



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Monthly Legionella Report

August 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.

Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8000
www.gov.uk/phe
Twitter: @PHE_uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

For queries relating to this document, please contact: falguni.naik@phe.gov.uk

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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 upon, 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 August 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: August 2015

All data presented in this report is correct as at 03 September 2015.

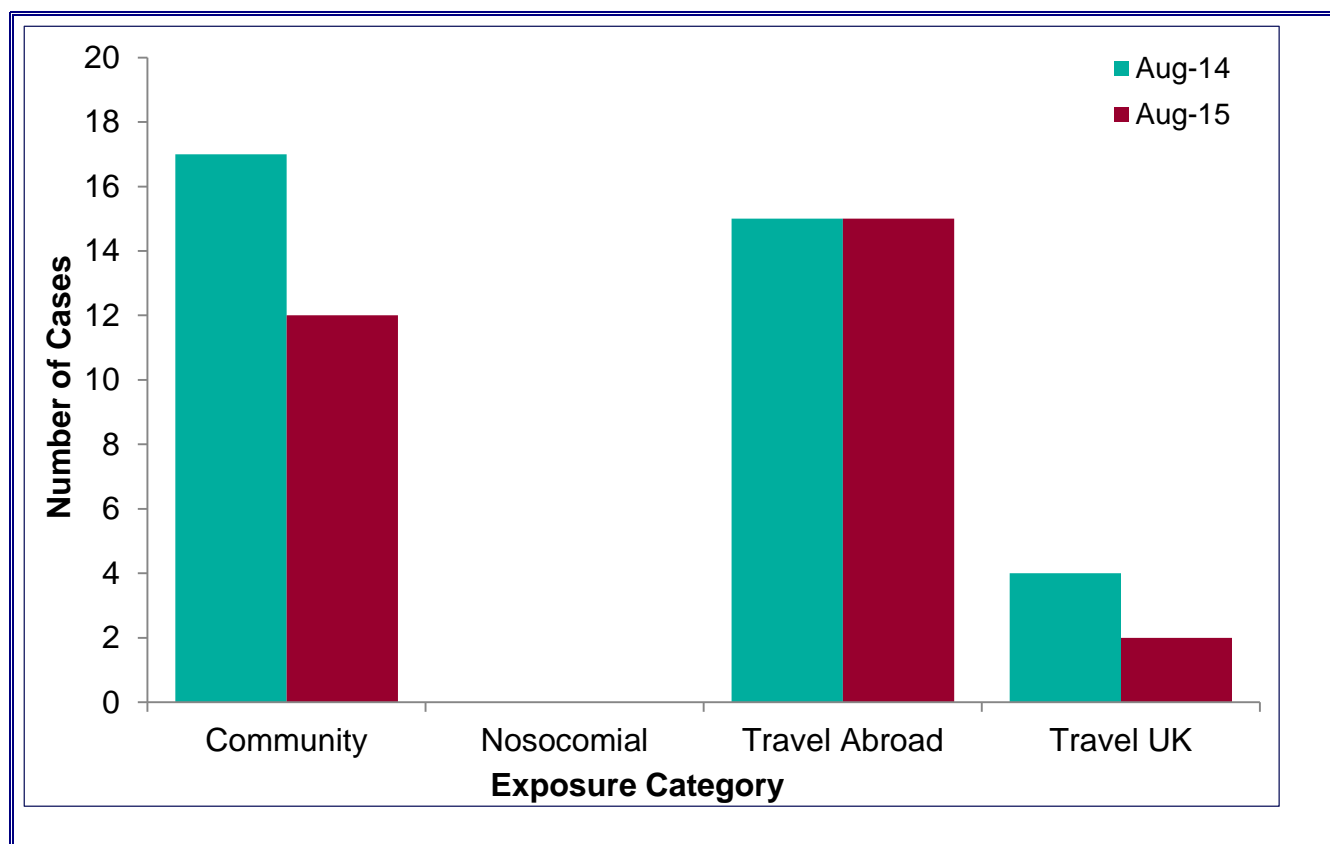
Table 1: Cases reported/notified[†]

Number of reported/notified [†] cases [‡] of Legionnaires' disease during August 2015	59
Number of reported/notified [†] cases of LD since 01 January 2015	280

[†] reported/notified cases are any cases reported to the national surveillance scheme via regional colleagues, laboratories and statutory notifications (including all confirmed and non-confirmed cases).

