



PHE Monthly National Norovirus Report

Summary of surveillance of norovirus and rotavirus

07 August 2014 - Weeks 27 - 31 report

This report is published monthly on the [website](#). For further information on the surveillance system mentioned in this report, please visit the [Hospital Norovirus Reporting System website](#).

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Summary

The next monthly report will be available on the 11th September 2014.

Norovirus

- Norovirus activity is low. The number of laboratory reports of norovirus in the season to date is slightly higher than the five year seasonal average (from season 2007 to 2008 to season 2011 to 2012). However, reports of outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting in hospitals continue to be reported at lower levels than in previous years.

Rotavirus

- Rotavirus activity is low; laboratory reports are lower than the ten season average (from season 2003 to 2004 to season 2012 to 2013). The decreased rotavirus activity is likely to be associated with the introduction of the oral vaccine in July 2013.

Upcoming event:

NOROVIRUS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS AND BEYOND - A RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Friday 17th October, Institute of Materials, Central London

This event is organised by the Infectious Disease Research Network in collaboration with Public Health England. It will be of relevance to those who have an interest in enteric disease and infection control. These may include - clinical and public health staff and students, academics, the private sector, and funders of biomedical research and policy groups.

Further details can be found [here](#)

Hospital Norovirus Outbreak Reporting System (HNORS)

In the five weeks from 29/06/2014 to 02/08/2014 the hospital norovirus outbreak reporting scheme (HNORS) recorded 14 suspected or confirmed outbreaks of norovirus, all of which led to ward/bay closure or restrictions to admissions. Seven (50 per cent) were reported as laboratory confirmed norovirus outbreaks.

In the last season (week 27 2013 to week 26 2014) 609 outbreaks were reported, 570 (94 per cent) of which reported ward/bay closures or restrictions to admissions and 382 (63 per cent) were reported as laboratory confirmed norovirus outbreaks.

Table 1: The number of suspected and confirmed norovirus outbreaks in hospitals

Public Health England Centre	Outbreaks 29/06/2014 to 02/08/2014			Outbreaks reported in the last season 2013/2014 (week 27 2013 - week 26 2014)		
	Outbreaks	Ward/bay closure [‡]	Lab confirmed	Outbreaks	Ward/bay closure [‡]	Lab confirmed
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire				81	81	54
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire				1	1	1
Cheshire and Merseyside				4	3	4
Cumbria and Lancashire	4	4	2	29	29	10
Devon, Cornwall and Somerset	2	2		71	69	29
Greater Manchester				18	15	6
Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset				50	50	36
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire				46	44	32
London	1	1		9	9	8
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex						
North East	3	3	2	59	49	38
Sussex, Surrey and Kent	2	2	2	31	31	23
Thames Valley				22	22	8
West Midlands				76	73	39
Yorkshire and the Humber	2	2	1	112	94	94
Total	14	14	7	609	570	382

[‡] Note: not all outbreaks result in whole ward closure, some closures are restricted to bays only

Norovirus Laboratory Reporting

The number of laboratory reports of norovirus in this season* (since week 27 2014) is 195. This is 14 per cent higher than the average number for the same period in the seasons 2007/2008 to 2011/2012[†] (171). Data from laboratory reporting are subject to a reporting delay and the number reported in the most recent weeks is likely to increase as further laboratory reports are received. Norovirus is predominantly a winter pathogen; however, infections due to norovirus do occur in the summer months.

