



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Monthly Legionella Report December 2016

National Surveillance Scheme for Legionnaires' disease
in Residents of England and Wales

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health, and are a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy to advise and support government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.

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Published January 2017

PHE publications gateway number: 2016569



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Introduction

The national surveillance scheme for Legionnaires' disease in residents of England and Wales is co-ordinated by PHE.

The main objectives of the scheme are to:

- detect clusters and outbreaks of Legionella in England and Wales or abroad through the surveillance of all reported cases
- identify sources of infection so that control measures can be assessed and where necessary improved upon, to prevent further cases
- as a member state, collaborate with the European Legionnaires' disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet) in the detection, control and prevention of cases, clusters and outbreaks within European countries through the reporting of travel associated cases of Legionnaires' disease

This report provides a summary of data extracted from the national Legionella database for confirmed and suspected cases of Legionellosis in residents of England and Wales, as reported to the national surveillance scheme during the month of December 2016.

The report may not provide an accurate representation of Legionella activity in England and Wales during this time period due to delays in reporting. This means that the data for this month may not be comparable with data for the same period in previous years. Changes as updates reported after the date of this report will be updated in subsequent monthly reports as further data becomes available.

Figures are correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.

Legionella data: December 2016

All data presented in this report is correct as at 06 January 2017.

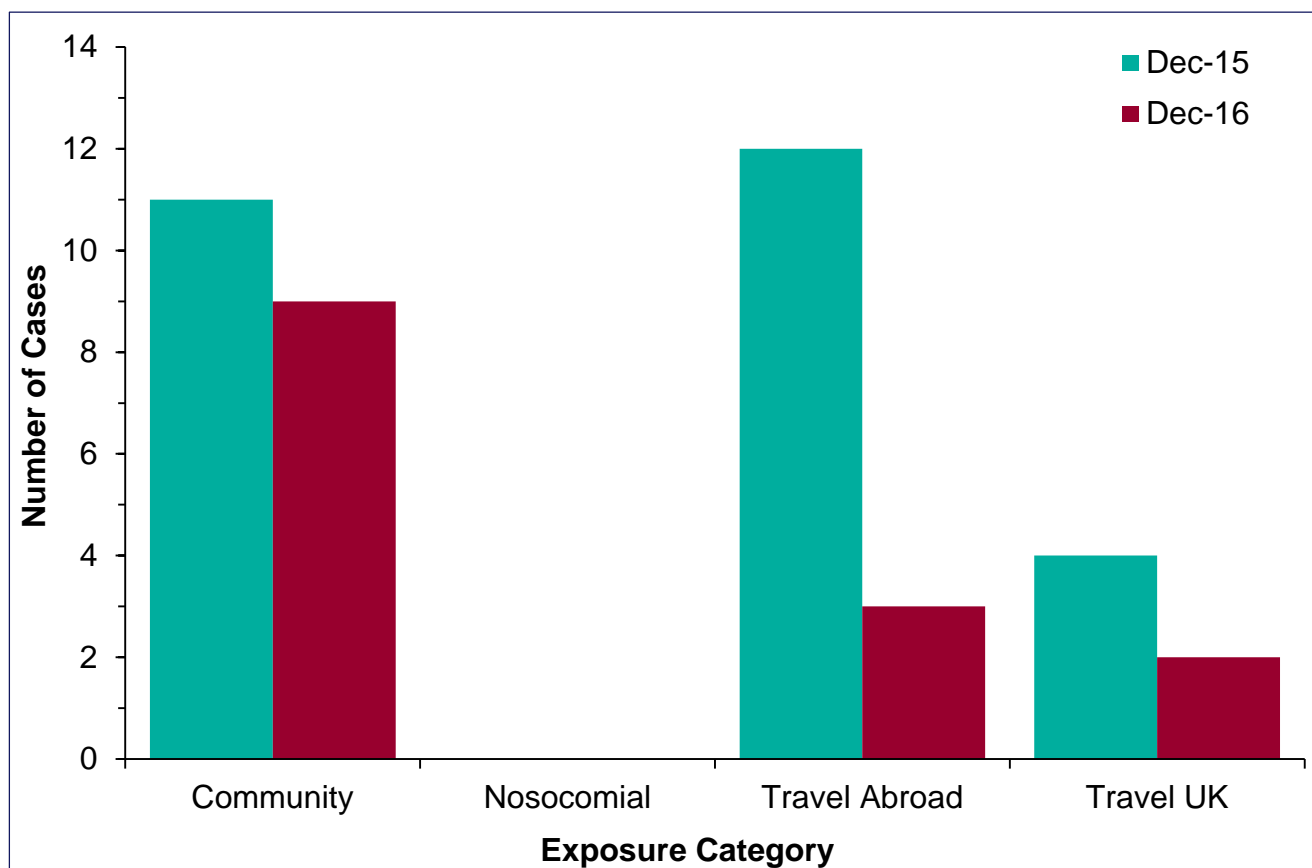
Table 1: Cases reported/notified[†]

