Laboratory reports of *Haemophilus influenzae* by age group and serotype (England): 2018

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Laboratory reports of *Haemophilus influenzae* by age group and serotype (England): 2018 (and 2017)

During 2018 (January to December inclusive), there were 741 laboratory confirmed cases of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* (Hi). This was a 6% decrease compared to the 791 cases confirmed in 2017.

Of the samples which underwent serotyping in 2018 (n=594; 80%), 85% were non-encapsulated *Haemophilus influenzae* (ncHi), a further 13% were serotype a, e, or f, and 2% were serotype b (Hib). In comparison, in 2017; 82% of serotyped isolates were ncHi, 17% were serotype a, e, or f, and 1% was Hib. Hib cases among those aged under 15 years remained stable at 2 in 2018 compared to 3 in 2017. The previously reported high of nine cases of serotype a (Hia) in 2017 declined, with only three cases reported in 2018.

Age-group was well-reported (see table). During 2018, 84% of all invasive Hi cases were aged 15 years and over; 7% were under one year of age; 6% were 1-4 years old; and 3% were 5-14 years old. The majority of cases with serotyped isolates in children under 15 years were ncHi (n=79/89; 89%). This distribution was broadly similar to 2017, where: 86% were aged 15 years and over; 7% were under one year of age; 5% were among 1-4 year olds and 2% were among 5-14 year olds.

**Annual 2018 distribution by serotype and age group (and 2017)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serotype</th>
<th>Age-group</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;1y</td>
<td>1-4y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nc</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a,e,f</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not typed</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

As reported previously [1], cases of invasive Hib disease have declined since the introduction of the Hib conjugate vaccine in 1992 and have remained at low levels since
the introduction of the 12-month booster in 2006 (see figure). In 2018, invasive Hib disease continued to be well controlled across all age groups. The number of Hib cases remained stable at 10 in 2018 and 8 in 2017.

During 2018, there were two cases of Hib among children who were eligible for immunisation: a three month old who had received one dose of vaccine and presented with septic arthritis, and a 10 month old who was unimmunised and presented with bacteraemia and cellulitis. Both children made a full recovery. In 2017, there were three cases of Hib among children who were eligible for immunisation: a three month old who had received one dose of vaccine and presented with meningitis; a four month old who had had two doses of vaccine and presented with bacteraemic pneumonia, and an eight month old who had received the recommended three doses of vaccine and presented with bacteraemic pneumonia. All three children made a full recovery.

There were no deaths attributed to invasive Hib disease in 2018 or 2017. The most recent death attributed to invasive Hib disease was in a child aged under 16 years in 2011.

**Laboratory reports of *Haemophilus influenzae* by age group and serotype (England): 2018**

![Graph showing laboratory reports of *Haemophilus influenzae* by age group and serotype (England): 2018](image)

**Reference**

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