Figure 1: Laboratory and hospital outbreak reports by month of occurrence

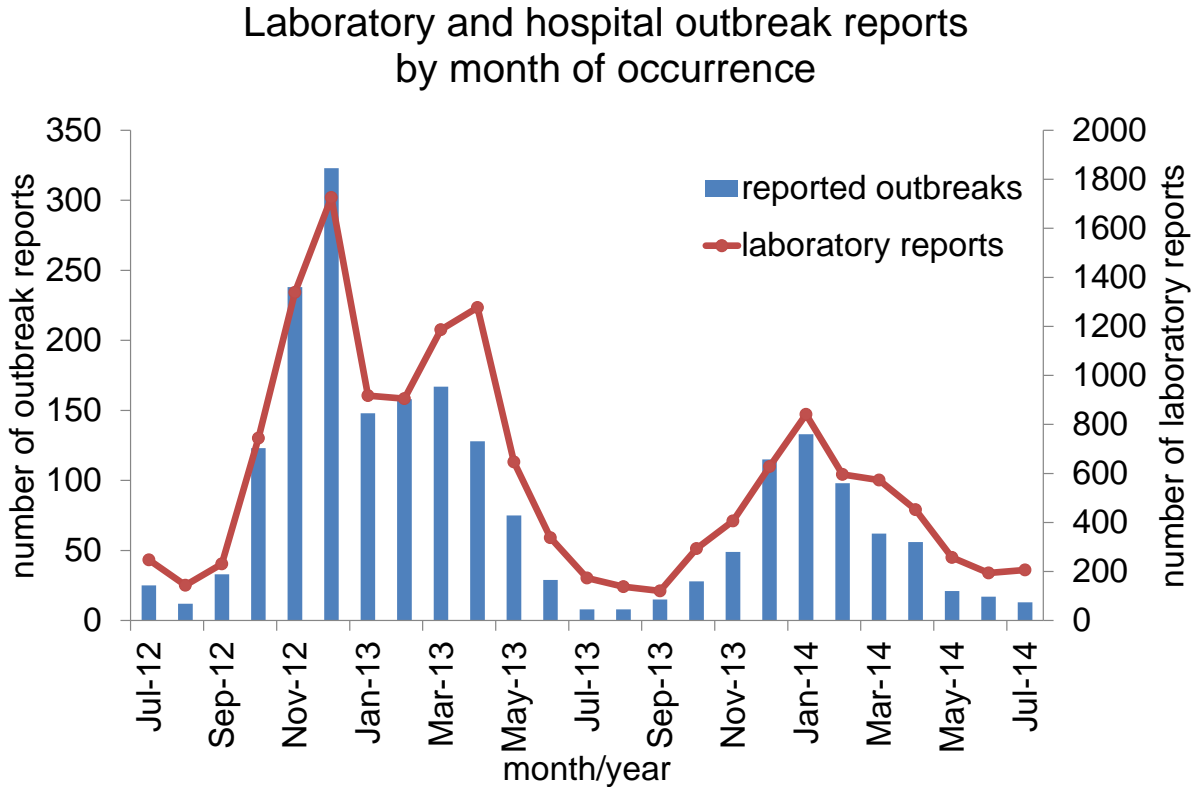


Figure 2: Seasonal comparison of laboratory reports of norovirus (England and Wales)

