



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, 2017

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Laboratory reports of hepatitis C: 2017

During 2017, there were 10,771 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, 2017*

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	9	13	0	16	21	0	17	14	1	16	19	0	126
1 to 4	1	2	0	3	2	0	4	2	0	2	3	0	19
5 to 9	3	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	13
10 to 14	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	5	0	0	12
15 to 24	43	55	1	37	46	3	31	52	2	27	45	0	342
25 to 34	221	406	3	200	390	3	201	419	5	201	374	5	2,428
35 to 44	197	591	2	193	552	2	217	513	5	223	539	5	3,039
45 to 54	175	462	2	156	429	3	157	404	1	183	426	3	2,401
55 to 64	115	254	1	112	229	0	120	218	0	122	244		1,415
≥65	83	117	1	64	93	1	63	102	1	70	110	1	706
NK	2	3	48	2	9	53	1	5	118	4	7	18	270
Total	851	1905	58	783	1773	65	815	1732	133	856	1768	32	10,771**

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

** Provisional data

Overall, there was a 4.9% decrease in the number of reports received during 2017 compared to 2016 (10,771/11,322).

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 2017, the greatest number of hepatitis C reports were received from London (n=3,262) followed by the South East (n=1,067) and Yorkshire and Humber (1,060) PHE Centres (Table 2).

During 2017, 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 (2007-2017)

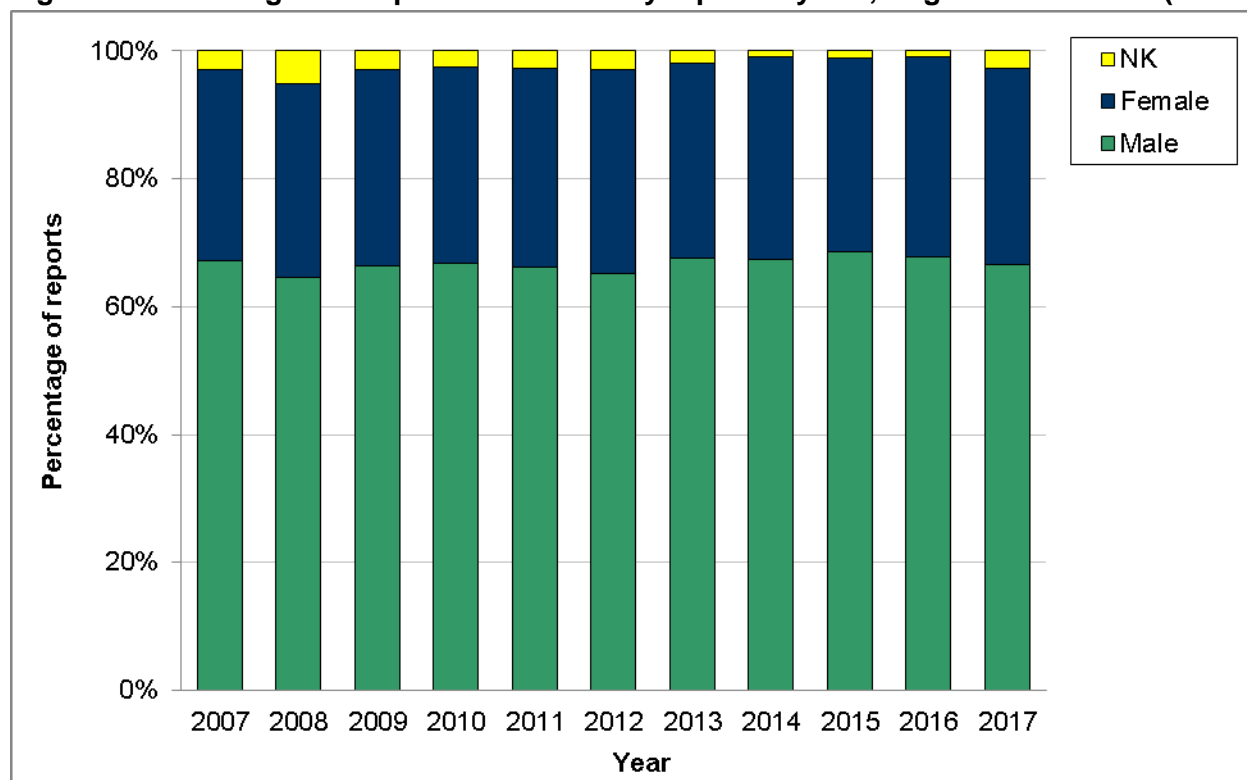
PHE Centre	Year										
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
East Midlands	402	588	576	515	673	672	549	591	401	513	751
East of England	695	794	706	607	844	776	707	792	840	914	938
London	1017	966	856	968	2012	2789	3089	3836	4091	4204	3262
North East	141	167	275	317	310	301	360	305	233	207	314
North West	1737	1666	2117	1807	1514	1797	1981	1496	1385	881	956
South East	786	1083	1147	1170	1300	1298	1137	1323	1331	1151	1067
South West	1046	1114	999	732	973	1111	997	983	1077	844	936
West Midlands	614	673	860	778	774	740	781	648	864	1157	1060
Yorkshire and Humber	1363	1344	1091	981	1507	1376	1470	1513	1326	931	1034
Wales***	333	487	356	318	486	502	690	510	78	520	453
Total	8,134	8,882	8,983	8,193	10,393	11,362	11,761	11,997	11,626	11,322	10,771**

