



Public Health  
England

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# Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections in England and Wales, July to September 2019

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# Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections in England and Wales, July to September 2019

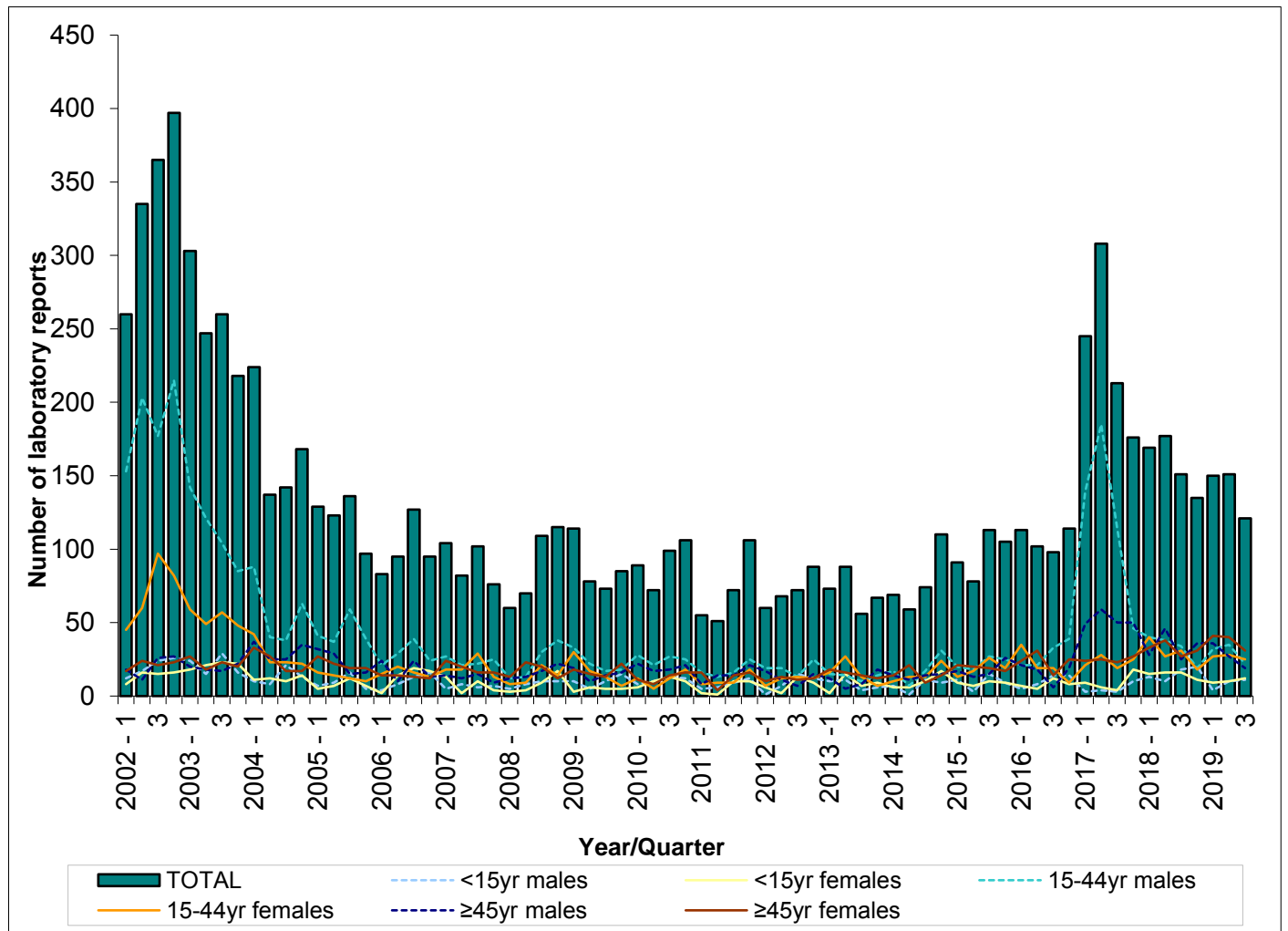
There was a total of 121 laboratory reports of new patients with hepatitis A reported to Public Health England (PHE) during the third quarter of 2019 (July – September 2019). This is a 19.9% decrease on the reports in the second quarter of 2019 (n=151), (Figure 1). Of these, 80 reports of new patients remained after exclusion of patients with samples sent to the Virus Reference Department (VRD) that were not confirmed as having had a recent hepatitis A virus infection (see Figure 2).

The London PHE region accounted for 32.2% (n=39) of reports, followed by 19.0% (n=23) from the South East region. Age group and sex were well reported (99.2% complete) (Table 1). There were 50 (41.3%) reports among those aged 45 years and over, followed by 47 (38.8%) reports among those in the 15-44 years age group and 23 (19.0%) in those aged under 15 years. Females accounted for the majority of reports overall (57.0%, n=69), with the greatest difference in the number of male and female reports observed in the 45 and over age group (38.0% male, n=19).

