



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, 2019

Health Protection Report

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Main points

During 2019, there were 16,005 confirmed laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales ([Table 1](#)). The demographic breakdown of individuals with reported hepatitis C per quarter was relatively consistent with more reports among males and in the 35 to 44 year old age group.

Overall, there was a 2.9% decrease in the number of reports received during 2019 compared to 2018 (16,005 out of 16,488).

Laboratory reports are presented by Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs). 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.

In 2019, 13,307 out of 15,798 individuals in England had been allocated to an ODN ([Table 2](#)).

In 2015 laboratory reports of cases of hepatitis C intermittently failed to be uploaded to the Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). This has now been resolved and any previously missing data has been included.

The number of laboratory reports by a Public Health England (PHE) Centre is presented below. Reports were assigned to a PHE Centre according to i) the patient's place of residence ii) the postcode of the patient's registered GP practice, or iii) the postcode of the source laboratory. During 2019, the greatest number of hepatitis C reports were received from London (n=2,557), followed by the North West (n=2,239) and Yorkshire and Humber (1,794) PHE Centres, where the region was known ([Table 3](#)).

Table 1. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by age, sex, and quarter, England and Wales, 2019*

Age group (years)	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Total
	January to March			April to June			July to September			October to December			
	Female	Male	N/K	Female	Male	N/K	Female	Male	N/K	Female	Male	N/K	
Under 1	18	13	0	11	13	0	14	23	2	15	19	0	128
1 to 4	1	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	3	0	17
5 to 9	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
10 to 14	5	3	0	1	2	0	1		0	4	2	0	18
15 to 24	72	102	3	35	52	1	50	71	4	39	57	3	489
25 to 34	295	655	16	266	492	9	263	506	35	194	420	13	3,164
35 to 44	422	1,005	22	368	997	40	376	1,045	72	298	749	36	5,430
45 to 54	256	801	11	211	712	11	234	730	44	224	591	17	3,842
55 to 64	142	357	5	140	321	6	124	340	14	138	267	6	1,860
Equal or greater to 65	91	126	1	79	133	3	65	101	1	94	93	0	787
N/K	4	22	34	11	28	6	12	41	34	14	37	22	265
Total	1,306	3,089	92	1,124	2,753	76	1,141	2,861	206	1,022	2,238	97	16,005**

* Due to late reporting, numbers for each quarter may have changed slightly since their HPR quarterly reports.

** Provisional data.

Table 2. Individuals allocated to ODNs, England, 2019*

Primary ODN	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Barts	138	111	142	164	555
Birmingham	269	192	354	262	1,077
Bristol and Severn	170	122	143	119	554
Cheshire and Merseyside	178	96	189	102	565
Eastern Hepatitis Network	265	187	219	199	870
Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire	513	222	155	138	1,028
Humber and North Yorkshire	125	99	196	170	590
Kent Network via Kings	53	49	49	30	181
Lancashire and South Cumbria	154	123	189	108	574
Leicester	158	101	145	132	536
North Central London	140	122	120	157	539
North East and Cumbria	217	208	339	272	1,036
Nottingham	187	130	161	137	615
South Thames Hepatitis Network	235	187	261	196	879
South West Peninsula	55	39	59	30	183
South Yorkshire	154	112	198	147	611
Surrey Hepatitis Services	163	72	68	70	373
Sussex Hepatology Network	86	84	127	118	415
Thames Valley Hep C ODN	107	61	92	55	315
Wessex Hep C ODN	122	97	110	78	407
West London	195	177	169	167	708
West Yorkshire	224	145	176	151	696

* Provisional data. 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. Lancashire and Cumbria, South West Peninsula and Thames Valley Hepatitis C Network were ODNs which between them had 237 individuals that could also be assigned to a second ODN.

Table 3. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by region, England and Wales (2009 to 2019)*

