



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

National Quarterly Report of Tuberculosis in England

Quarter 1 2019 (1 January to 31 March)
Provisional Data

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-leading 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 Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

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Background

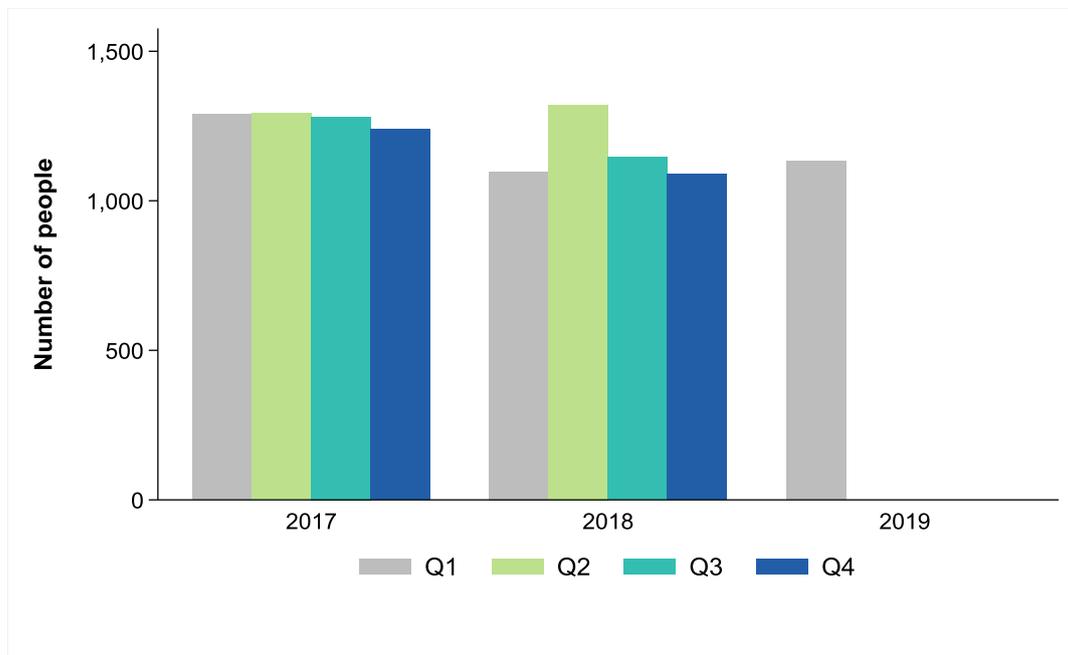
This report presents quarterly data on tuberculosis (TB) case notifications in England. Detailed results for 2018 will be published in the annual report Tuberculosis in England later in 2019. The most recent annual report with data up to the end of 2017 is [available here](#).

Please note data for 2018 and 2019 are provisional and may be different to that presented in the 2019 TB annual Official Statistic and annual report for which data are cleaned and validated.

This report aims to provide timely and up-to-date figures of key epidemiological indicators to inform ongoing TB control efforts in England.

