



# CDR WEEKLY

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# News

Last updated: 21 September 2006 Volume 16, No.38

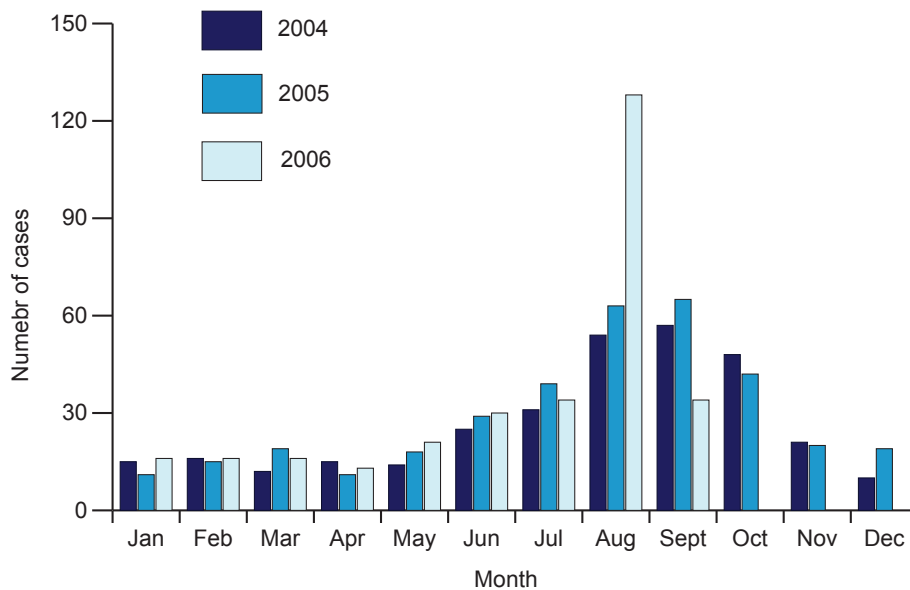
Next update: 28 Sept 2006

## National increase in cases of legionnaires' disease - update

### National increase in cases of legionnaires' disease - update

The rise in the number of recent cases of legionnaires' disease reported to the Health Protection Agency is continuing. By 20 September, 162 cases had been reported to the National Surveillance Scheme for Legionnaires' Disease in residents of England and Wales with onset of illness since 1 August. One hundred and thirteen of these cases are known to have become ill in August and 27 (so far) in September. In addition, a further 15 cases are assumed to have become ill in August and a further seven cases in September on the basis of the date of microbiological specimens. August and September are usually the months when most cases are reported each year. In August 2005, however, 63 cases were reported and in September 2005, 65 cases were reported. Thus, the number of cases reported for August this year is more than double that for the same time one year ago (figure 1).

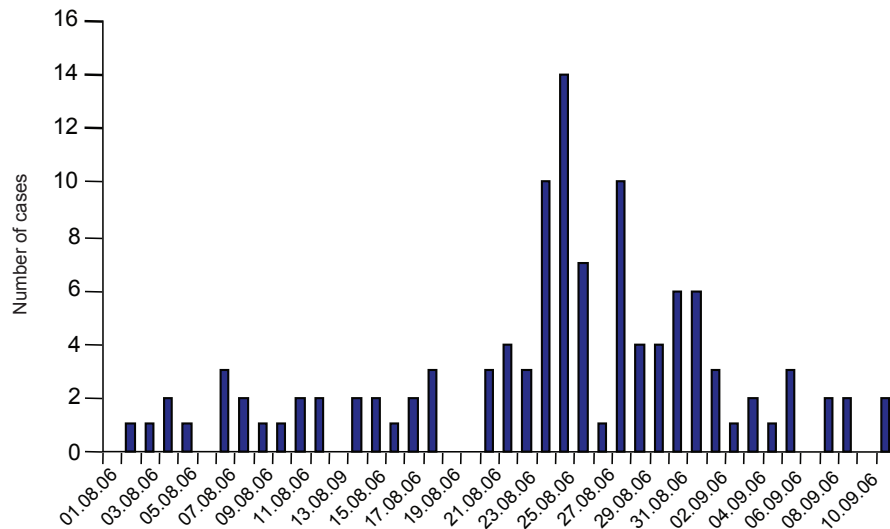
**Figure 1 Legionnaires' disease in residents of England and Wales, cases by month of onset 2004 to 2006**



Cases have been reported from all Regions but there is no suggestion of a national outbreak occurring. Local clusters continue to be investigated for common sources of infection. Of the 113 cases with known onset in August, 21(18%) are associated with travel abroad and 17 (15%) with travel in the UK. The remaining cases are assumed to be community acquired.

Overall, the peak dates for onset of illness, excluding cases linked to travel abroad and those with unknown day of onset in August and September, range from 24 to 29 August (figure 2). It is not apparent yet whether any similar peaks or trends will be observed for the cases occurring in September.