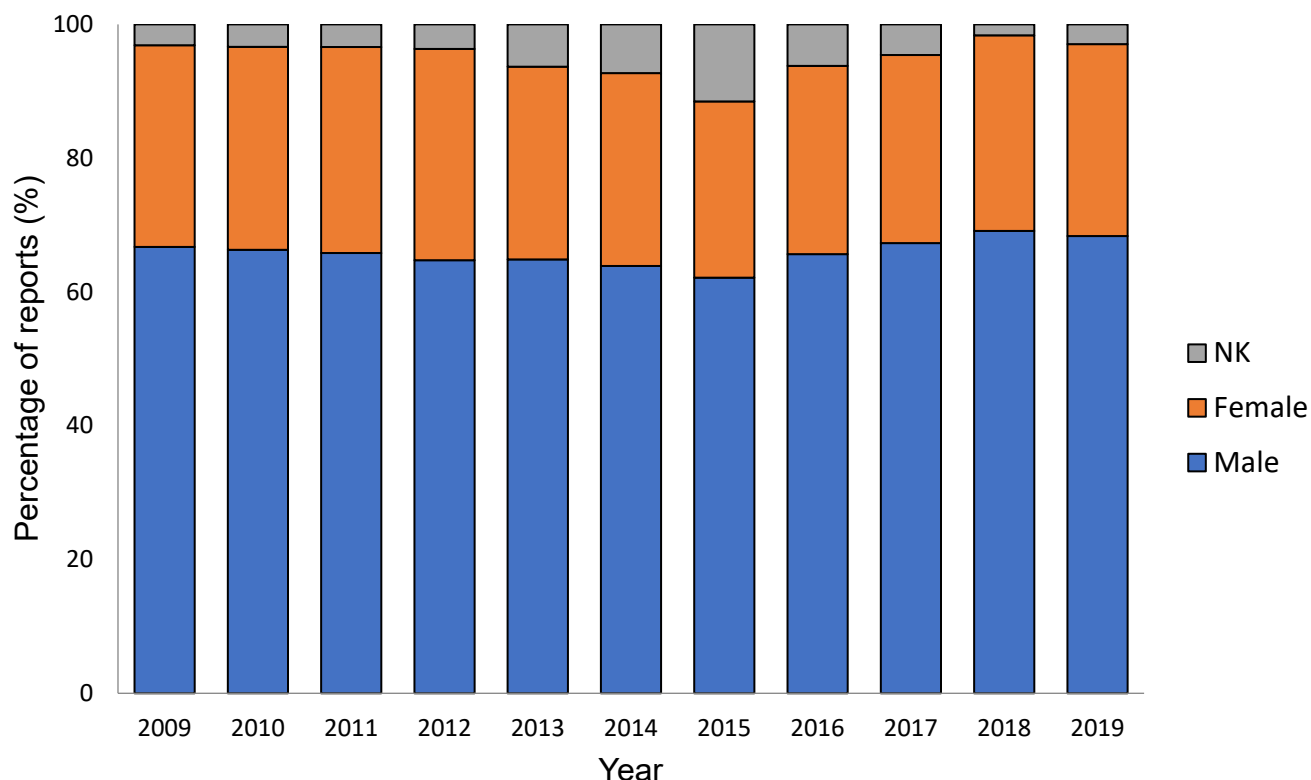
PHE centre	Year										
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
East Midlands	613	554	735	756	669	814	999	1,127	1,164	1,357	1,228
East of England	658	590	884	749	716	777	1,001	1,211	1,176	1,144	991
London	884	999	2,033	2,715	3,092	3,760	4,127	4,319	3,639	3,180	2,557
North East	269	315	323	296	357	320	312	316	435	760	959
North West	1,643	1,460	1,199	1,260	1,639	1,742	2,191	1,844	1,486	2,448	2,239
South East	1,273	1,288	1,410	1,524	1,175	1,434	1,781	2,029	1,740	1,628	1,435
South West	1,056	745	1,029	1,182	1,063	1,191	1,452	1,347	1,380	1,207	993
West Midlands	900	803	814	776	796	815	1,176	1,455	1,296	1,051	1,111
Yorkshire and Humber	1,093	987	1,500	1,346	1,891	1,827	1,919	1,601	1,569	1,746	1,794
Wales***	424	420	607	649	852	902	942	760	460	300	207
Unknown	648	494	437	697	439	256	225	266	1,091	1,667	2,491
Total	9,461	8,655	10,971	11,950	12,689	13,838	16,125	16,275	15,436	16,488	16005**

* Due to back dated and late reporting, annual numbers have changed since their HPR reports.

** Provisional data.

*** Non PHE Centre.

Figure 1. Percentages of hepatitis C laboratory reports by sex, England and Wales (2009 to 2019)*



