who-can-have-the-shingles-vaccine.aspx>.
5. Public Health England. *Shingles (herpes zoster): the green book, chapter 28a*. The Green Book 2014 9 October 2015; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-herpes-zoster-the-green-book-chapter-28a>.

Figure 1. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the routine cohort (70 year old) for September to November 2015, compared to 2013/14 and 2014/15 data, England

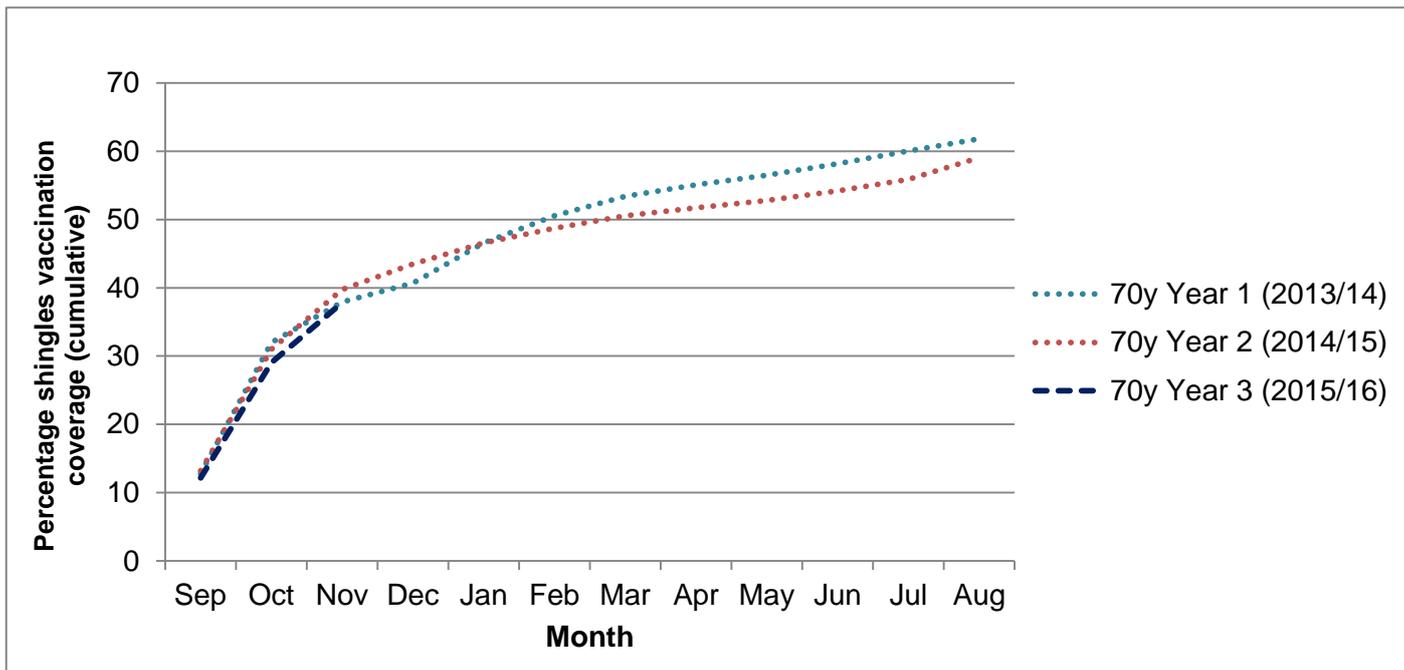
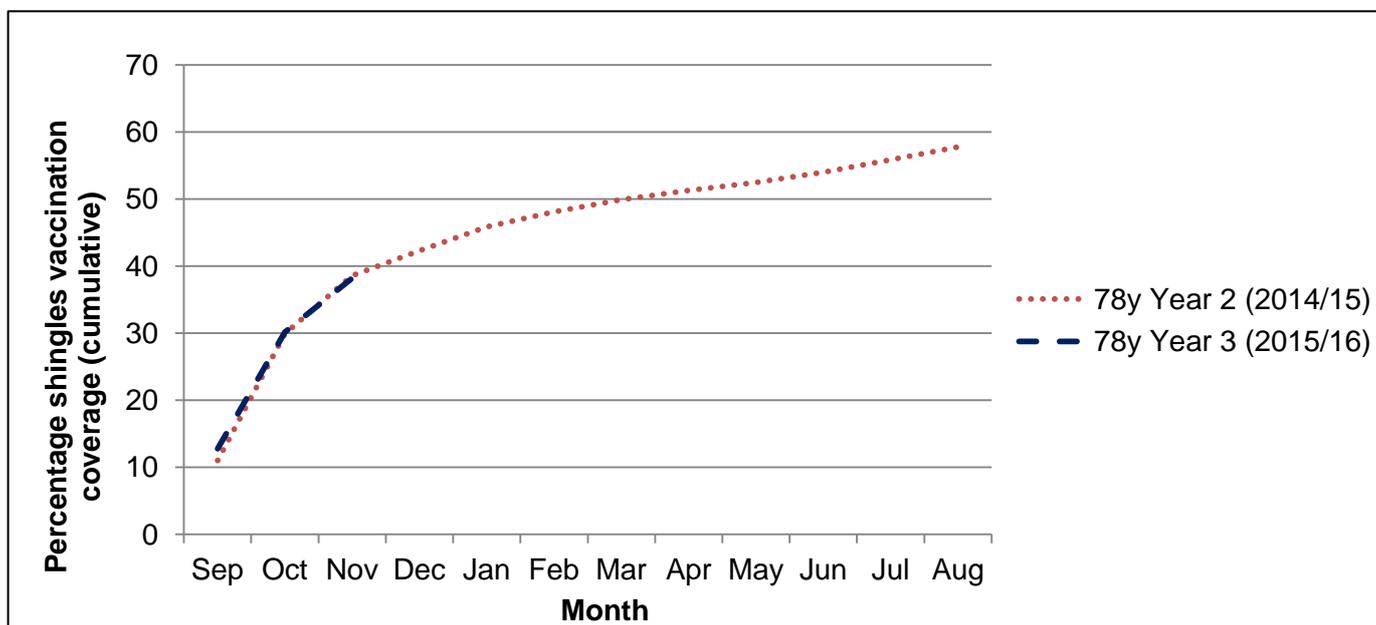


