



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Monthly legionella report July 2015

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. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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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 on, 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 July 2015.

The report does 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: July 2015

All data presented in this report is correct as at 7 August 2015.

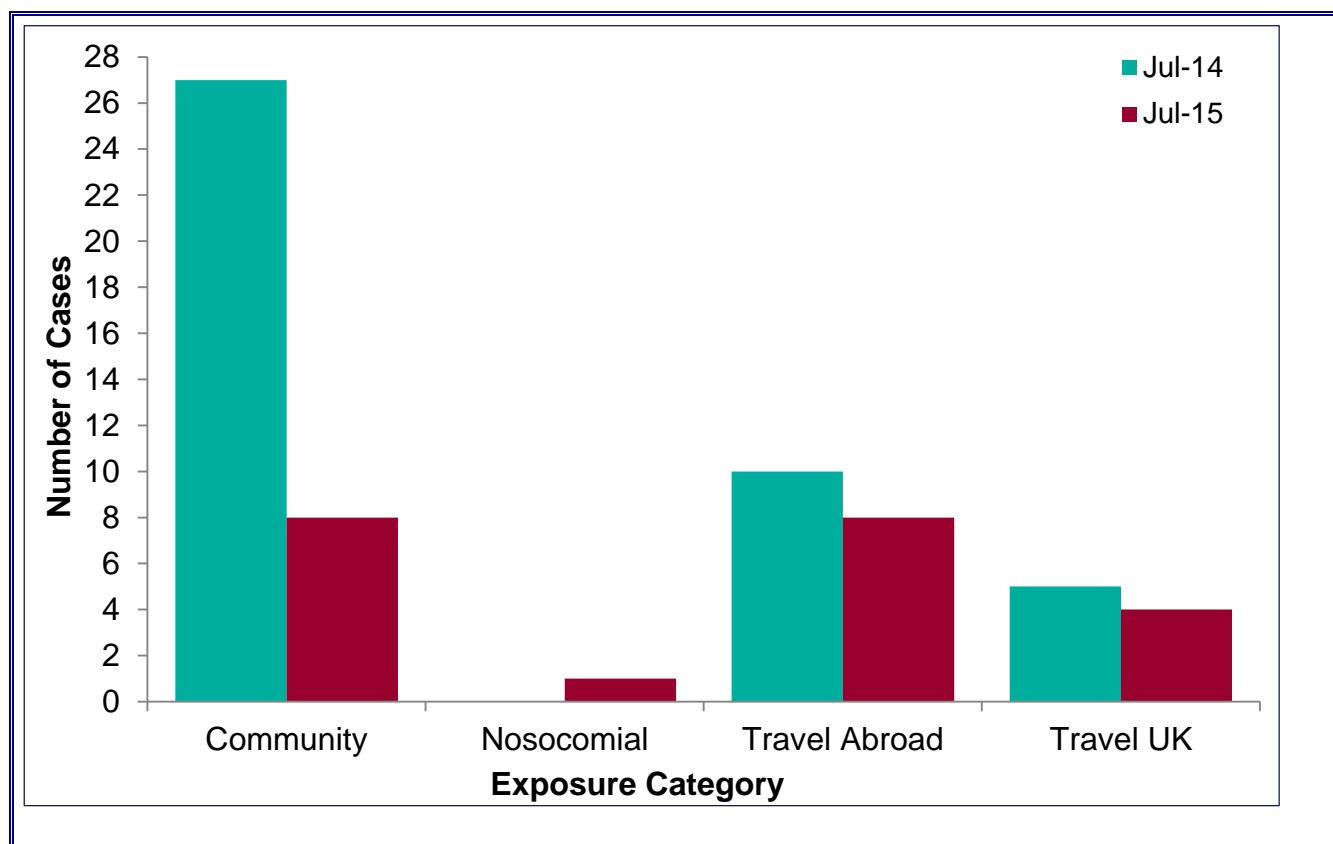
Table 1: Cases reported/notified[†]

Number of reported/notified [†] cases [‡] of Legionnaires' disease (LD) during July 2015	48
Number of reported/notified [†] cases of LD since 01 January 2015	221

[†] reported/notified cases are any cases reported to the national surveillance scheme via regional colleagues, laboratories and statutory notifications

[‡] cases reported with onset of symptoms between 01 January and 31 July 2015, inclusive.

Figure 1: Confirmed* cases of LD by category excluding unassigned cases with onset of symptoms in July 2015