Overall numbers and geographical distribution

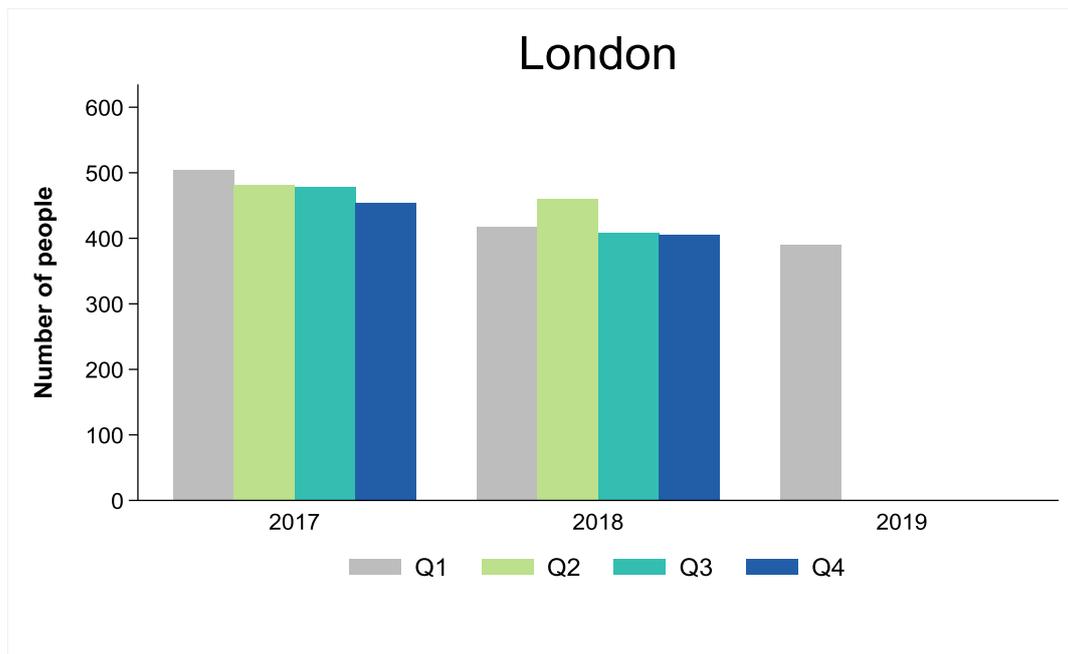
Figure 1: Number of TB notifications in England, Q1 2017 – Q1 2019



In the first quarter of 2019 (Q1, 1 January to 31 March), 1,132 people were notified with TB in England. This is a 3.1% increase in the number compared to Q1 2018. Exact numbers are shown in Table 1 on page 8.

Note that due to the reported seasonality in TB notifications, the most recent quarter is being compared to the same quarter in the previous year rather than to the previous quarter.

Figure 2: Number of TB notifications by PHE Centre^a, England, Q1 2017 – Q1 2019



^a Note the axes on the London figure are different to that of the other PHECs due to the higher number of TB notifications in London.

In Q1 2019, the number of people notified with TB in:

- the North East, West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber and London was lower than in Q1 2018
- the South East, North West, East of England, East Midlands and South West was higher than in Q1 2018

Figure 2: Number of TB notifications by PHE Centre, England, Q1 2017 – Q1 2019 continued

