



Public Health
England

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Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections in England and Wales: October to December 2019

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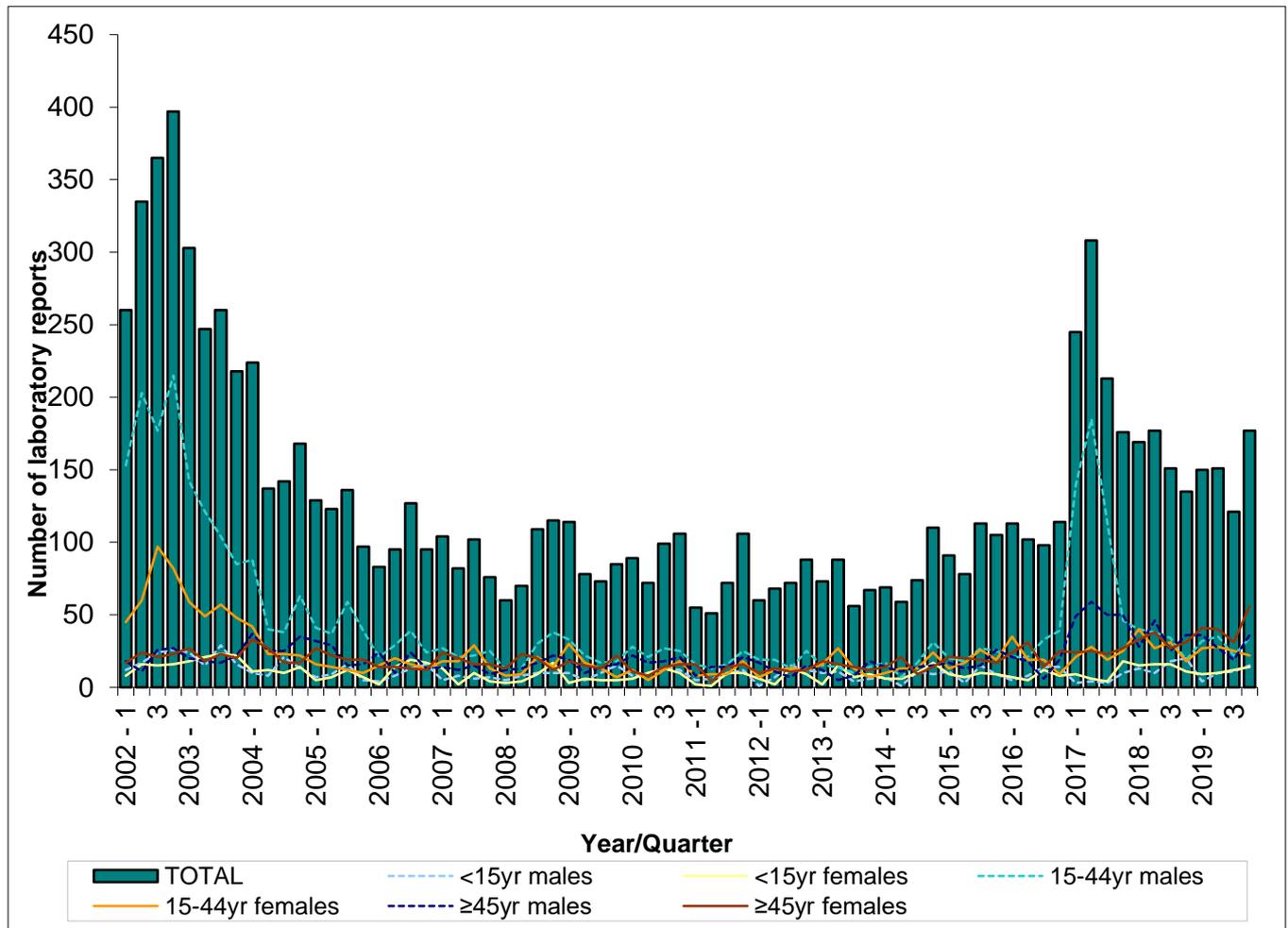
There was a total of 177 laboratory reports of new patients with hepatitis A reported to Public Health England (PHE) during the fourth quarter of 2019 (October – December 2019). This is a 46.3% increase on the reports in the third quarter of 2019 (n=121), (Figure 1). Of these, 115 reports of new patients remained after exclusion of patients with samples sent to the Virus Reference Department (VRD) that were not confirmed as having had a recent hepatitis A virus infection (see Figure 2).

The London PHE region accounted for 44.1% (n=78) of reports, followed by 14.7% (n=26) from the West Midlands region. Age group and sex were well reported (100.0% complete) (Table 1). There were 92 (52.0%) reports among those aged 45 years and over, followed by 56 (31.6%) reports among those in the 15-44 years age group and 29 (16.4%) in those aged under 15 years. Females accounted for the slight majority of reports overall (52.0%, n=92), with the greatest difference in the number of male and female reports observed in the 45 and over age group (39.1% male, n=36).

