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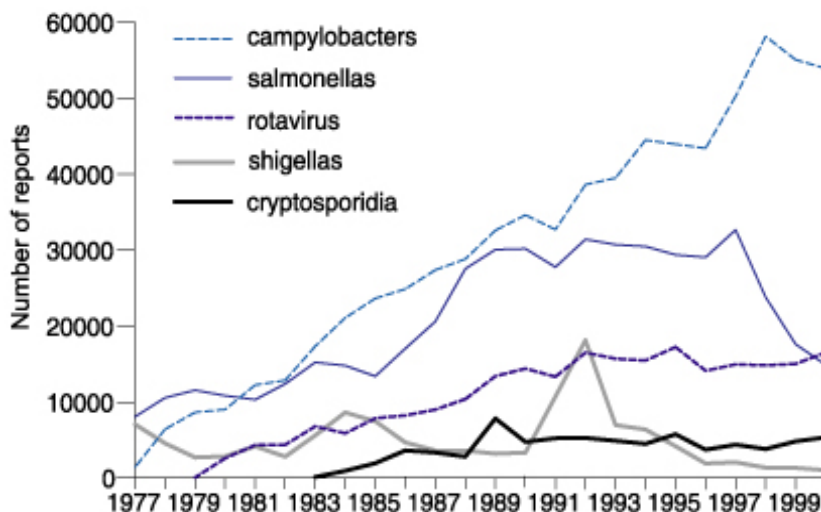
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Trends in selected gastrointestinal infections – 2000

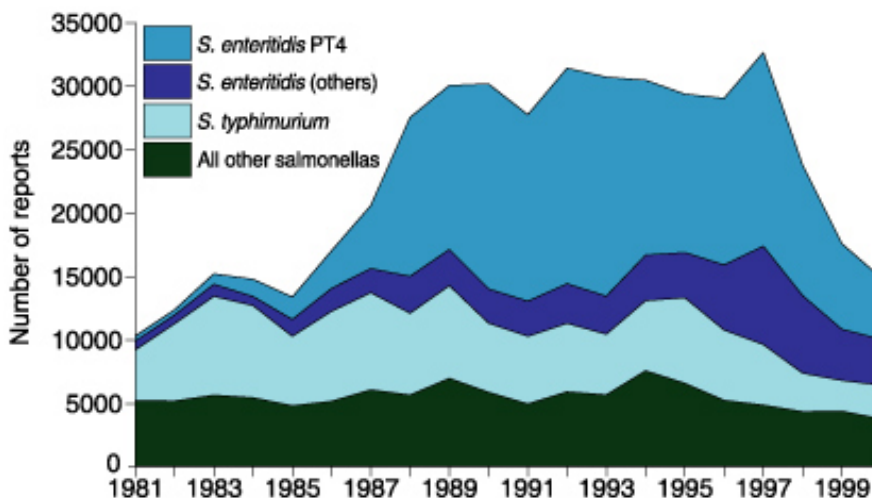
Trends in laboratory reporting of some of the major gastrointestinal pathogens in England and Wales to the end of 2000 are shown in figure 1. The incidence of salmonellosis continued to fall from the peak in 1997, and the provisional total for the year (14,845) is the lowest annual total in the PHLS salmonella dataset since 1985. The provisional total of *Salmonella enteritidis* phage type (PT) 4 was 4846 (approximately 33% of all cases of salmonellosis in England and Wales) which is a much smaller proportion than in recent years (figure 2). It is likely that this dramatic reduction in *S. enteritidis* PT4 has been achieved through vaccination of poultry flocks, an intervention which appears to have had major public health benefits. The provisional total for cases of infection with *S. typhimurium* is 2652, with two large outbreaks during the summer contributing to a slight increase in incidence over 1999 (1,2).

Figure 1 Trends in selected gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales: 1977 to 2000*



* totals for 2000 are provisional

Figure 2 Salmonella infections in humans, England and Wales: 1981 to 2000*



* totals for 2000 are provisional

Campylobacter continues to be the most commonly identified bacterial cause of gastrointestinal infection and during 2000 almost 54,000 cases were reported to the PHLS Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC). During the first six months of sentinel surveillance of *Campylobacter* infection in England and Wales (3), 2118 people reported a total of 16,443 days of illness, 236 people

were admitted to hospital for a total of 946 days and 17,325 days were lost from work.

A provisional total of 5278 reports of cryptosporidiosis were received in 2000. Two large outbreaks, a waterborne community outbreak in the north west of England (4) and an outbreak affecting British holidaymakers returning from Majorca (5), partly explained the slight increase in cases between 1999 and 2000. Rotavirus continues to be a major cause of diarrhoeal disease in infants. The incidence of bacillary dysentery remained low.

A provisional total of 897 isolates of Vero cytotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157 (VTEC O157) was confirmed by the PHLS Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens in 2000. The incidence of VTEC O157 in England and Wales ranged from 890 to 1087 laboratory confirmed infections over the last four years (6). In each of the years when there were more than 1000 cases (1997 and 1999) large outbreaks contributed to these totals.

1. CDSC. Case control study links salad vegetables to national increase in multiresistant *Salmonella typhimurium* DT104. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Weekly* 2000; **10** (37): 333,336.

2. CDSC. Outbreaks of *Salmonella typhimurium* DT204b infection in England and Wales and elsewhere in Europe. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Weekly* 2000; **10** (39): 349.

3. CDSC. Sentinel surveillance of campylobacter in England and Wales. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Weekly* 2000; **10** (19): 169,172.

4. CDSC. Surveillance of waterborne disease and water quality: January to June 2000 and summary of 1999. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Weekly* 2000; **10** (36): 319-322.