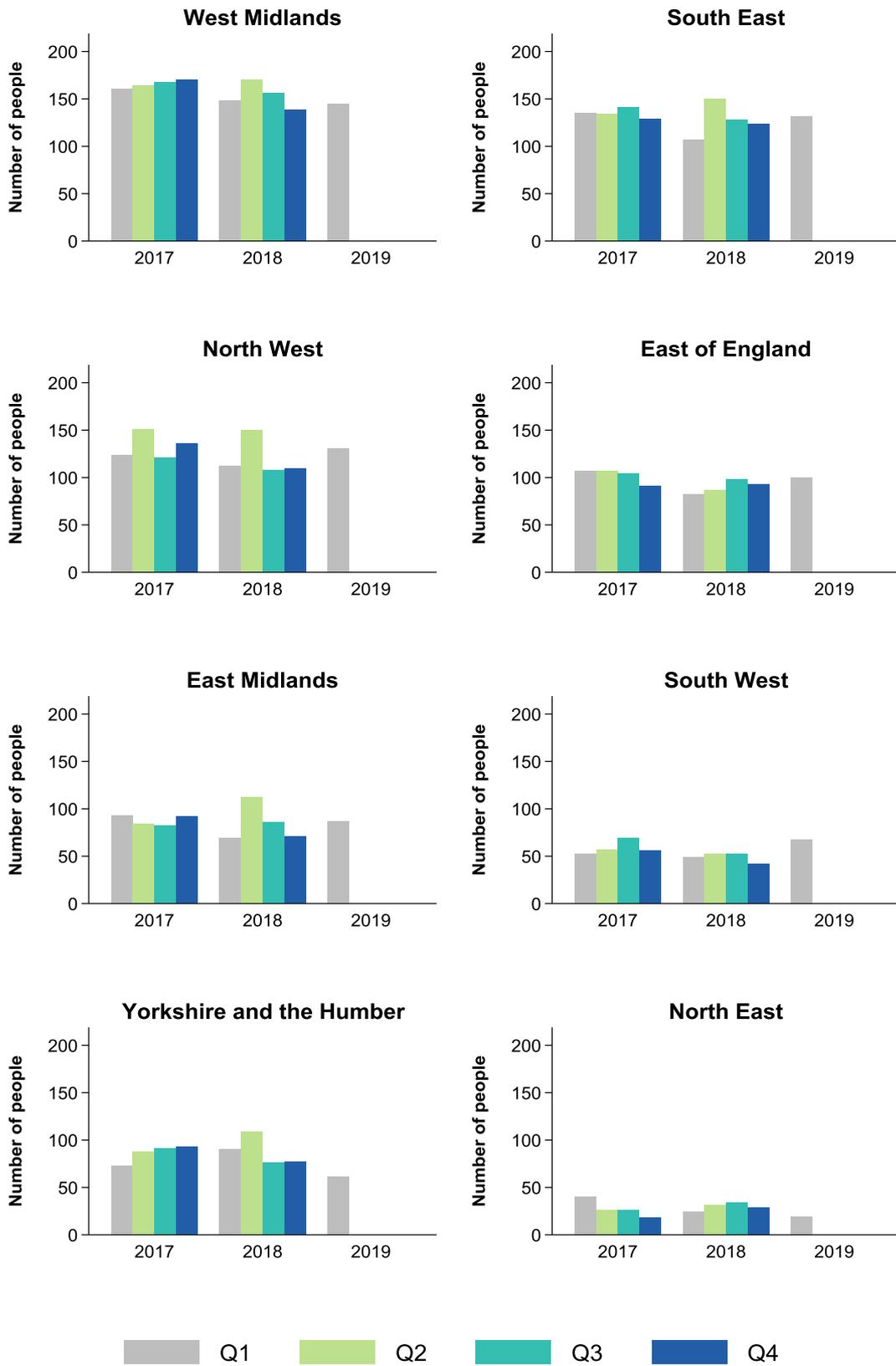


Table 1: Number of TB notifications by PHEC, England, Q1 2017 – Q1 2019

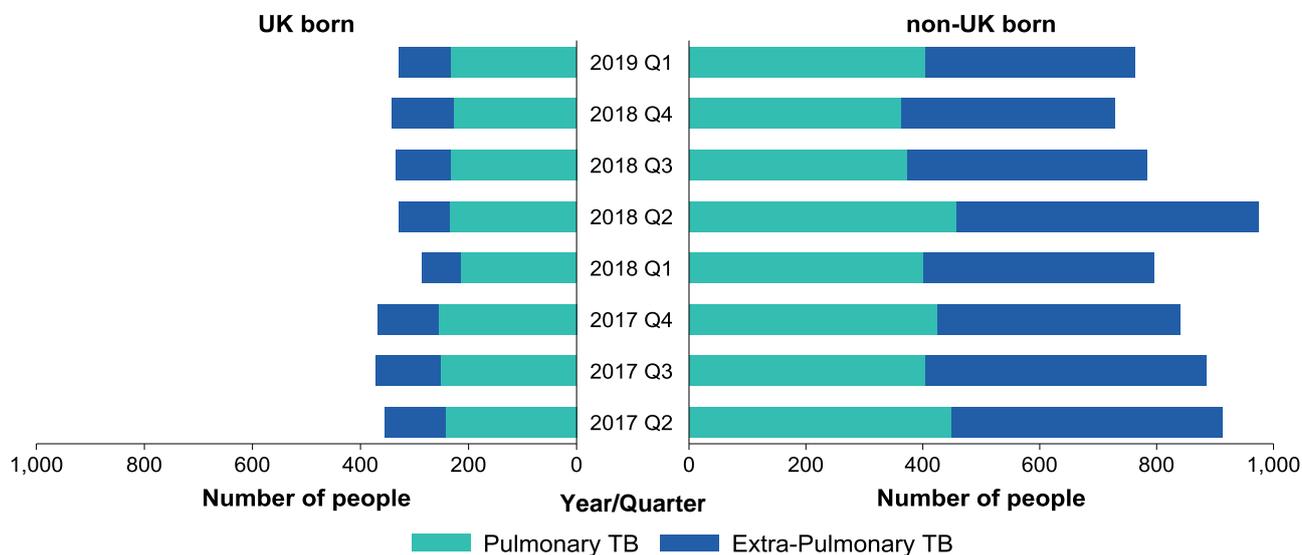
PHEC ^a	2017				2018				2019
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^b
London	505	481	479	454	417	460	408	405	390 ↓
West Midlands	161	164	168	170	148	170	156	139	145 ↓
South East	135	134	141	129	107	150	128	124	132 ↑
North West	124	151	121	136	112	150	108	110	131 ↑
East of England	107	107	104	91	82	87	98	93	100 ↑
East Midlands	93	84	82	92	69	112	86	71	87 ↑
South West	52	57	69	56	49	52	52	42	67 ↑
Yorkshire and the Humber	73	88	91	93	90	109	76	77	61 ↓
North East	40	26	26	18	24	31	34	29	19 ↓
England	1,290	1,292	1,281	1,239	1,098	1,321	1,146	1,090	1,132 ↑