Number of reported/notified [†] cases [‡] of Legionnaires' disease during December 2016	43
Number of reported/notified [†] cases of LD since 01 January 2016	496

[†] reported/notified cases are any cases reported to the national surveillance scheme via regional colleagues, laboratories and statutory notifications (including all confirmed and non-confirmed cases).

[‡] cases reported with onset of symptoms between 01 January to 31 December 2016, inclusive.

Figure 1: Confirmed* cases of LD by category excluding unassigned cases with onset of symptoms in December 2016



* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with incomplete data.

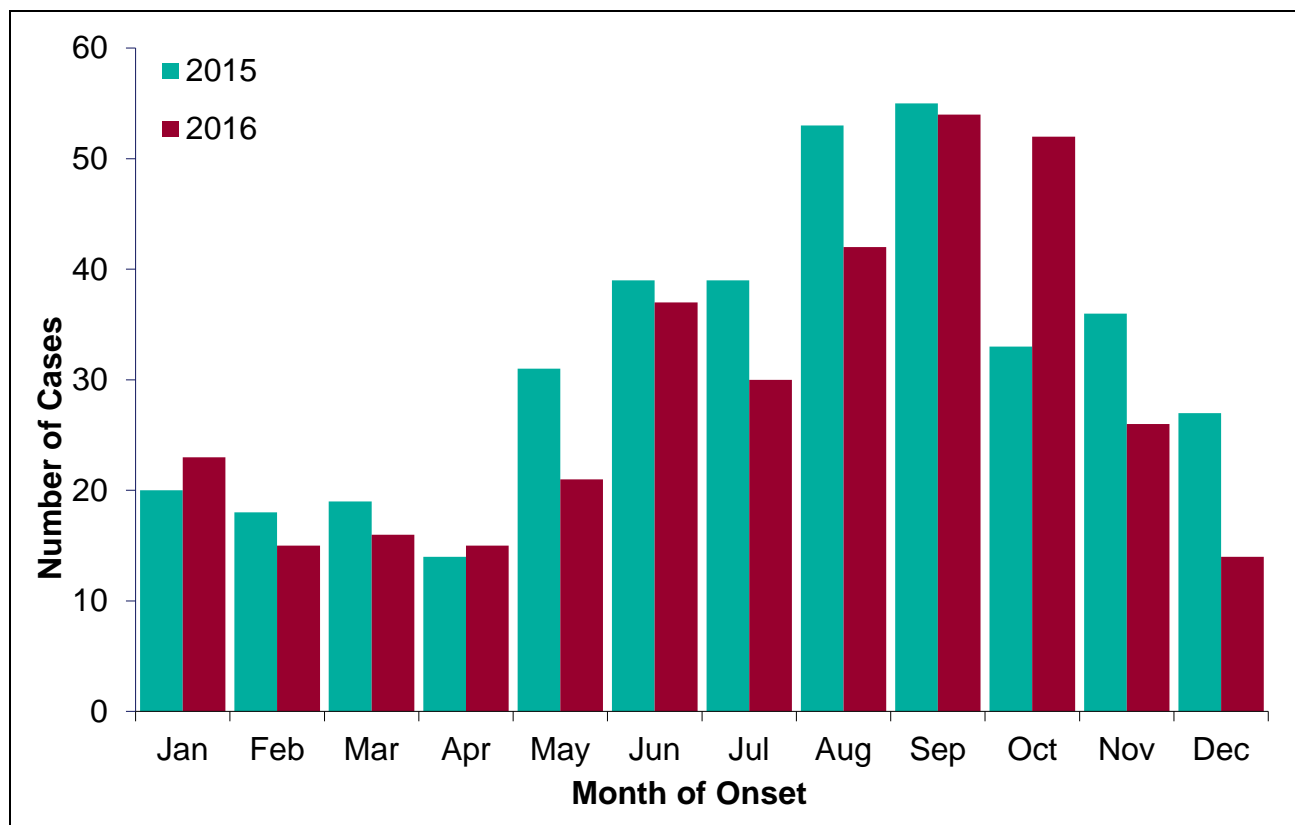
Table 2: Number of confirmed* cases of LD by category with onset in December 2016