5. CDSC. British tourists return from Majorca with cryptosporidiosis. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Weekly* 2000; **10** (32): 285.

6. Willshaw GA, Cheasty T, Smith HR, O'Brien SJ, Adak GK. Verocytotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) O157 and other VTEC from human infections in England and Wales: 1995-1998. *J Med Microbiol* 2001; **50**: 135-142.



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General outbreaks of foodborne illness, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 01-05/01

Health authority	Organism	Place of outbreak	Month of outbreak	Number ill	Cases positive	Suspect vehicle	Evidence
NW Lancashire	<i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> PT4	Restaurant	January	>1	1	None	–
Swansea	<i>S. indiana</i>	Hospital	December	12	12	Egg sandwiches	–
Manchester	<i>S. typhimurium</i> DT104	Hospital	January	>1	1	None	–
West Kent	<i>S. typhimurium</i> DT104	Hospital	January	5	5	None	–

Salmonella infections (faecal specimens), England and Wales: reports to the PHLS (salmonella data set*)

Details of serotypes of the 692 salmonella infections recorded in December are given in the adjacent table. In January 2001, 585 salmonella infections were recorded and preliminary information was received about four outbreaks (see table above).

* figures quoted from the PHLS salmonella data set are for isolates confirmed and typed by PHLS Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens (LEP)

	December 2000
Salmonella (provisional total)	692
S. enteritidis (PT4)	159
S. enteritidis (other PTs)	164
S. typhimurium	121
S. virchow	23
Other (typed)	255

Common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 01-05/01

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received					Total reports	Total reports	
	01/01	02/01	03/01	04/01	05/01	01-05/01	2001	2000
<i>Campylobacter</i>	1437	957	300	988	812	4494	4494	3783
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157*	6	9	4	6	7	32	32	18
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	24	13	16	14	12	79	79	46
Rotavirus	77	79	52	247	224	679	679	1036
SRSV	35	43	14	49	23	164	164	178
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	125	73	17	75	34	324	324	393
<i>Giardia</i>	95	73	24	57	82	331	331	373

* Vero cytotoxin producing isolates (data from LEP)

Typhoid and paratyphoid, England and Wales: laboratory reports, October to December 2000

Organism and phage type*	Number of cases	Infection acquired abroad			Excretors (E) and carriers (C)
		Yes	No	Not reported	
<i>S. typhi</i>					
A	4	2	–	2	–
E1	8	6	–	2	–
M1	2	2	–	–	–
Untypable	2	1	–	1	–
Untypable Vi-1	2	1	–	1	–
Vi-negative	3	2	–	1	–
Other PTs**	4	2	–	2	1
Total	25	16	–	9	1
<i>S. paratyphi A</i>					
1	14	9	–	5	–
1A	4	1	–	3	–
4	6	4	–	2	–
11	2	2	–	–	–
13	6	3	–	3	–
Other PTs#	1	1	–	–	–
Total	33	20	–	13	–
<i>S. paratyphi B</i>					
Taunton	2	1	–	1	–
Other PTs##	3	1	–	2	–
Total	5	2	–	3	–

* all isolates were confirmed and phage typed by LEP; ** C1, D2, 40, Degraded (one each); # 6A (one); Dundee var 2, 3A1, 3A1 var 1 (one each)

Twenty-five cases of *Salmonella typhi* infection were reported in the fourth quarter of 2000. Sixteen cases were known to have been infected abroad (Indian subcontinent 13, Far East 2, Morocco 1). One carrier was reported. In nine cases the country of infection was not stated.

Thirty-three cases of *S. paratyphi A* infection were reported. Twenty cases were known to have been infected abroad (Indian subcontinent 19, Spain 1). In 13 cases the country of infection was not stated.

Five cases of *S. paratyphi B* were reported. Two cases were known to have been infected abroad (Indian subcontinent 1, Morocco 1). In three cases the country of infection was not stated.

The annual totals for typhoid and paratyphoid are given in the following table. In 2000 there was a slight increase in *Salmonella typhi* cases and a small decrease in paratyphoid cases.

Laboratory reports of typhoid and paratyphoid, England and Wales: 1980 to 2000*

Year	<i>S. typhi</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi B</i>
1980	232 (192)	40 (37)	64 (42)
1981	197 (173)	43 (40)	57 (45)
1982	168 (147)	41 (40)	49 (36)
1983	216 (195)	59 (54)	41 (30)
1984	169 (137)	80 (79)	31 (22)
1985	172 (154)	80 (79)	33 (27)
1986	148 (128)	64 (61)	21 (13)
1987	142 (132)	63 (62)	82 (25)
1988	146 (132)	63 (62)	82 (25)
1989	145 (133)	88 (84)	25 (22)
1990	184 (166)	75 (73)	32 (14)
1991	132 (118)	79 (77)	12 (8)
1992	198 (177)	104 (100)	21 (15)
1993**	173 (144)	118 (108)	15 (11)
1994	227 (201)	180 (168)	37 (27)
1995	265 (196)	153 (113)	17 (12)
1996	179 (116)	116 (88)	35 (19)
1997	134 (85)	156 (109)	28 (6)
1998	134 (85)	156 (109)	28 (6)
1999	153 (94)	149 (106)	44 (30)
2000#	165 (105)	137 (92)	17 (9)

* infections acquired abroad are shown in brackets and are included in the total; ** provisional; # active ascertainment of travel details ceased in 1993. One case of *S. paratyphi C* was reported in 1989 (acquired abroad) and one in 2000 (travel not stated). All isolates were confirmed and phage typed by the PHLS Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens.