



Infection report

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Invasive meningococcal disease (laboratory reports in England): April to June 2014 (Q2/2014)

In England between April and June 2014, a total of 143 cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) were reported to Public Health England [1]. This was a 29% decrease from the 202 cases reported in the second quarter of 2013 and a 32% decrease from the 211 cases reported in the first quarter of 2014. Ten cases of IMD were reported in this period in Wales.

Of the 143 cases of IMD reported in England: 71% (101) were capsular group B, 13% (19) group W, 8% (12) group Y, 6% (8) group C, one was a case of group A and two cases were ungrouped. Of the 10 MD cases reported to PHE from Wales: seven were capsular group B, two group Y, and one group W. During the second quarter of 2014 there were no reported cases for capsular groups X and Z/E (table 1) in England or Wales. Whilst numbers remain low, a recent increase in group W cases has been observed in infants and those aged 15 years and over and this continues to be monitored.

Fifty-six per cent (79/140) of IMD cases reported in England were female. In England, children aged less than one year accounted for 24% (35/143) of IMD reports. The majority of infant cases (57% [20/35]) were aged between six and 11 months and of these; 17 were group B, two were group W and one group Y. In 15 infants with IMD aged between zero and five months, 11 were cases of group B IMD, with one case each of groups C, W and Y and one was ungrouped. Almost a fifth (18% [26/143]) of cases were in children aged between one and four years of which 96% (25/26) were group B disease and one group W (table 2). More than half of the group B IMD cases (52% [53/101]) were in children under five years of age. Of the 19 group W cases, half (53% [10/19]) were in adults aged 45 and 21% (4/19) were aged less than five years. Similarly the majority of group Y cases were in individuals aged 45 and older (58% [7/12]).

Table 1. Invasive meningococcal disease in England by capsular group and laboratory testing method, weeks 14-26 (Q2): 2013 and 2014

Capsular groups ~	Method of diagnosis						Total	
	Blood and/or CSF isolate		Blood and/or CSF PCR		Other sites culture			
	2013 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2013 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2013 (Q2)	2014 (Q2)	2013 (Q1-2)	2014 (Q1-2)
A	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
B	60	43	93	55	2	3	346	233
C	10	6	2	1	–	1	20	18
W	14	15	2	4	2	–	34	52
Y	12	10	2	1	–	1	39	45
Ungrouped	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	5
Ungroupable*	3	–	–	–	–	–	6	–
Total	99	74	99	64	4	5	447	354

~ Note: No cases capsulargroups A or X were confirmed during any of the periods summarised in the table.

* Ungroupable refers to invasive clinical meningococcal isolates that were non-groupable, while ungrouped cases refers to culture-negative but PCR screen (*ctrA*) positive and negative for the four genogroups [B, C, W and Y] routinely tested for.

Table 2. Invasive meningococcal disease in England by group and age at diagnosis, weeks 14-26 (Q2): 2014

Age group	A	B	C	W	Y	Ungrouped	Total
<1 year	–	28	1	3	2	1	35
1-4 years	–	25	–	1	–	–	26
5-9 years	–	5	1	–	–	1	7
10-14 years	–	3	–	–	–	–	3
15-19 years	–	5	–	3	–	–	8
20-24 years	1	11	–	1	1	–	14
25-44 years	–	4	3	1	2	–	10
45-64 years	–	9	2	1	3	–	15
>=65 years	–	11	1	9	4	–	–
Total	1	101	8	19	12	2	143

Reference

1. Data source: Public Health England Meningococcal Reference Unit.