** Provisional data

*** non PHE Centre

Note: 2017 figures for West Midlands, Yorks. and Humber, and Wales amended, 15 March 2018.

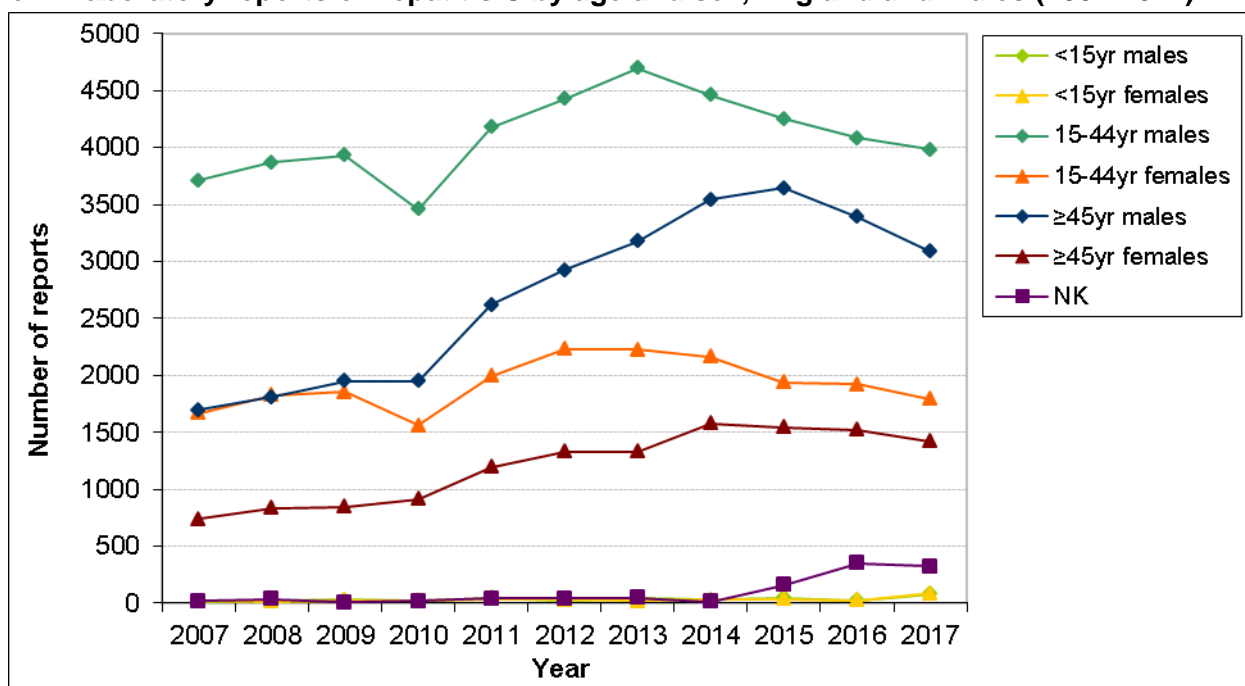
Figure 1. Percentages of hepatitis C laboratory reports by sex, England and Wales (2007-2017)



Age and sex were well completed (>97% complete) (Figure 1). Where known, males accounted for 67% (7,178/10,771) of reports during 2017 which was consistent with previous years (Figure 1). During 2017, 54% of hepatitis C reports were among the 15 to 44 year old age group, a further 42% were among the 45 years and over age group with under 1% of reports among the under 15 years old age group.

Since 2007, 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 2% per year.

Figure 2. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by age and sex, England and Wales (2007-2017)



Laboratory data - caveats

The substantial reduction in cases of hepatitis C reports in Yorkshire and Humber seen in 2016 was 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 had also resulted in some missing data in 2016.

In the North West, the Royal Liverpool had experienced in 2016 specific IT issues which resulted in 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 throughout 2016 a number of laboratories merged. During this period the South West Centre saw a decrease in reports.

In 2015, hepatitis C laboratory reports from Wales did not load into the Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS) hence reports were not incorporated into the annual data*.

Derivation of surveillance data

For this report as in 2016 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.

* Note: Sentence added 15 August 2018.

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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.

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