Table 1. Laboratory reports of hepatitis A in England and Wales, October to December 2019

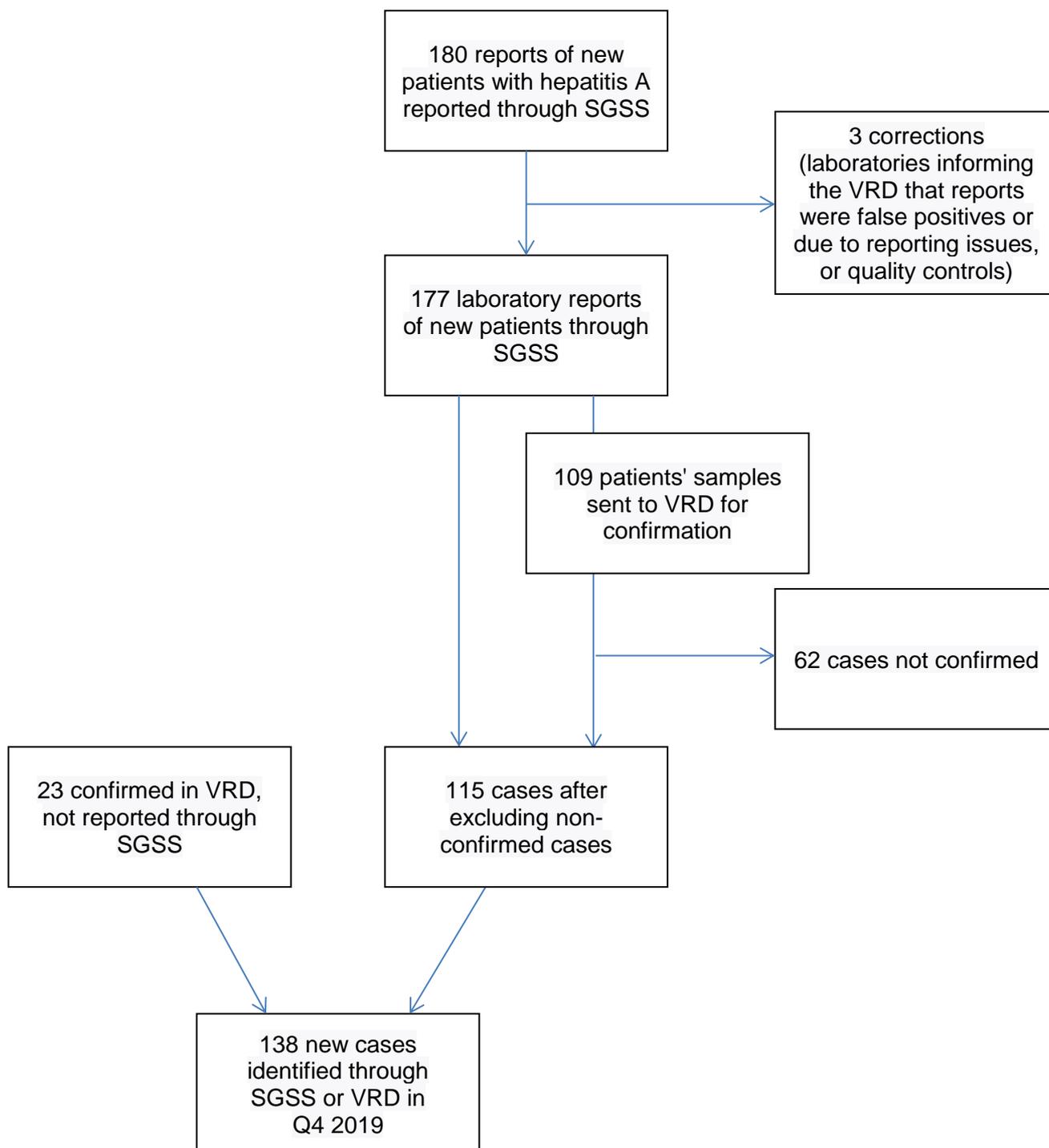
Age group	Females	Males	Unknown	Total
<1 years	0	0	0	0
1-4 years	3	4	0	7
5-9 years	7	8	0	15
10-14 years	4	3	0	7
15-24 years	6	13	0	19
25-34 years	10	16	0	26
35-44 years	6	5	0	11
45-54 years	12	8	0	20
55-64 years	12	10	0	22
≥65 years	32	18	0	50
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	92	85	0	177

Figure 1. Laboratory reports of hepatitis A by age and sex in England and Wales, January 2002 to December 2019



* All figures are provisional and subject to change as records are updated.

