



Public Health
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Laboratory reports of Hepatitis C in England and Wales, 2016

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Laboratory reports of Hepatitis C: 2016

During 2016, there were 11,322 confirmed laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales (Table 1). The demographic breakdown of individuals with reported hepatitis C per quarter was relatively consistent with more reports among males and in the 25 to 54 years old age group.

Table 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by age, sex, and quarter, England and Wales, 2016*

Age group (years)	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Total
	Jan-Mar			Apr-Jun			Jul-Sep			Oct-Dec			
	Female	Male	NK	Female	Male	NK	Female	Male	NK	Female	Male	NK	
1 to 4	1	2	0	0	2	0	2	5	0	3	1	0	16
5 to 9	3	2	0	2	1	0	3	2	0	2	0	1	16
10 to 14	1		0	2	3	0	3	5	0	1	2	0	17
15 to 24	41	39	0	38	58	0	50	87	2	34	51	2	402
25 to 34	216	379	2	208	403	3	221	435	7	193	369	5	2,441
35 to 44	226	599	13	228	573	6	284	566	6	184	525	12	3,222
45 to 54	168	478	8	210	512	5	188	455	3	151	422	4	2,604
55 to 64	120	277	2	138	288	1	119	251		98	240	2	1,536
≥65	74	118	0	84	120	2	75	135	1	97	97	0	803
NK	32	77	11	32	58	0	9	38		2	4	2	265
Total	882	1,971	36	942	2,018	17	954	1,979	19	765	1,711	28	11,322**

* Laboratory reports are not reliable for differentiating acute and chronic infections. Due to late reporting, numbers or each quarter may have changed slightly since their HPR quarterly reports.

** Provisional data

Overall, there was a 2.6% decrease in the number of reports received during 2016 compared to 2015 (11322/11,626).

The number of laboratory reports by PHE Centre is presented below. Reports were assigned to a PHE Centre according to i) the patient's place of residence ii) the postcode of the patient's registered GP practice, or iii) the postcode of the source laboratory. During 2016, the greatest number of hepatitis C reports were received from London (n=4,204) followed by the West Midlands (n=1157) and South East (1,151) PHE Centres (Table 2).