Figure 2. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the catch-up cohort (78 year old) for September to November 2015, compared to 2014/15 data, England



NB: Coverage for the 2013/14 catch-up cohort are not shown as they were a different age cohort (79 years of age)

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage to end November 2015 by age cohort and Area Team, England

Area Team (code)	Percent of practices reporting data in November 2015	Percent coverage in routine cohort (70 year olds)	Percent coverage in catch-up cohort (78 year olds)
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44)	84.5	42.3	42.2
Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45)	87.1	42.5	40.9
Greater Manchester (Q46)	88.8	37.8	36.6
Lancashire (Q47)	97.3	39.6	39.8
Merseyside (Q48)	90.9	36.7	37.6
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Q49)	92.2	41.3	41.4
N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50)	79.9	37.9	37.8
S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51)	55.7	42.1	42.1
W Yorkshire (Q52)	71.6	39.7	39.8
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Q53)	93.4	40.1	39.5
Birmingham and Black Country (Q54)	85.6	37.7	37.0
Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55)	62.8	38.4	38.8
East Anglia (Q56)	70.6	39.8	40.2
Essex (Q57)	70.4	33.8	35.2
Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58)	62.7	40.5	39.9
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59)	75.5	38.7	35.3
Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60)	89.4	38.9	40.1
Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire (Q64)	72.1	39.1	40.2
Bristol, N Somerset, Somerset and S Gloucestershire (Q65)	90.8	36.3	38.0
Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66)	48.6	39.5	39.8
Kent and Medway (Q67)	92.9	35.8	36.5
Surrey and Sussex (Q68)	82.5	35.8	38.1
Thames Valley (Q69)	93.1	36.0	39.3
Wessex (Q70)	76.9	38.7	39.3
London (Q71)	90.0	32.7	33.2
ENGLAND	81.7	37.8	38.2