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

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



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

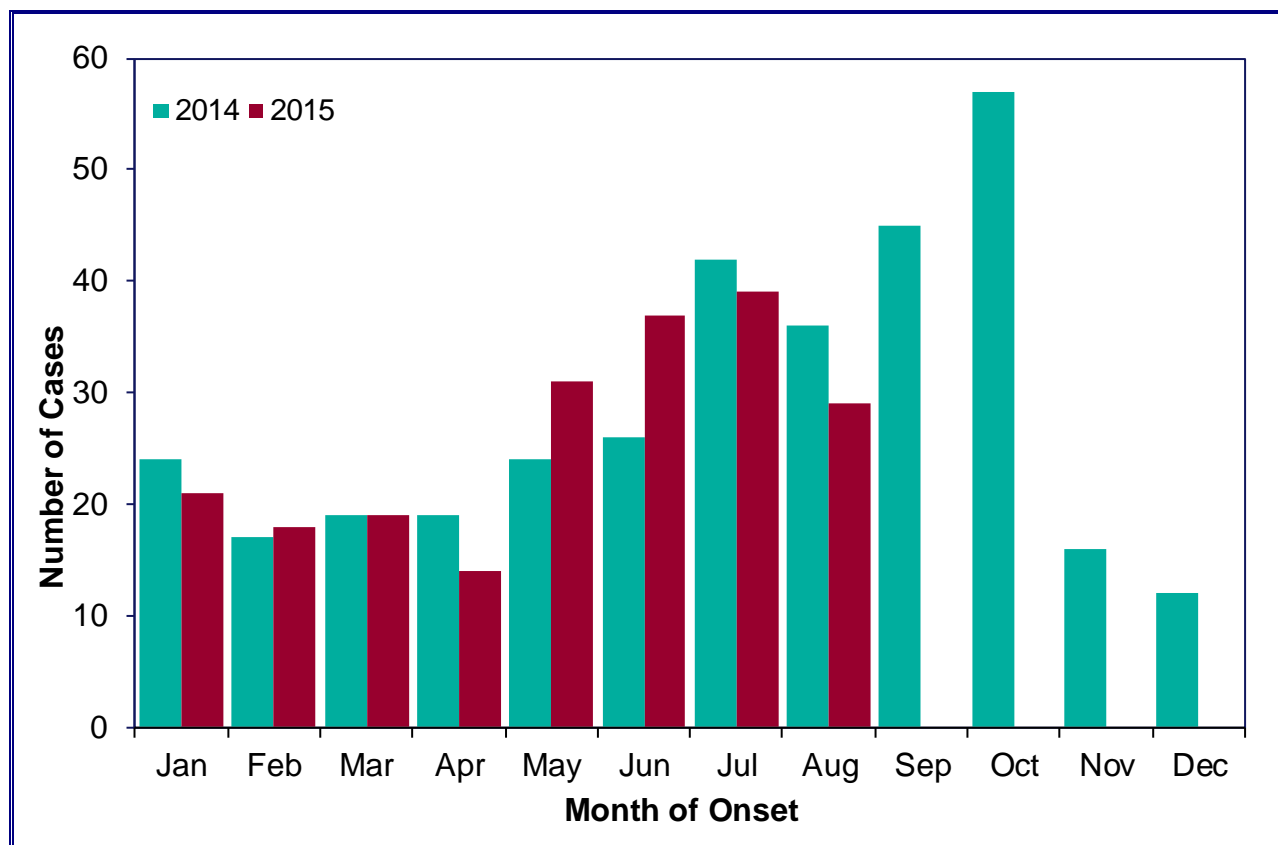
Table 2: Number of confirmed* cases of LD by category with onset in August 2015

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in August 2015	Confirmed* cases with onset since January 2015
Community	12	77
Nosocomial	0	8
Travel abroad	15	95
Travel UK	2	28
Unassigned	0	0
Total	29	208

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

nb: figure in this table are not equivalent to table 1 as cases reported in August 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 August 2015		Onset since January 2015	
	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data is still awaited	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data are still awaited
East Midlands	1	-	18	-
Anglia & Essex	2	-	9	-
South Midlands & Hertfordshire	1	-	11	-
London	6	-	26	-
North East	2	1	18	1
Cumbria & Lancashire	1	-	10	-
Cheshire & Merseyside	3	-	6	-
Greater Manchester	1	-	12	-
Surrey, Sussex & Kent	-	-	11	-
Thames Valley	-	-	4	-
Wessex	1	-	7	-
Devon, Cornwall & Somerset	-	-	6	-
Avon, Gloucs. & Wiltshire	3	1	15	1
Wales	1	1	6	5
West Midlands	6	1	21	1
Yorkshire & Humber	1	-	26	-
Other	-	-	2	-
Total	29	4	208	8

* 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 cases with respiratory samples	Number of culture &/or PCR positive cases	Number of cases with SBT identified
Total number of cases	280	79	66	55

PCR: polymerase chain reaction

SBT: sequence based typing

Of the 208 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme 79 (38.0%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the 79 cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 66 (83.5%) specimens tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 and a complete or partial sequence type has been determined for 55 (83.3%) of 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 the 2014 Legionella PHE centre summary reports;

The annual summary reports are produced by the National Surveillance team and provide a summary of Legionella activity during 2014 specific to residents in each of the PHE centres. The reports can be downloaded from the following location on the PHE website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-local-summaries-for-england-and-wales-2014>.