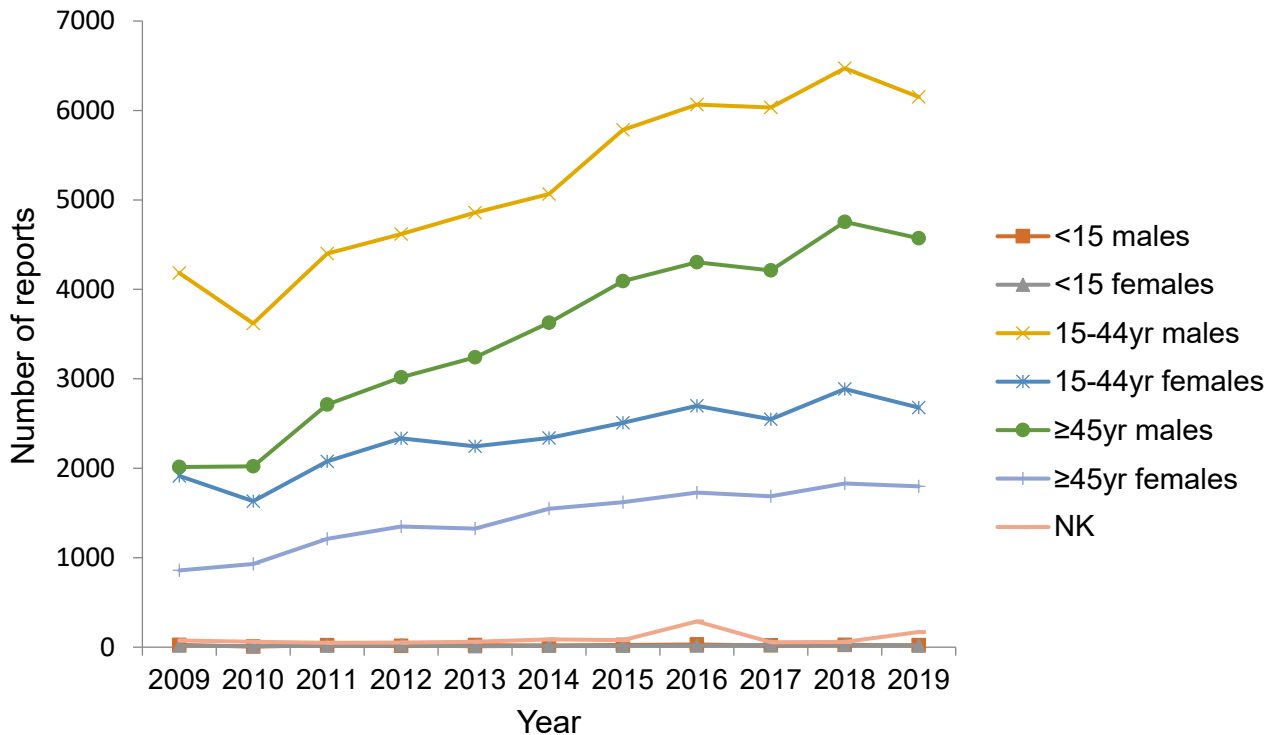
* Due to back dated and late reporting, the annual numbers have changed since their HPR reports.

Age and sex were well completed (more than 97.1% complete) (Figure 1). Where known, males accounted for 70.4% (10,941 out of 15,534) of reports during 2019 which was consistent with previous years (Figure 1).

During 2019, 57.5% of hepatitis C reports were among the 15 to 44 year old age group, a further 41.8% were among the 45 years and over age group, with 0.3% of reports among the under 15 years old age group (results for children less than 1 year of age are excluded from this analysis to rule out the likelihood of simply detecting maternal antibody).

Since 2009, the highest number of reports has consistently been in males aged 15 to 44 years (Figure 2). However, there has been a slight year on year increase in the proportion of hepatitis C reports among all ages less than 15 for both males and females. The proportion of reports among the under-15 years old age group has remained low at equal to or less than 0.3% per year.

Figure 2. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by age and sex, England and Wales (2009 to 2019)*



* Due to back dated and late reporting, the annual numbers have changed since their HPR reports. Results for children less than 1 year of age are excluded to rule out the likelihood of simply detecting maternal antibody.

Laboratory data: caveats

The substantial reduction in cases of hepatitis C reports in Yorkshire and Humber seen in 2016 was due to Leeds Royal Infirmary experiencing reporting issues, which resulted in laboratory reports from mid-September to December 2016 not being uploaded to SGSS. In addition, a change in reporting codes at the Hull Royal Infirmary laboratory had also resulted in some missing data in 2016.

In the North West, the Royal Liverpool had experienced in 2016 specific IT issues which resulted in no tests being uploaded to SGSS during 2016, which may explain some of the substantial reduction in cases of hepatitis C reports in the region.

In the South West of England throughout 2016 a number of laboratories merged. During this period the South West Centre saw a decrease in reports.

Derivation of surveillance data

For this report, as in 2017, laboratory reports from SGSS were processed using Microsoft Access 2010. This process matches the automated process that was used previously to extract and de-duplicate hepatitis C laboratory reports from SGSS.

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