



Public Health  
England

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# Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections in England and Wales, October to December 2018

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# Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections: October to December 2018

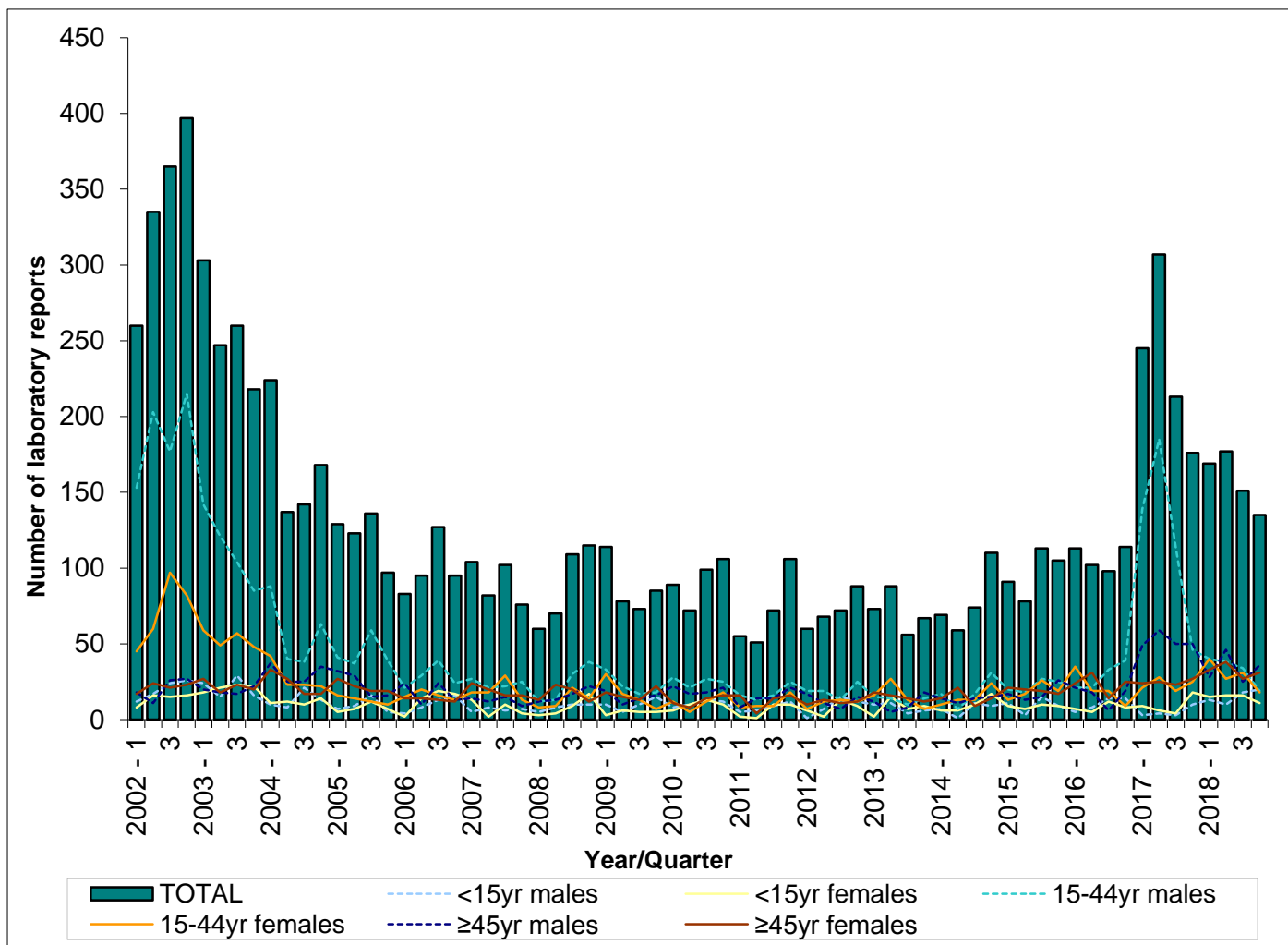
There were a total of 135 laboratory reports of new patients with hepatitis A reported to Public Health England (PHE) during the fourth quarter of 2018 (October – December 2018). This is a 10.6% decrease on the reports in the third quarter of 2018 (n=151), (Figure 1).

The London PHE region accounted for 39.3% (n=53) of reports, followed by 14.1% (n=19) from the East of England region. Age group and sex were well reported (100% complete) (Table 1). There were 67 (49.6%) reports among those aged 45 years and over, followed by 37 (27.4%) reports among those in the 15-44 years age group and 31 (23.0%) in those aged under 15 years. Males accounted for the slight majority of reports overall (55.6%, n=75) with the largest proportion of males observed in the under 15 age group (64.5%, n=20).