**Table 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A in England and Wales, July to September 2019**

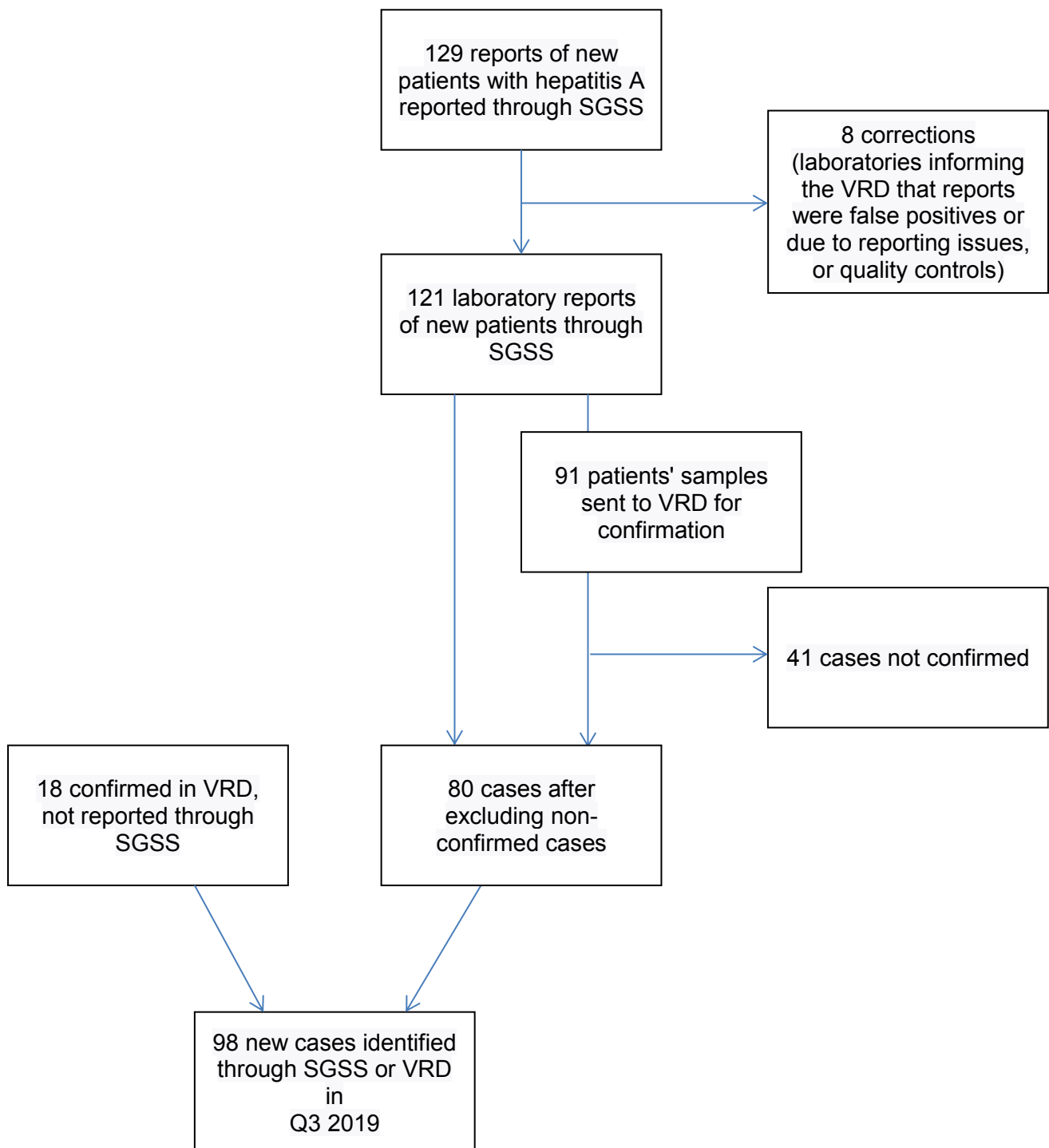
Age group	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
<1 years	0	0	0	0
1-4 years	2	0	0	2
5-9 years	5	6	0	11
10-14 years	5	5	0	10
15-24 years	4	4	0	8
25-34 years	15	10	0	25
35-44 years	6	8	0	14
45-54 years	8	6	0	14
55-64 years	6	7	0	13
≥65 years	17	6	0	23
Unknown	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>121</b>

**Figure 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A by age and sex (England and Wales), January 2002 to September 2019\***



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

**Figure 2: Flowchart of laboratory reports of hepatitis A and confirmation status by the VRD (England and Wales), July to September 2019**