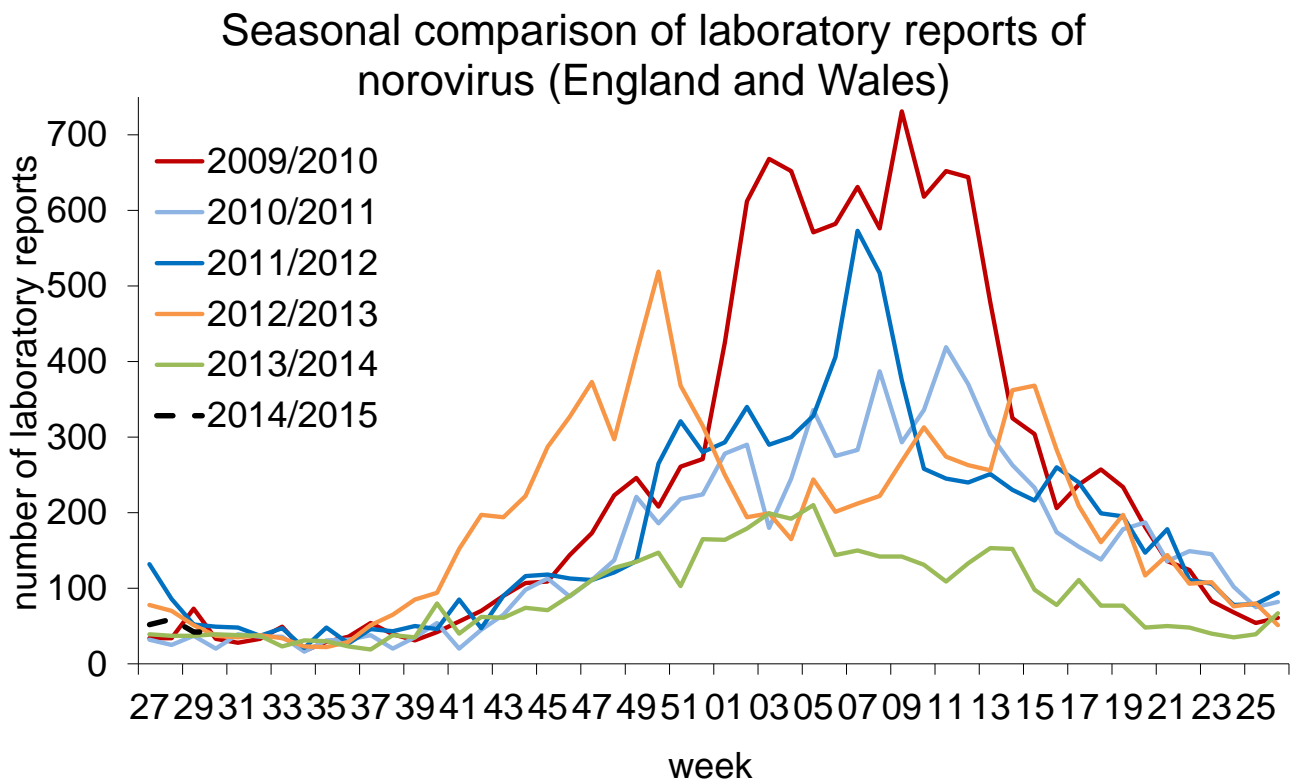


Figure 3: Cumulative number of laboratory reports of norovirus by season 2007/8-2013/14