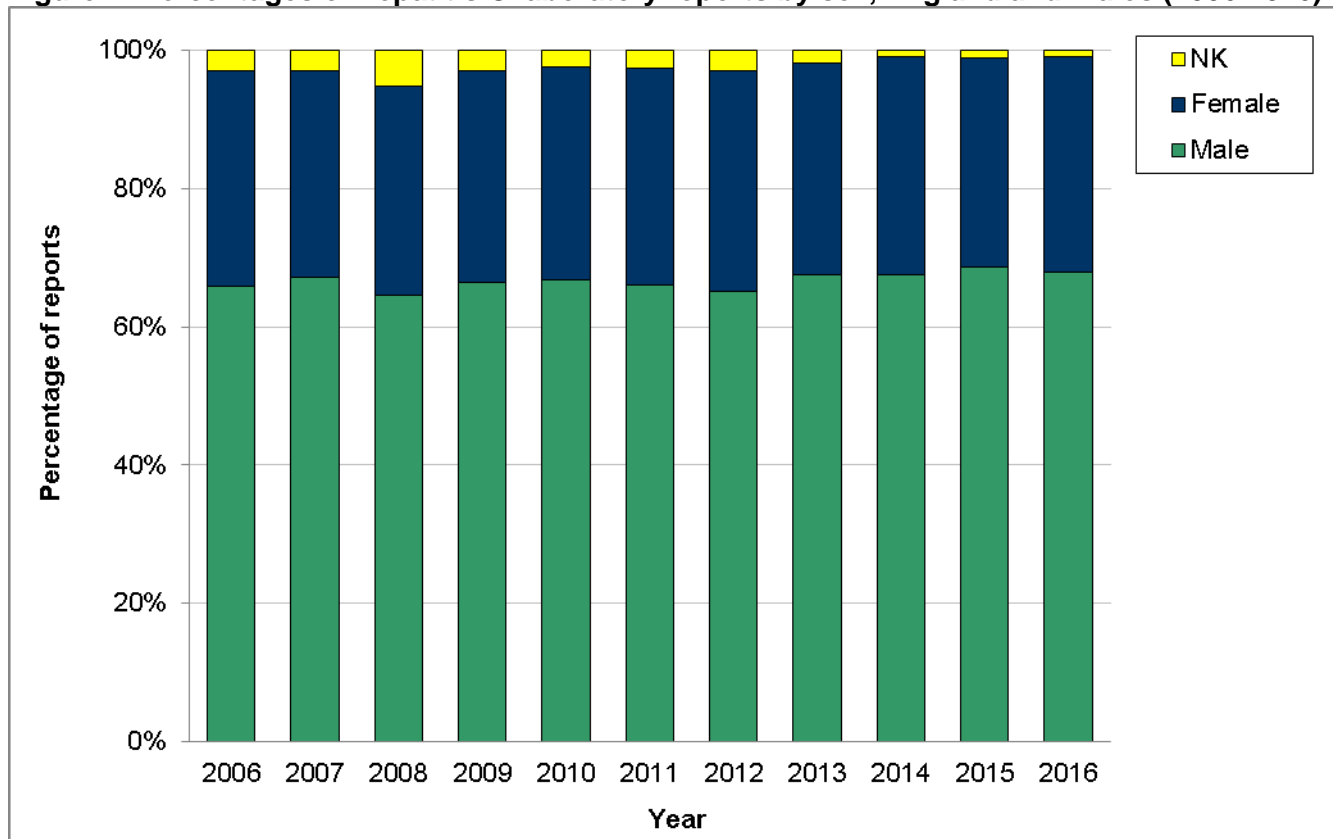
During 2016, laboratory reports of cases of hepatitis C intermittently failed to be uploaded to the Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS); this has been reflected in the comparatively high number of reports from these regions being inconsistent with previous years, except for London. Some of these inconsistencies are listed in the Laboratory data – caveats section at the end of the report.

Table 2: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by region, England and Wales (2006-2016)

PHE Centre	Year										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
East Midlands	259	402	588	576	515	673	672	549	591	401	513
East of England	684	695	794	706	607	844	776	707	792	840	914
London	1190	1017	966	856	968	2012	2789	3089	3836	4091	4204
North East	245	141	167	275	317	310	301	360	305	233	207
North West	1380	1737	1666	2117	1807	1514	1797	1981	1496	1385	881
South East	379	786	1083	1147	1170	1300	1298	1137	1323	1331	1151
South West	872	1046	1114	999	732	973	1111	997	983	1077	844
West Midlands	487	614	673	860	778	774	740	781	648	864	1157
Yorks. & Humber	1449	1363	1344	1091	981	1507	1376	1470	1513	1326	931
Wales	327	333	487	356	318	486	502	690	510	78	520
Total	7,272	8,134	8,882	8,983	8,193	10,393	11,362	11,761	11,997	11,626	11,322**

** Provisional data

Figure 1: Percentages of hepatitis C laboratory reports by sex, England and Wales (2006-2016)