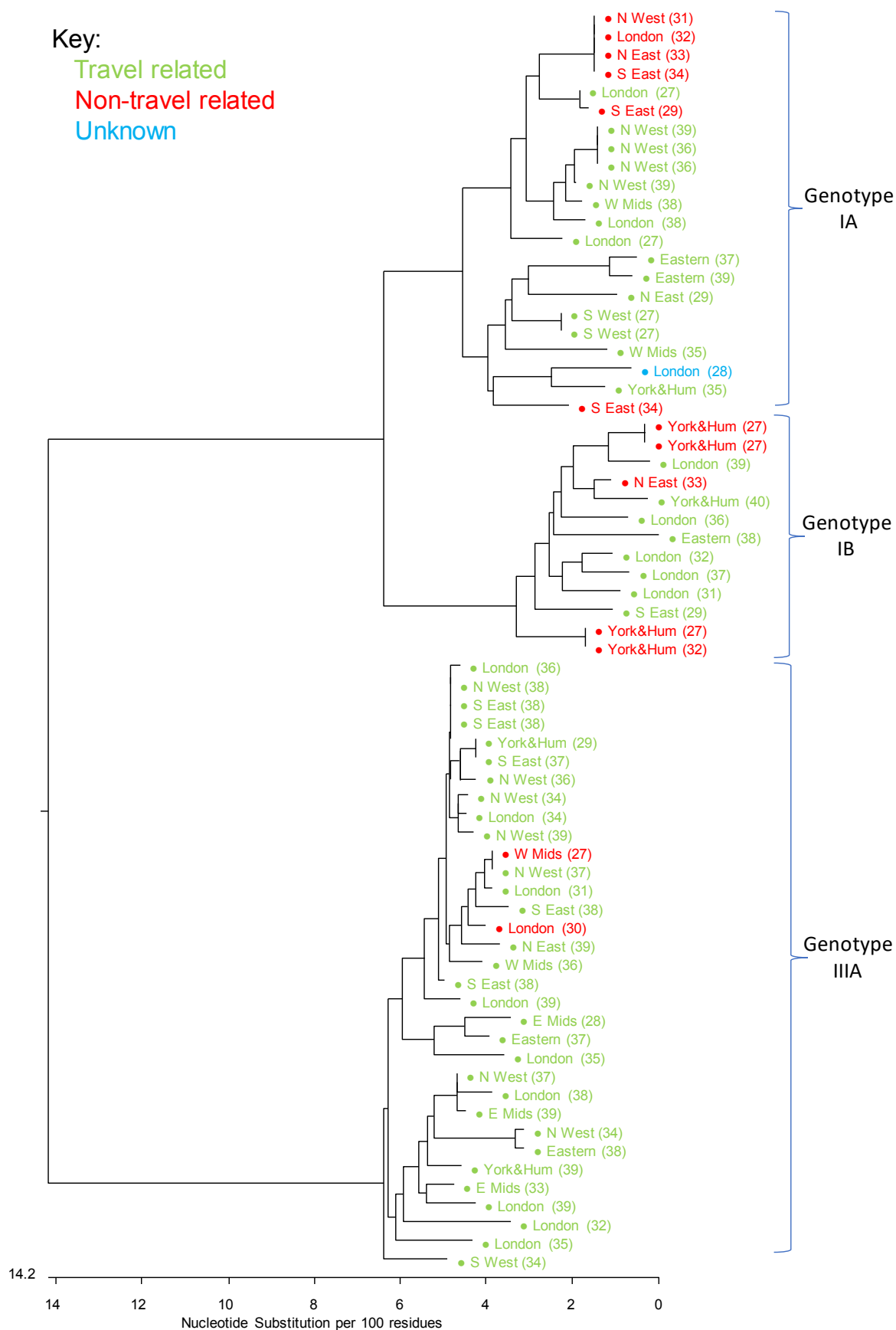


## Reference laboratory confirmation and phylogeny of hepatitis A infection

Of the 121 patients reported through SGSS as having acute HAV infection during the third quarter of 2019, 91 (75.2%) had samples forwarded to the Virus Reference Department for confirmation. Forty-one of the patients were not confirmed to have acute HAV infection. The remaining 50 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection. In addition, 18 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 68 patients could be genotyped over this period; 22 were genotype IA (32.4%), 13 were genotype IB (19.1%) and 33 were genotype IIIA (48.5%). Of these samples 53 were associated with travel (77.9%) and 14 had no travel history (20.6%) and one had no information (1.5%). 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.

**Figure 3: Phylogenetic tree of genotype IA, IB, and IIIA sequences July to September 2019 (n=68)**



## About Public Health England

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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](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

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Queries relating to this document should be directed to: Immunisation and Countermeasures, National Infection Service, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ  
[immunisation@phe.gov.uk](mailto:immunisation@phe.gov.uk)



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