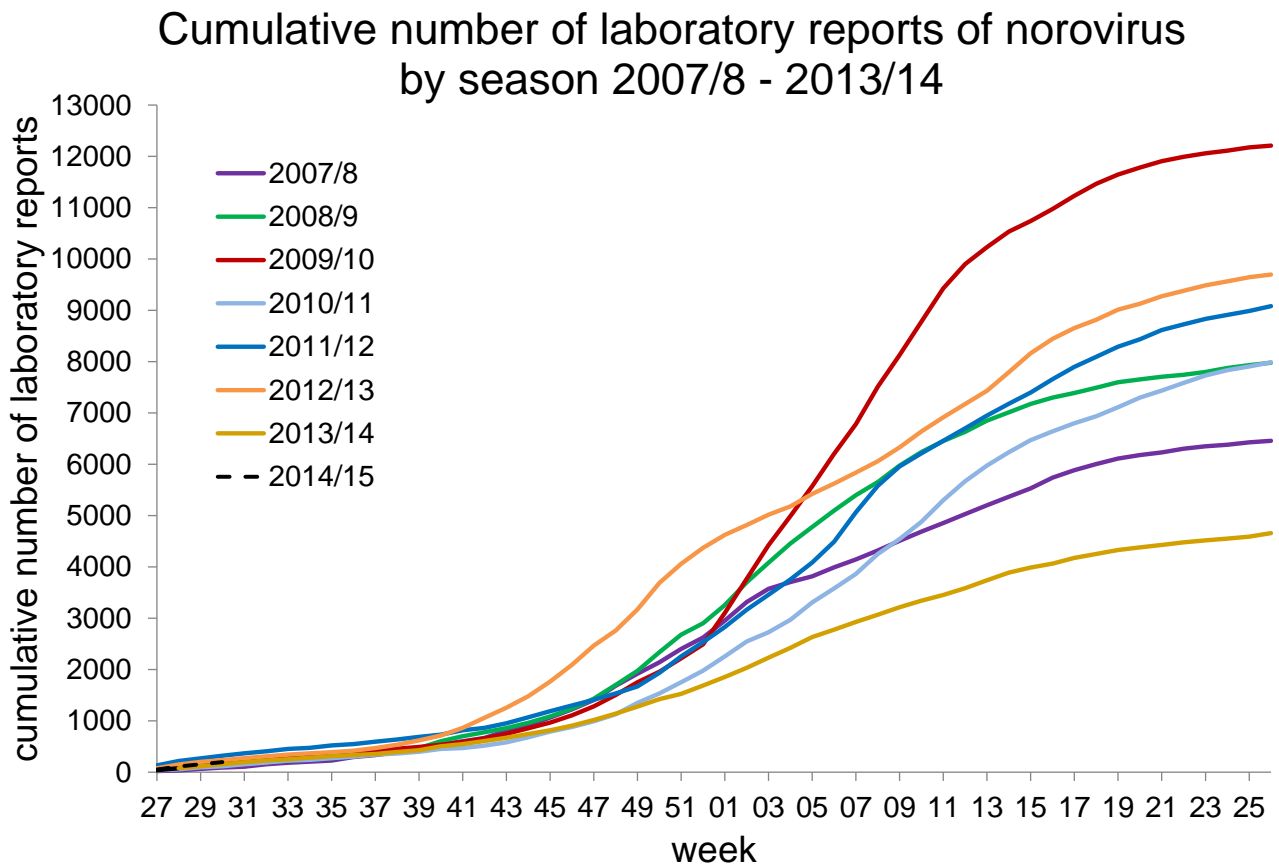
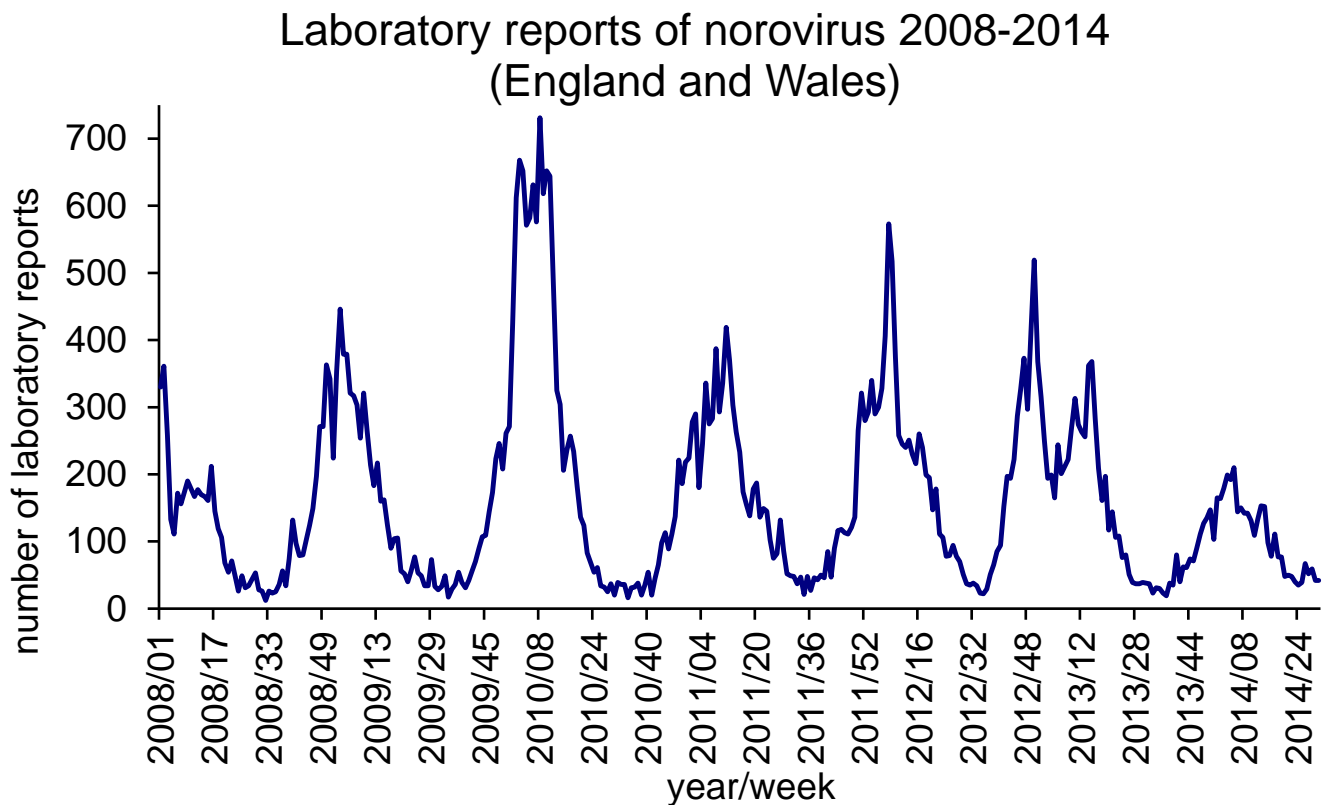


Figure 4: Laboratory reports of norovirus 2007-2014 (England and Wales)



*In order to capture the winter peak of norovirus activity in one season, for reporting purposes, the norovirus season runs from week 27 in year 1 to week 26 in year2, i.e. week 27 2009 to week 26 2010, July to June. † Last season – 2012/2013 – the season began earlier than normal so comparisons between this current and last season would not be valid.

