



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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

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# Laboratory reports of hepatitis C: October to December 2018

Between October and December 2018 a total of 2861 laboratory reports of hepatitis C were reported to PHE. There was a 13.1% increase in the number of reports compared to the third quarter of 2018 (n=2529), and a 12.6% increase on the same quarter in 2017 (n=2540).

Age and sex were well reported (>98.8% complete). Where known males accounted for 67.7% (1906/2815) of reports which is consistent with previous quarters and years [1]. Adults aged 25-44 years accounted for 52.0% of the total number of hepatitis C reports.

| Age group    | Male        | Female     | Unknown   | Total       |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1-4 years    | 1           | 5          | 1         | 7           |
| 5-9 years    | 5           | 2          | 0         | 7           |
| 10-14 years  | 3           | 5          | 1         | 9           |
| 15-24 years  | 48          | 47         | 1         | 96          |
| 25-34 years  | 389         | 206        | 8         | 603         |
| 35-44 years  | 623         | 239        | 6         | 868         |
| 45-54 years  | 472         | 181        | 7         | 660         |
| 55-64 years  | 237         | 129        | 2         | 368         |
| >65 years    | 118         | 92         | 1         | 211         |
| Unknown      | 10          | 3          | 19        | 32          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1906</b> | <b>909</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>2861</b> |

## Notes

Individuals aged less than one year are excluded since positive tests in this age group may reflect the presence of passively-acquired maternal antibody rather than true infection or exposure to infection.

Laboratory reports are not reliable for differentiating acute and chronic hepatitis C infections. Laboratory reports include individuals with a positive test for hepatitis C antibody, antigen and/or detection of hepatitis C RNA.

A small proportion of these specimens are diagnosed following dried blood spot (DBS) testing however not all DBS testing is reported by laboratories.

As in the previous quarter, laboratory reports are presented broken down by Operational Delivery Network (ODN). ODNs were launched in April 2013 following the publication of the NHS England strategy to sustain and develop clinical networks.

ODNs are the networks through which hepatitis C treatment is being delivered across England. Between October and December 2018, 2847 out of 2861 individuals have been allocated to an ODN.

| Primary ODN                             | Total |
|---|-------|
| Barts                                   | 114   |
| Birmingham                              | 175   |
| Bristol and Severn                      | 140   |
| Cheshire and Merseyside                 | 93    |
| Eastern Hepatitis Network               | 197   |
| Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire | 387   |
| Humberside and North Yorkshire          | 44    |
| Kent Network via Kings                  | 32    |
| Lancashire and South Cumbria            | 103   |
| Leicester                               | 99    |
| North Central London                    | 124   |
| North East and Cumbria                  | 204   |
| Nottingham                              | 83    |
| South Thames Hepatitis Network          | 208   |
| South West Peninsula                    | 57    |
| South Yorkshire                         | 114   |
| Surrey Hepatitis Services               | 107   |
| Sussex Hepatology Network               | 67    |
| Thames Valley Hep C ODN                 | 90    |
| Wessex Hep C ODN                        | 65    |
| West London                             | 171   |
| West Yorkshire                          | 173   |

#### Notes

ODNs are based on NHS England Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) geographic boundaries. NHS England allocates a primary or lead ODN for CCGs which may cross two ODNs. Bristol and Severn, Surrey Hepatitis Services, Sussex Hepatology Network and North East and Cumbria were ODNs which between them had 70 individuals that could also be assigned to a second ODN.

#### Reference

1. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, 2017, Public Health England  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/730074/hpr2718\\_hcv-nnl.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/730074/hpr2718_hcv-nnl.pdf)

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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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