



Public Health
England

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Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, July to September 2019

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Between July and September 2020, a total of 3729 laboratory reports of hepatitis C were reported to PHE. There was a 47.4% increase in the number of reports compared to the third quarter of 2018 (n=2529). 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 (>98.0% complete). Where known males accounted for 71.9% (2603/3622) of reports which is consistent with previous quarters and years [1]. Adults aged 25-44 years accounted for 55.2% 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	1	1	0	2
5-9 years	2	0	0	2
10-14 years	0	1	0	1
15-24 years	70	46	1	117
25-34 years	465	234	19	718
35-44 years	954	328	41	1323
45-54 years	679	220	26	925
55-64 years	315	119	8	442
>65 years	100	65	0	165
Unknown	17	5	12	34
Total	2603	1019	107	3729

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 July and September 2019, 3637 out of 3729 individuals have been allocated to an ODN.

Table 2: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by Operational Delivery Network, July to September 2019

Primary ODN	Total
Barts	143
Birmingham	365
Bristol and Severn	146
Cheshire and Merseyside	200
Eastern Hepatitis Network	226
Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire	164
Humberside and North Yorkshire	167
Kent Network via Kings	52
Lancashire and South Cumbria	192
Leicester	145
North Central London	119
North East and Cumbria	345
Nottingham	163
South Thames Hepatitis Network	271
South West Peninsula	57
South Yorkshire	144
Surrey Hepatitis Services	68
Sussex Hepatology Network	124
Thames Valley Hep C ODN	89
Wessex Hep C ODN	109
West London	170
West Yorkshire	178

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 2 ODNs. Bristol and Severn, Surrey Hepatitis Services, and North East and Cumbria were ODNs which between them had 44 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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