



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, April to June 2019

Health Protection Report

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Laboratory reports of hepatitis C infections: April to June 2019

Between April and June 2019 a total of 3998 laboratory reports of hepatitis C were reported to PHE. There was a 50.6% increase in the number of reports compared to the second quarter of 2018 (n=2655). This increase is due to the addition of previously missing backdated confirmed hepatitis C laboratory reports originating from either the private laboratory Abbott (formerly known as Alere), or a laboratory from the North West region.

Since 2017, one laboratory in the North West of England has undertaken HCV dried blood spot testing alongside hepatitis C routine laboratory testing. This single laboratory has taken on testing for a large part of the country however, some samples where geographical information is lacking, maybe incorrectly assigned to this specific laboratory rather than the laboratory from which the sample originated.

Age and sex were well reported (>99.0% complete). Where known males accounted for 71.2% (2811/3948) of reports which is consistent with previous quarters and years [1]. Adults aged 25-44 years accounted for 56.5% of the total number of hepatitis C reports.

Table 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, April to June, 2019

Age group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
1-4 years	2	2	0	4
5-9 years	1	0	0	1
10-14 years	2	1	1	4
15-24 years	54	33	1	88
25-34 years	501	278	6	785
35-44 years	1054	382	21	1457
45-54 years	737	221	9	967
55-64 years	325	139	4	468
>65 years	129	75	3	207
Unknown	6	6	5	17
Total	2811	1137	50	3998

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.

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

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 April and June 2019, 2586 out of 3998 individuals have been allocated to an ODN.

Table 2: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by Operational Delivery Network, April to June, 2019

Primary ODN	Total
Barts	113
Birmingham	190
Bristol and Severn	115
Cheshire and Merseyside	92
Eastern Hepatitis Network	188
Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire	205
Humberside and North Yorkshire	65
Kent Network via Kings	42
Lancashire and South Cumbria	119
Leicester	97
North Central London	113
North East and Cumbria	205
Nottingham	129
South Thames Hepatitis Network	186
South West Peninsula	41
South Yorkshire	93
Surrey Hepatitis Services	49
Sussex Hepatology Network	82
Thames Valley Hep C ODN	52
Wessex Hep C ODN	96
West London	172
West Yorkshire	142

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, and North East and Cumbria were ODNs which between them had 43 individuals that could also be assigned to a second ODN.

References

1. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, 2018, Public Health England
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/822683/hpr2719_HCV-ann18.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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