^a Ordered by decreasing total number of people with TB in Q1 2019

^b Arrows show whether there has been a decrease (↓), an increase (↑) or no change (–) in the number of people notified with TB in each PHEC in Q1 2019 compared to Q1 2018

Demographic and clinical characteristics

Figure 3: Number of TB notifications by place of birth and site of disease, England, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019

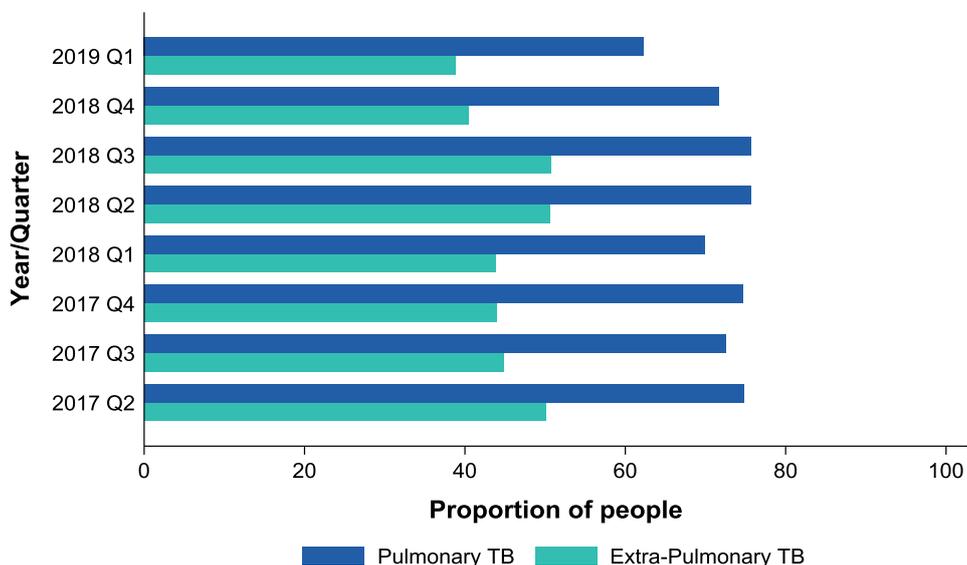


Compared with Q1 2018 (797), in Q1 2019 (765) there was a 4.0% decrease in the number of people notified with TB who were born outside the UK. Conversely, the number born in the UK increased by 16.3% in the same time period (Q1 2018: 288, Q1 2019: 335).

In Q1 2019, the number of people with pulmonary TB accounted for 57.9% (655/1,132) of all people with TB. For those born outside the UK, this proportion was 52.8% (404/765), whilst the proportion was much higher among people born in the UK (69.9%, 234/335).