Laboratory Surveillance Update – Virus Reference Department (VRD)

Total number of outbreaks referred to VRD (27-2014 to 32-2014): 4

Total number of outbreaks confirmed as norovirus positive: 2

Total number of outbreaks from healthcare settings, referred to VRD (27-2014 to 32-2014): 1

Total number of outbreaks from healthcare settings, confirmed as norovirus positive: 0

- 83.3 % of norovirus-confirmed outbreaks were associated with GII-4 strains since July 2011.
- 2 different norovirus genotypes have been detected in the current season (27-2014 to date).
- The majority of norovirus-confirmed outbreaks in the current season (27-2014 to date) were associated with GII-4 (5/6, 83.3%).
- The most commonly detected GII-4 strain between periods 32-2013 to 32-2014 is Sydney2012 and is associated with 99.1 % of GII-4 norovirus-confirmed outbreaks.
- The most commonly detected GII-4 strain in the previous season (2013-2014) was Sydney2012.

Figure 5: Season-to-season comparison of norovirus-confirmed outbreaks (all settings) referred to VRD

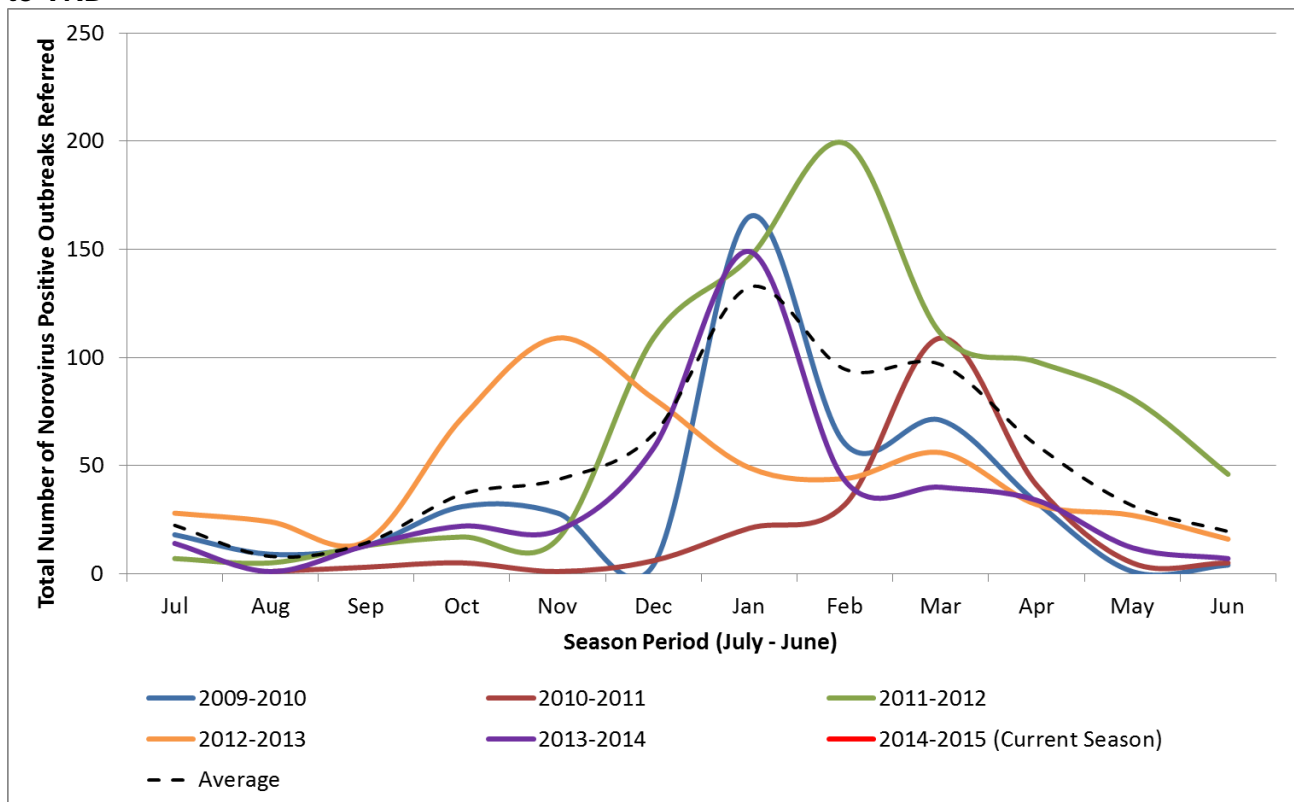


Figure 6: Norovirus-confirmed outbreaks (all settings, by month) referred to VRD

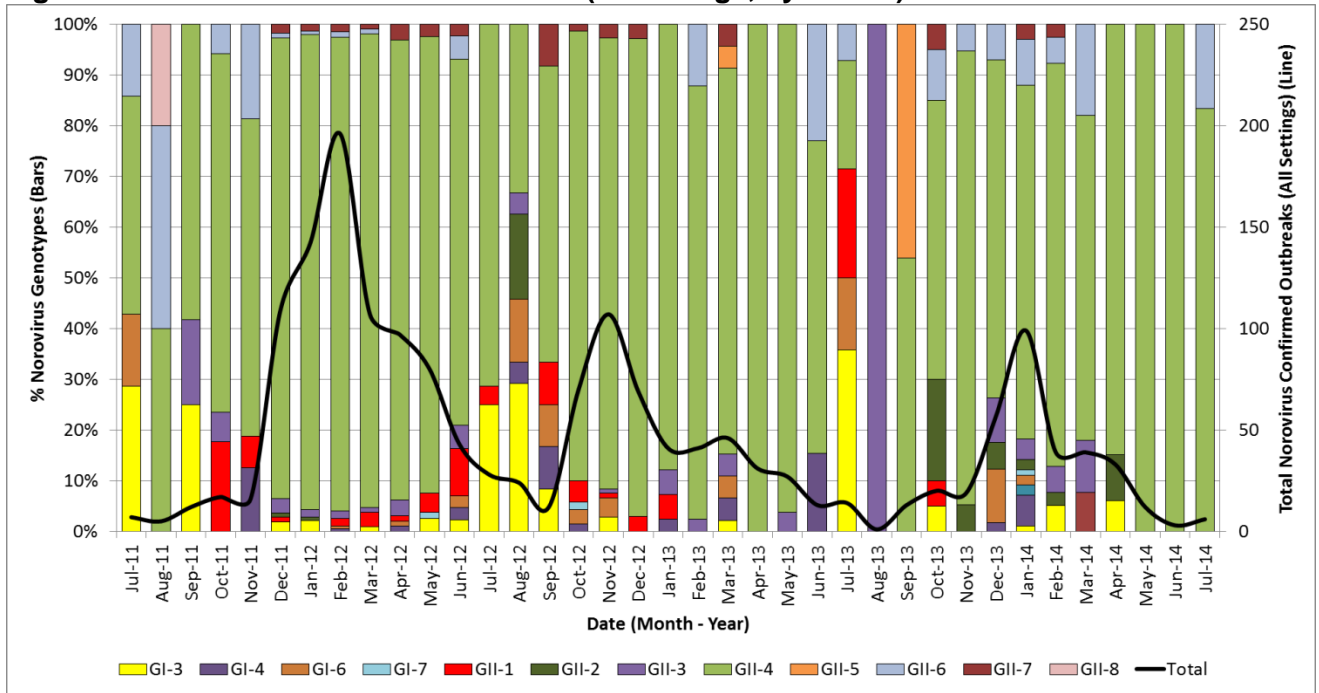
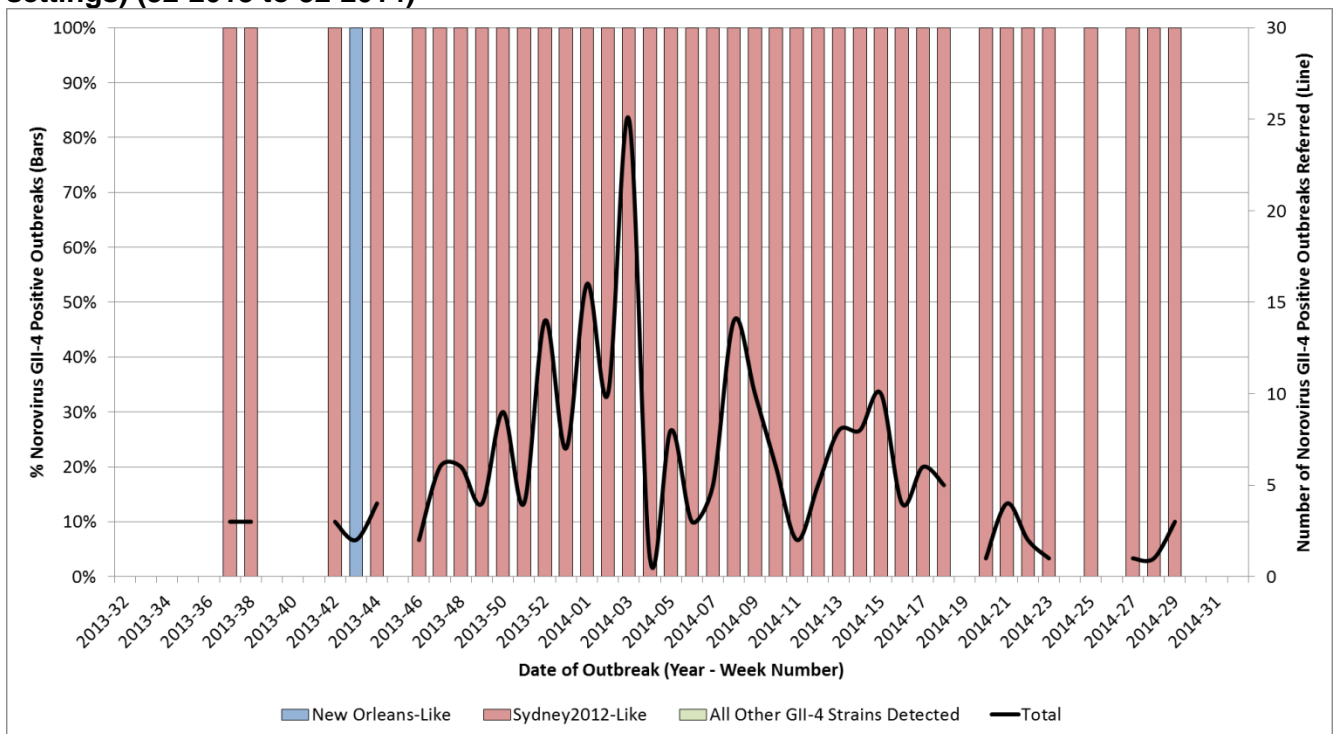