Figure 2. Flowchart of laboratory reports of hepatitis A and confirmation status by the VRD (England and Wales), October to December 2019

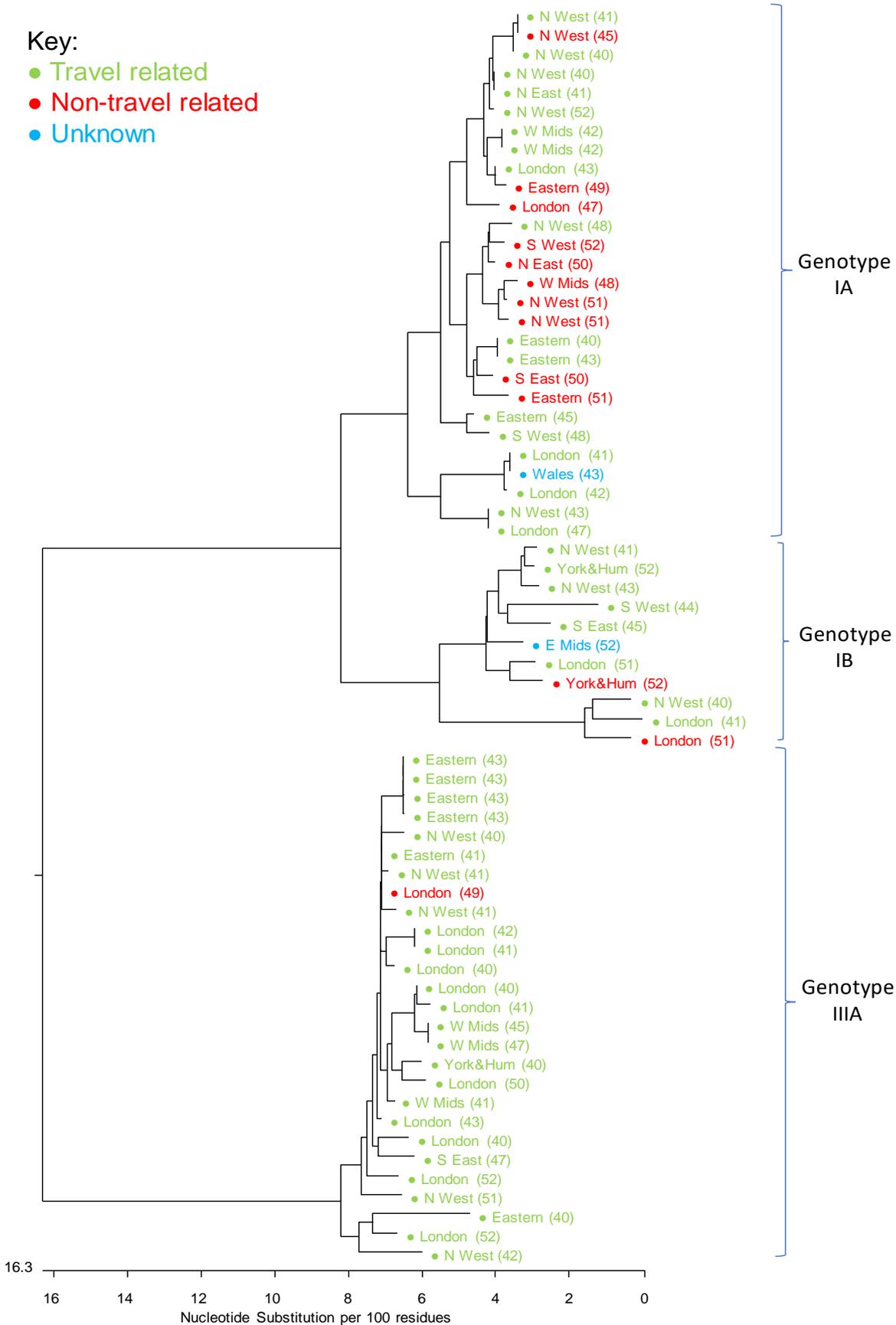


Reference laboratory confirmation and phylogeny of hepatitis A infections

Of the 177 patients reported through SGSS as having acute HAV infection during the last quarter of 2019, 109 (61.6%) had samples forwarded to the Virus Reference Department for confirmation. Sixty-two (56.9%) of the patients were not confirmed to have acute HAV infection. The remaining 47 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection. In addition, 23 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection that had not been reported through the laboratory reporting system although all the English cases were recorded in HPZone.

Of the 70 patients confirmed with acute hepatitis A infection a total of 66 patients could be genotyped over this period; 28 were genotype IA (42.4%), 11 were genotype IB (16.7%) and 27 were genotype IIIA (40.9%). Of these samples 51 were associated with travel (77.3%) and 13 had no travel history (19.7%) and 2 had no information (3.0%). 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 3. Phylogenetic tree of genotype IA, IB, and IIIA sequences October to December 2019 (n=66)



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, research, 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.

About Health Protection Report

Health Protection Report is a national public health bulletin for England and Wales, published by Public Health England. It is PHE's principal channel for the dissemination of laboratory data relating to pathogens and infections/communicable diseases of public health significance and of reports on outbreaks, incidents and ongoing investigations.

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