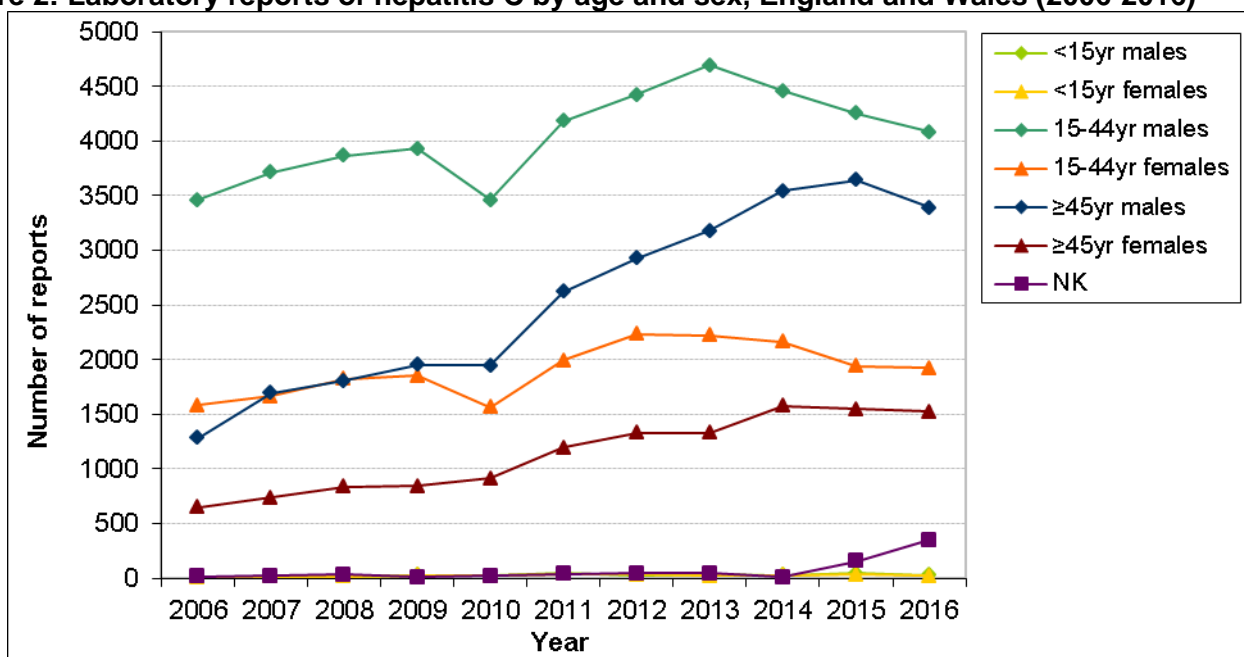


Age and sex were well completed (>97% complete) (Figure 1). Where known, males accounted for 68% (7,679/11,222) of reports during 2016 which was consistent with previous years (Figure1).

During 2016, 55% of hepatitis C reports were among the 15 to 44 year old age group, a further 45% were among the 45 years and over age group with under 1% of reports among the under 15 years old age group.

Since 2006, the highest number of reports has consistently been in the 15 to 44 year age group (Figure 2), however proportionally there has been a slight year on year decrease in the proportion of hepatitis C reports among the 15 to 44 year old age group and an increase in the proportion reports among the 45 years and over age group. The proportion of reports among the less than 15 years old age group has remained low at less than 1% per year.

Figure 2: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by age and sex, England and Wales (2006-2016)



Laboratory data - caveats

The substantial reduction in cases of hepatitis C reports in Yorkshire and Humber is likely due to Leeds Royal Infirmary experiencing reporting issues which resulted in laboratory reports from mid-September to December 2016 not being uploaded to SGSS as well as this a change in reporting codes at the Hull Royal Infirmary laboratory has also resulted in some missing data in 2016.

In the North West, Royal Liverpool has experienced an on-going IT issue which resulted with no tests being uploaded to SGSS during 2016, which may explain some of the substantial reduction in cases of hepatitis C reports in the region.

In the South West of England a number of laboratories merged. During this period the South West Centre saw a decrease in reports. However whether this decrease in reports is a direct result of the merger has not yet been fully elucidated.

Derivation of surveillance data

For this annual report laboratory reports from SGSS were processed using Microsoft Access 2010. This process matches the automated process that was used previously to extract and de-duplicate hepatitis C laboratory reports from SGSS.

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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.

Public Health England, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8000 www.gov.uk/phe

Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk) Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

Queries relating to this document should be directed to:
Immunisation, Hepatitis and Blood Safety Department,
National Infection Service, PHE Colindale,
61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ.

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