Figure 7: GII-4 norovirus strains detected (by week) among norovirus confirmed outbreaks (all settings) (32-2013 to 32-2014)



Norovirus Activity in Prisons

Two outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting have been reported in prisons in the Anglia and Essex and Thames Valley Public Health England Centres between 30th June and 27th July 2014.

Table 2: The number of suspected and confirmed norovirus outbreaks in prisons

Region	Public Health England Centre	Outbreaks reported 30/06/2014 to 27/07/2014	Outbreaks reported this season week 27 2014 – week 30 2014
North	Greater Manchester		
	Cumbria and Lancashire		
	Cheshire and Merseyside		
	Yorkshire and Humber		
	North East		
Midlands and East of England	Anglia and Essex	1	1
	South Midlands and Hertfordshire		
	Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire		
	West Midlands		
London	London		
South	Thames Valley	1	1
	Wessex (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset)		
	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire		
	Devon, Cornwall and Somerset		
	Surrey, Sussex and Kent		
Total		2	2

NB. Not all suspected cases are tested for norovirus. Where there is an outbreak, a sample of individuals will be tested.

For guidance on the management of outbreaks in prisons see 'Template Generic Prison Outbreak Plan' on:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/Page/1287145637214>

Rotavirus Laboratory Reporting

The number of laboratory reports of rotavirus in this season* (since week 27 2014) is 221. This is nine per cent lower than the ten season average for the same period in the seasons 2003/2004 to 2012/2013 (229). The observed decrease in rotavirus activity is likely to be associated with the introduction of the oral vaccine in July 2013. Rotavirus will particularly contribute to reported diarrhoea and vomiting illness in children aged under five and is often associated with outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting in nurseries and schools. Note that laboratory reports for the latest weeks are likely to increase as further reports are received.