Culture confirmation

Figure 4: Proportion of culture confirmation among TB notifications by site of disease, England, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019

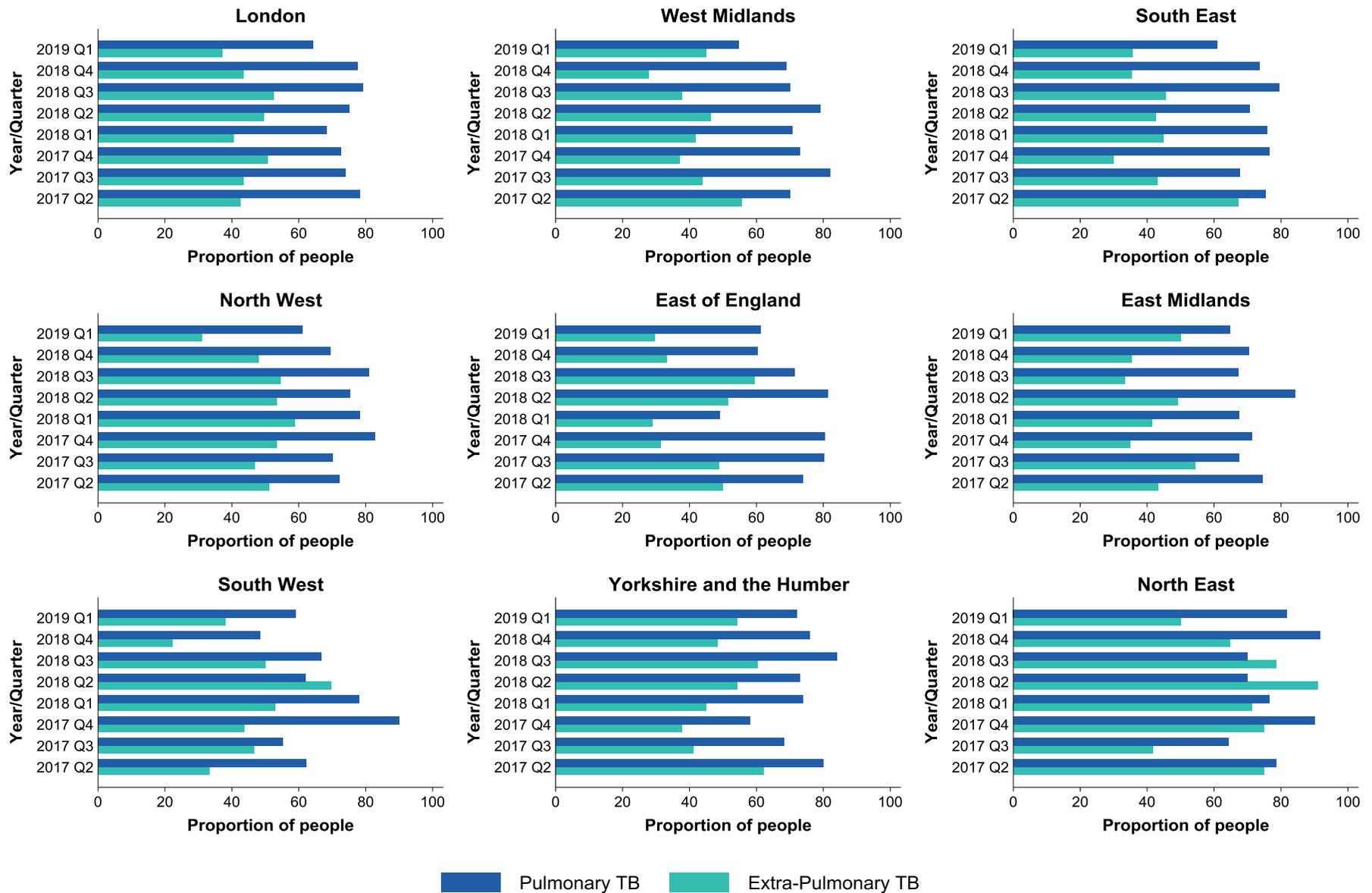


Among people with pulmonary TB, the proportion who were culture confirmed decreased from 74.6% in Q4 2017 to 71.6% in Q4 2018. The proportion with culture confirmed extra-pulmonary TB also decreased in the same time period (Q4 2017: 43.9%, Q4 2018: 40.4%). Note Q4 2018 is being compared as the number for Q1 2019 is likely to increase as final results for cultures may not yet be available.