**Table 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A in England and Wales, October – December 2018**

Age group	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
<1 years	0	0	0	0
1-4 years	1	5	0	6
5-9 years	5	12	0	17
10-14 years	5	3	0	8
15-24 years	8	8	0	16
25-34 years	8	6	0	14
35-44 years	2	5	0	7
45-54 years	2	8	0	10
55-64 years	6	9	0	15
>65 years	23	19	0	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135</b>

**Figure 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A by age and sex (England and Wales), January 2002 to December 2018\***



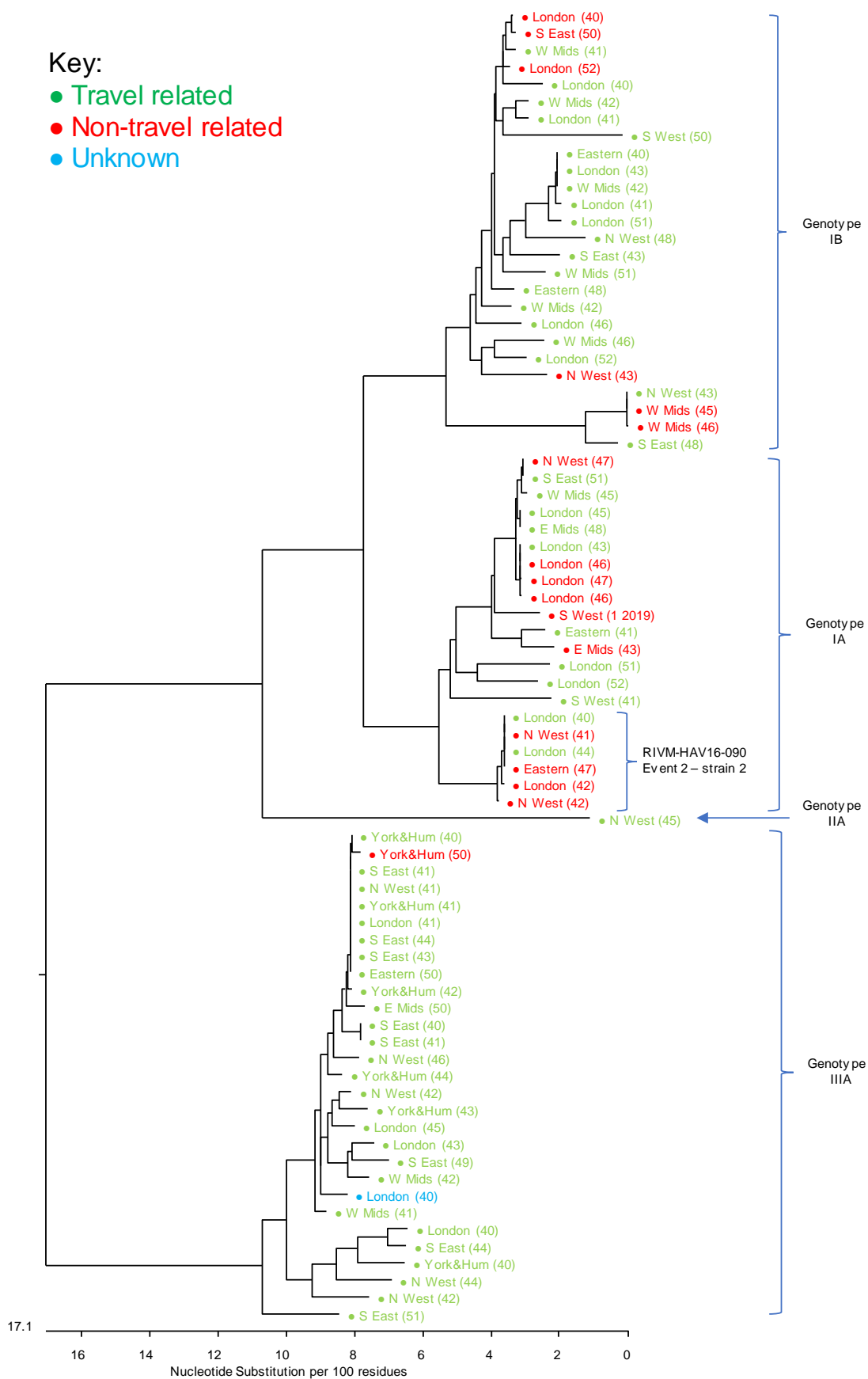
\* All figures are provisional and subject to change as records are updated.

# Reference laboratory confirmation and phylogeny of hepatitis A infection

Of the 135 patients notified as having acute HAV infection during the final quarter of 2018, 95 had samples forwarded to the Virus Reference Department for confirmation. Forty-three of the patients were not confirmed to have acute HAV infection. The remaining 52 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection. In addition, 27 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection that had not been reported through the laboratory reporting system although all the English cases were recorded in HPzone.

A total of 77 patients could be genotyped over this period; 21 were genotype IA (27.2%), 26 were genotype IB (33.8%), one was genotype IIA (1.3%) and 29 were genotype IIIA (37.7%). Of these samples 58 were associated with travel (75.3%), 18 had no travel history (23.4%) and one had no information (1.3%). This information is presented as a phylogenetic tree. Each sequence is represented by a dot with the patient region and the week of sampling in brackets.

**Phylogenetic tree of genotype IA, IB, IIA and IIIA sequences October to December 2018 (n=77)**



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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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