Figure 8: Seasonal comparison of laboratory reports of rotavirus (England and Wales)

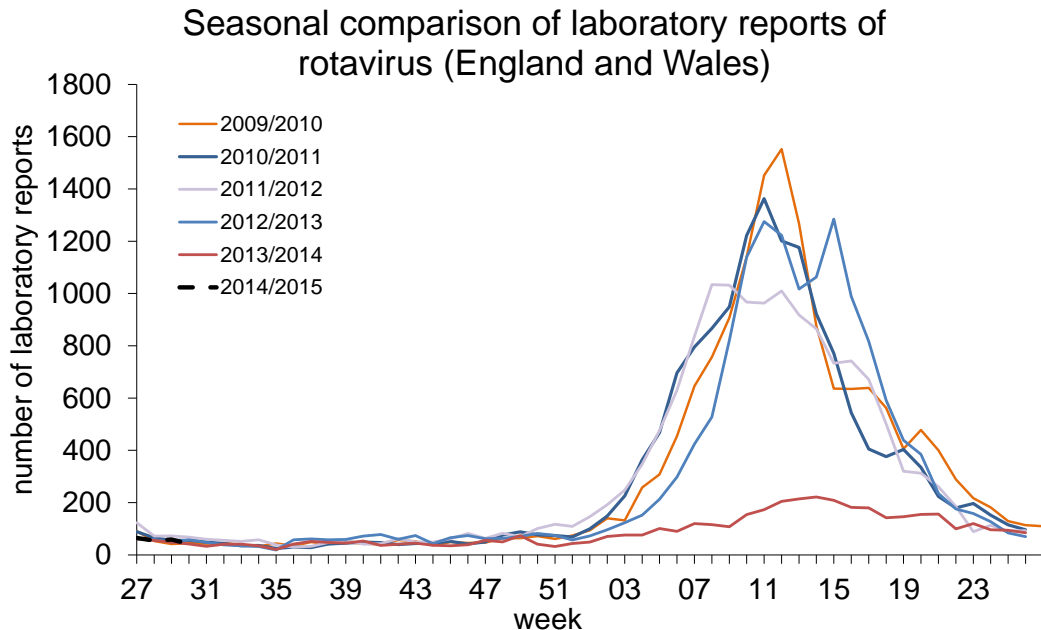
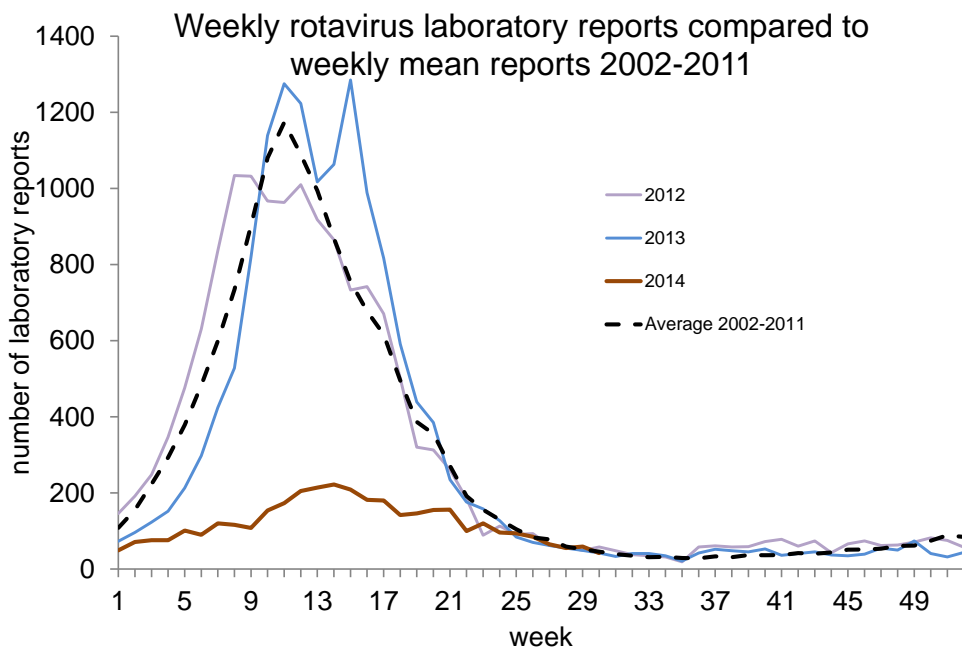


Figure 9: Weekly rotavirus laboratory reports compared to weekly mean reports 2002-2011



*In order to capture the winter peak of norovirus activity in one season, for reporting purposes, the rotavirus season runs from week 27 in year 1 to week 26 in year 2, i.e. week 27 2009 to week 26 2010, July to June

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank infection control staff in hospitals for contributing data to HNORS.

Any queries can be directed to noroOBK@phe.gov.uk