In Q4 2018, the largest changes in the proportion of people with culture confirmation for:

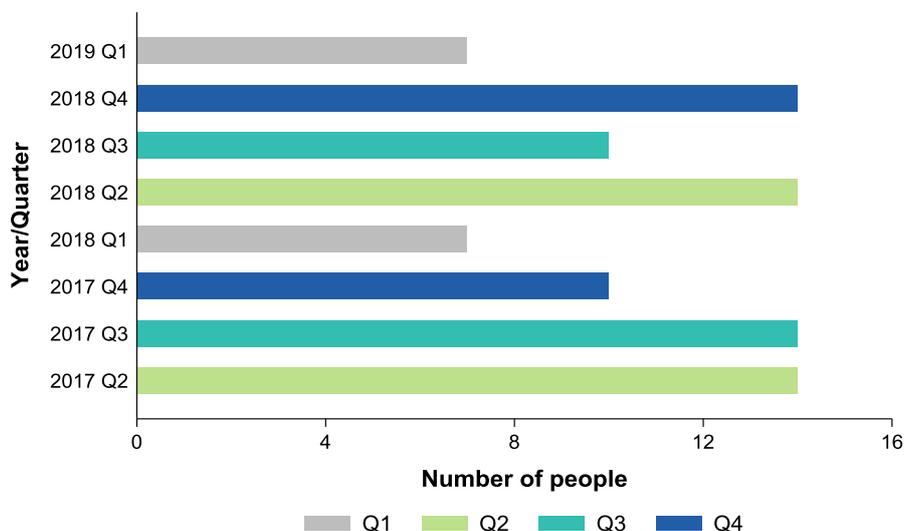
- pulmonary TB were seen in the Yorkshire and the Humber, being higher than in Q4 2017
- pulmonary TB were seen in the South West, North West and East of England, being lower than in Q4 2017
- extra-pulmonary TB were seen in the Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands, being higher than in Q4 2017
- extra-pulmonary TB were seen in the North East and North West, being lower than in Q4 2017

Figure 5: Proportion of culture confirmation among TB notifications by site of disease and PHE Centre, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019



Multi-drug resistant/rifampicin resistant (MDR/RR) TB

Figure 6: Number^a of TB notifications with MDR/RR-TB, England, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019

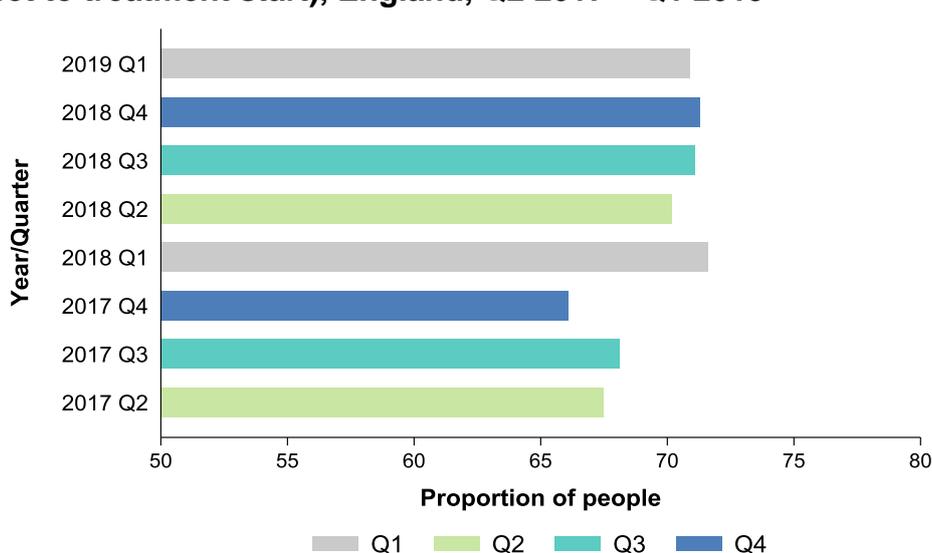


^a Note figure displays numbers rather than proportions due to low number of MDR/RR-TB notifications

There were 7 people notified in Q1 2019 who were confirmed to have MDR/RR-TB, the same number as were confirmed in Q1 2018. Numbers may increase as final results for cultures in the most recent quarters may not yet be available.