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in December 2016	Confirmed* cases with onset since January 2016
Community	9	162
Nosocomial	0	6
Travel abroad	3	146
Travel UK	2	30
Unassigned	0	1
Total	14	345

* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with incomplete data.

nb: figure in this table are not equivalent to table 1 as cases reported in December may have earlier onset dates or reported cases may later prove to be negative or probable.

Figure 2: Confirmed* cases of LD by month of onset in 2015 and 2016



* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with outstanding data.

Table 3: All confirmed* and incomplete cases by PHE centre of residence

Region of residence	Onset in December 2016		Onset since January 2016	
	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data is still awaited	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data are still awaited
East Midlands	3	-	43	-
Anglia & Essex	1	-	25	-
South Midlands & Hertfordshire	1	-	14	-
London	2	-	45	1
North East	-	-	14	-
Cumbria & Lancashire	-	-	9	-
Cheshire & Merseyside	-	-	11	1
Greater Manchester	-	-	13	-
Surrey, Sussex & Kent	2	-	26	1
Thames Valley	1	2	17	2
Wessex	-	-	8	-
Devon, Cornwall & Somerset	-	-	8	-
Avon, Gloucs. & Wiltshire	2	-	16	1
Wales	-	-	14	5
West Midlands	1	-	48	-
Yorkshire & Humber	1	-	32	2
Other	-	-	2	-
Total	14	2	345	13

* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with outstanding data.

Table 4: Positive clinical tests of confirmed* cases of LD with onset of symptoms since January 2016

	Number of confirmed cases	Number of cases with respiratory samples	Number of culture &/or PCR positive cases	Number of cases with SBT identified
Total number of cases	345	134	109	98

PCR: polymerase chain reaction

SBT: sequence based typing

Of the 345 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme, 134 (38.8%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the 134 cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 109 (81.3%) specimens tested positive for Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 and a complete or partial sequence type has been determined for 98 (89.9%) of culture and/or PCR positive cases.

(Please note that some results may still be pending at the time of this report.)

Comments

* Please be advised that as of 01 January 2017 an updated national surveillance form has been brought into use and replaces all previous versions of the national surveillance form. The new form can be downloaded from the PHE website at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-national-surveillance-scheme>.

Please ensure all locally held copies of the national surveillance form are replaced with the new form.

* 01 January 2017 a new guidance document on the investigation of Legionnaires' disease was published called 'Guidance on investigating case, clusters and outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease'.

The document is specifically aimed towards PHE health protection teams undertaking public health investigations on incidents of Legionnaires' disease. It provides a framework for a standardised approach to an investigation which can be adapted to a range of scenarios. The guidance document is available on the PHE website at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-legionnaires-disease-cases-clusters-and-outbreaks>.