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

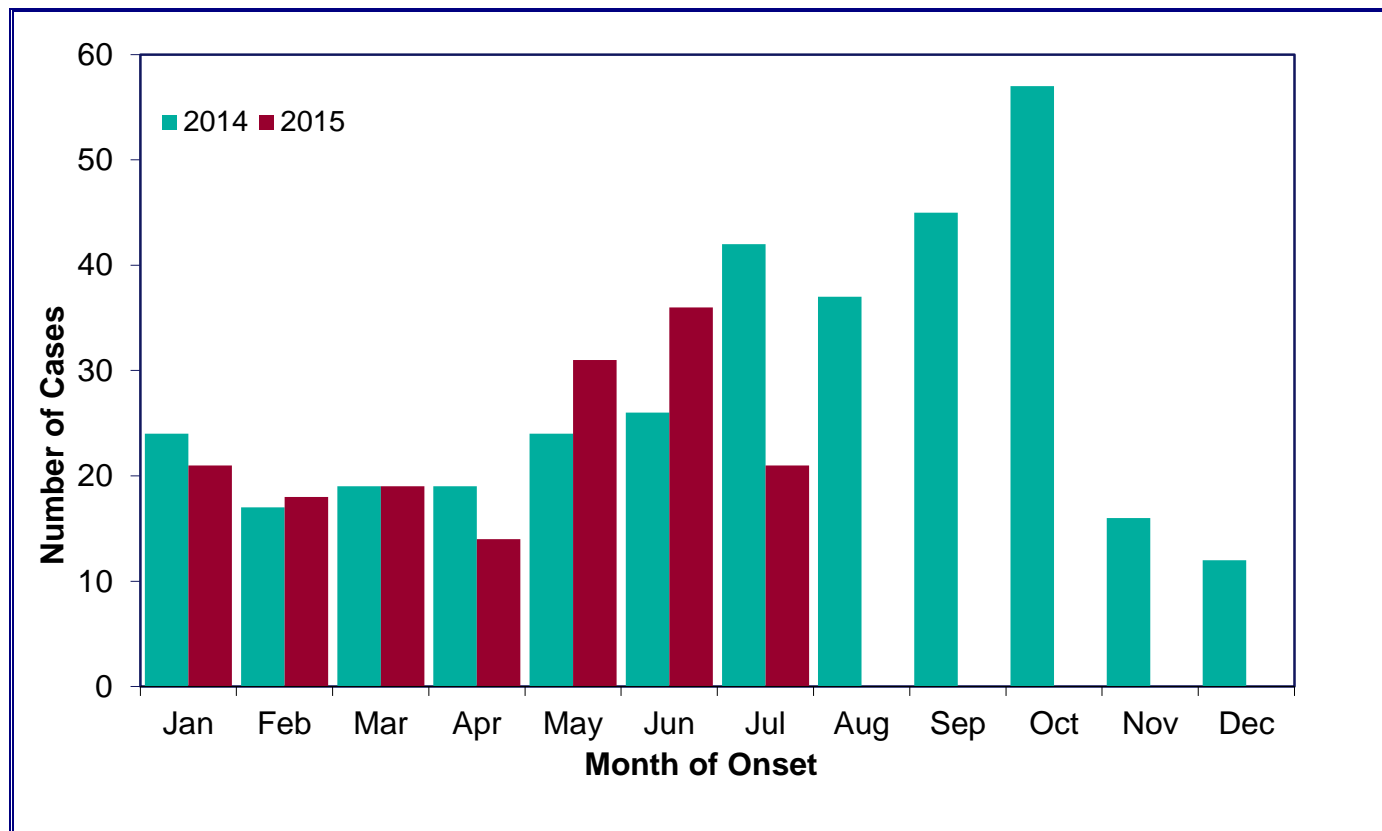
Table 2: Number of confirmed* cases of LD by category with onset in July 2015

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in July 2015	Confirmed* cases with onset since January 2015
Community	8	60
Nosocomial	1	5
Travel abroad	8	76
Travel UK	4	19
Unassigned	0	0
Total	21	160

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

nb: figures in this table are not equivalent to table 1 as cases reported in July 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 2014 and 2015



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

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

Region of residence	Onset in July 2015		Onset since January 2015	
	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data is still awaited	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data are still awaited
East Midlands	1	-	17	-
Anglia and Essex	1	-	7	-
South Midlands and Hertfordshire	-	-	9	-
London	4	-	18	-
North East	-	-	14	-
Cumbria and Lancashire	1	-	9	-
Cheshire and Merseyside	-	-	2	-
Greater Manchester	2	-	9	-
Surrey, Sussex and Kent	1	-	10	-
Thames Valley	-	-	4	-
Wessex	1	-	6	-
Devon, Cornwall and Somerset	1	-	5	-
Avon, Gloucs. and Wiltshire	5	-	10	-
Wales	-	-	3	3
West Midlands	-	2	12	2
Yorkshire and Humber	3	-	23	-
Other	1	1	2	1
Total	21	3	160	6

* 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 2015

	Number of confirmed cases	Number of respiratory samples	Number of culture &/or PCR positive cases	Number of cases with SBT identified
Total number of cases	160	59	52	41

PCR: polymerase chain reaction

SBT: sequence based typing

Of the 160 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme, 59 (36.9%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for legionella infection. Of the 59 cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 52 (88.1%) specimens tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1, and a complete or partial sequence type has been determined for 41 (78.9%) of the culture and/or PCR positive cases.

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

Comments

Please note the recent publication of two legionella documents:

- National Enhanced Surveillance Form for Legionnaires' disease in England and Wales. This form replaces all previous versions of the form with immediate effect. The form can be downloaded from the PHE website at the following URL; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-national-surveillance-scheme>. A PDF version of the form is available for printing and completion by hand and a Microsoft Word 2010 version for electronic completion. If a Word 1997–2003 version of the form is required, please contact us via the legionella mailbox; legionella@phe.gov.uk
- a guidance document has also been published on 'responding to the detection of legionella in healthcare premises'. This document provides PHE Health Protection teams with guidance on responding appropriately to situations where high counts of legionella have been detected in healthcare premises. It also provides practical guidance for colleagues participating in an incident control team or a water safety group. This guidance can be downloaded from the PHE website at the following URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionella-detection-in-healthcare-premises>.