Treatment delays

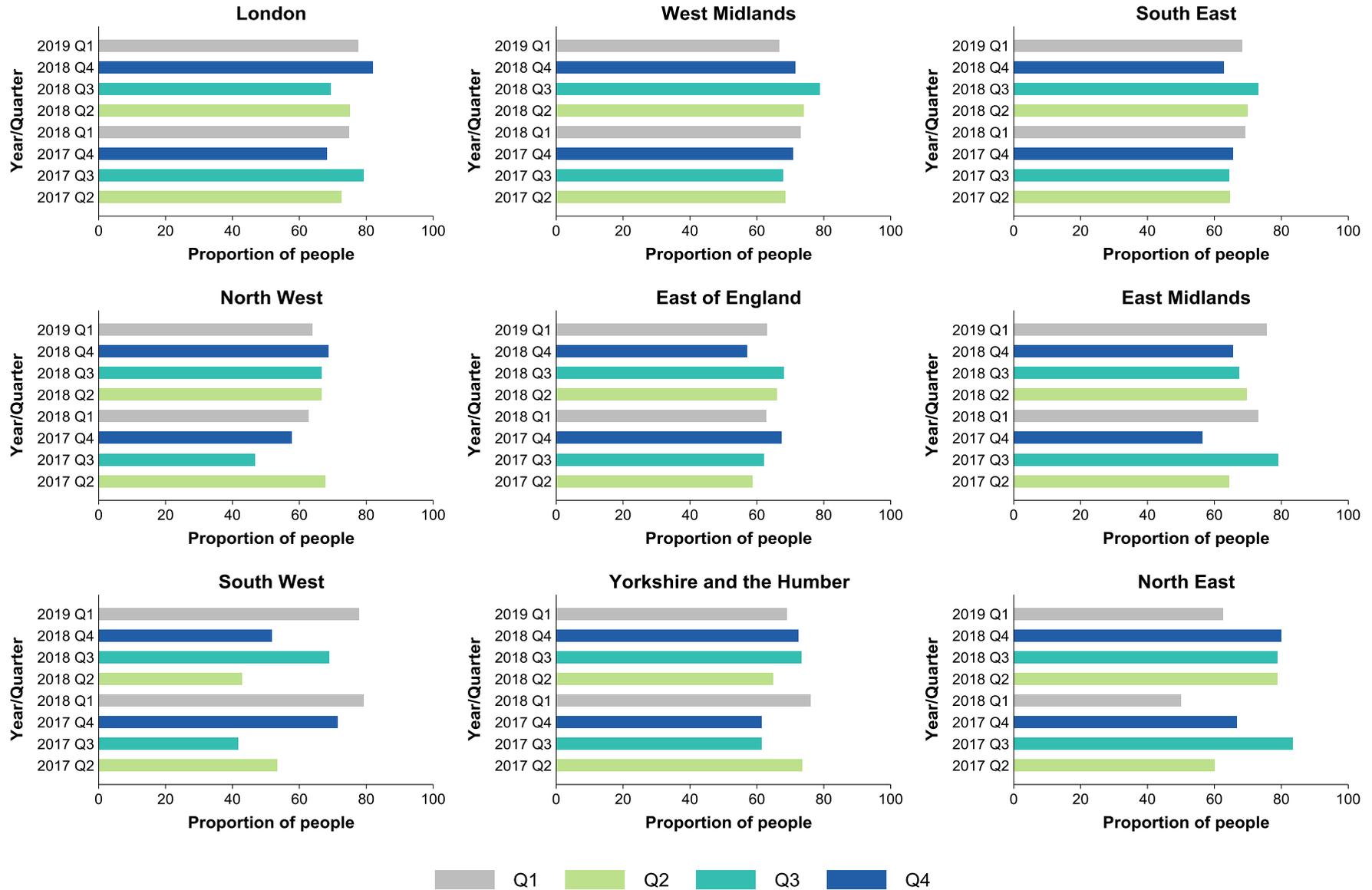
Figure 7: Proportion^a of pulmonary TB notifications starting treatment within 4 months (symptom onset to treatment start), England, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019



^a Note x-axis is not scaled to start at zero in order to more clearly visualise changes in proportions

The proportion of people with pulmonary TB who started treatment within 4 months of symptom onset was 70.9% in Q1 2019, a slight decrease from 71.6% in Q1 2018. This proportion will likely increase as some people in the most recent quarter are yet to begin treatment.

Figure 8: Proportion of pulmonary TB notifications starting treatment within 4 months (symptom onset to treatment start) by PHE Centre, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019

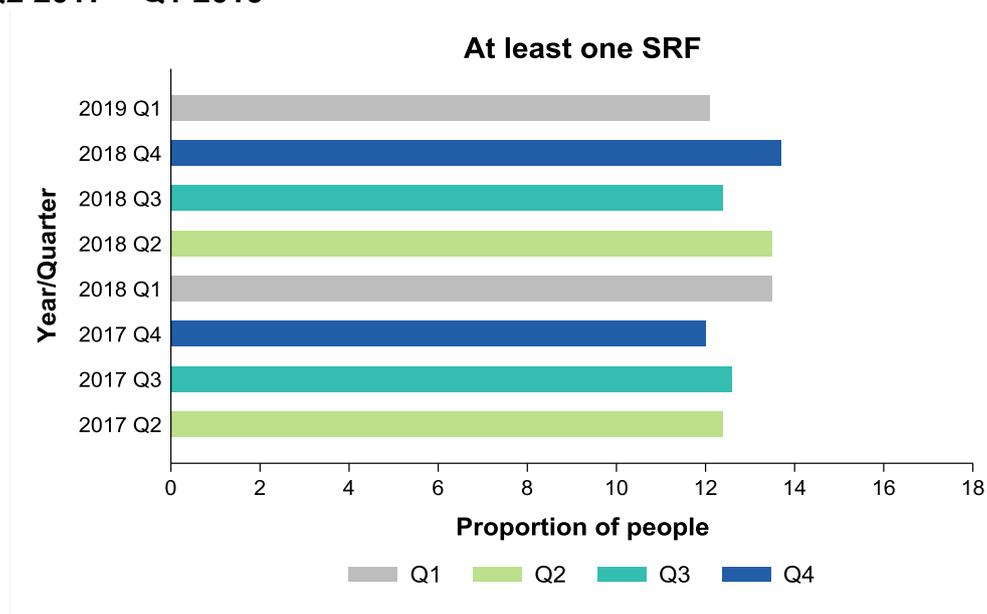


In Q1 2019, the proportion of people with TB who started treatment within 4 months of symptom onset in:

- the North East was markedly higher than in Q1 2018
- Yorkshire and the Humber and the West Midlands was markedly lower than in Q1 2018

Social risk factors

Figure 9: Proportion of TB notifications (≥ 15 years) with social risk factors (SRF), England, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019



^a Note the axes on the figure for people with at least one SRF are different to that for individual SRFs due to the higher proportion of people with at least one SRF

In Q1 2019, 12.1% of people with TB aged 15 years and older had at least one SRF, a decrease from 13.5% in Q1 2018.

In Q1 2019, the proportion of people with TB with:

- current or a history of drug misuse was lower than in Q1 2018
- alcohol misuse was lower than in Q1 2018
- current or a history of homelessness was lower than in Q1 2018
- imprisonment was lower than in Q1 2018

Figure 9: Proportion of TB notifications (≥ 15 years) with social risk factors, England, Q2 2017 – Q1 2019 continued