**Figure 2 All Legionnaires' disease cases with known dates of onset, reported since 1 August (with travel abroad removed)**



The HPA Centre for Infections (CfI), through its Respiratory Diseases Department, Respiratory and Systemic Infection Laboratory (RSIL) and Water and Environmental Microbiology Reference Unit (WEMRU) in collaboration with Local and Regional Services, has continued to convene a series of national teleconferences to ensure effective investigation of all cases and to collate and share information on the cases and clusters. Further cases, updated information on previously reported cases and reports of cluster investigations should be sent to the Respiratory Diseases Department at CfI. RSIL is undertaking confirmatory testing on all positive urine antigen samples submitted and requests clinical material (for example sputum or other respiratory tract samples) for culture, PCR and epidemiological typing. In addition, WEMRU is available to provide advice and assistance on environmental investigations and control of legionella.

# Immunisation

Last updated: 21 September 2006, Volume 16, No. 38

Next update: 21 September 2006

## Immunisation Routine Data Reports

▾ Laboratory reports of invasive meningococcal infections, England and Wales: weeks 28/06 to 32/06 2006

## Immunisation Infection Reports

▾ Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infection in England and Wales: April to June 2006

▾ Laboratory reports of hepatitis C infection in England and Wales: April to June 2006

## ▾ Laboratory reports of invasive meningococcal infections, England and Wales: weeks 28/06 to 32/06

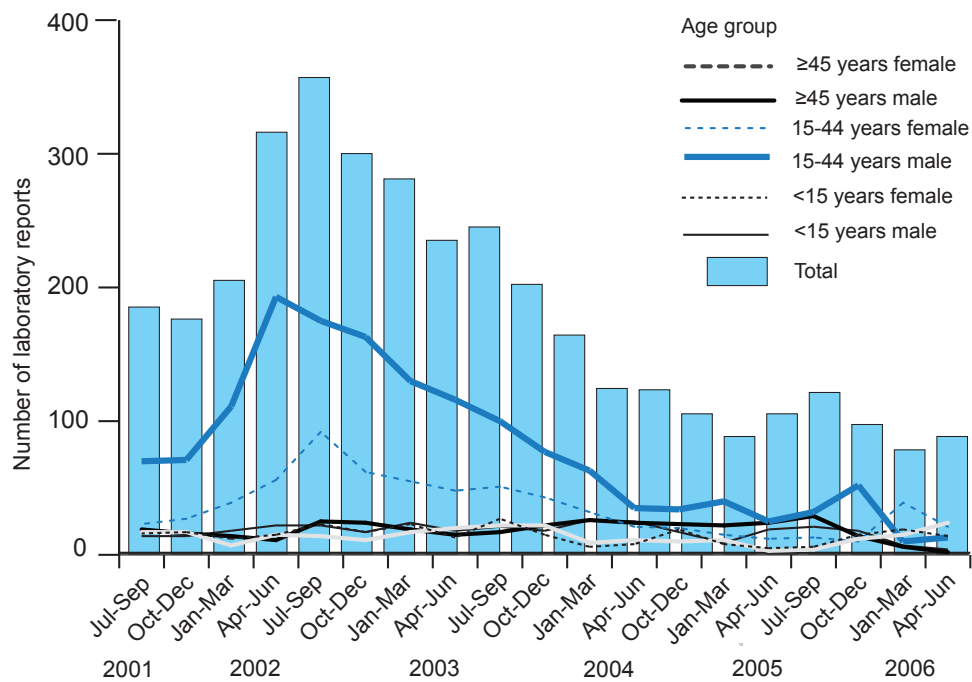
	Method of diagnosis			Total reports	Cumulative*
	CSF and blood Culture	Non-culture	Other sites	28/06-32/06	Total to week 32/2006
Group A	–	–	–	–	1
B	39	30	1	70	822
C	3	–	1	4	29
W135	1	–	–	1	18
X	–	–	–	–	–
Y	3	–	–	3	26
29E	1	–	–	1	2
Ungroupable	–	–	–	–	–
Ungrouped	–	–	7	7	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>943</b>

\*Latex antigen, microscopy, polymerase chain reaction combined Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections data and Meningococcal Reference Unit data.

## ▾ Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infection in England and Wales: April to June 2006

During the second quarter of 2006, 88 laboratory reports of hepatitis A were made to the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections. This continues the downward trend in the overall number of cases of hepatitis A reported in each quarter since the third quarter of 2002 (figure). In this quarter, 31% of the cases were men aged between 15 to 44 years (table,) and females accounted for 19% of the cases in this age group. Of those aged 45 years and over, 15% of cases were females and 10% males. In those aged under 15 years, males and females accounted for 8% and 16% of cases respectively.

**Figure** Number of laboratory reports of hepatitis A by age group and sex: April to June 2006



**Table** Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infection in England and Wales: April to June 2006

Age Group (years)	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
≤1	–	–	–	–
1-4	3	1	–	4
5-9	4	10	–	14
10-14	–	3	–	3
15-24	16	7	–	23
25-34	7	8	–	15
35-44	5	2	–	7
45-54	4	1	–	5
55-64	–	6	–	6
≥65	5	6	–	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>88</b>

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### ▣ Laboratory reports of hepatitis C infection in England and Wales: April to June 2006

A total of 2005 reports of hepatitis C infection were reported in the second quarter of 2006 (table 2) compared to 1916 in the first quarter of 2006. In the second quarter of 2006, sixty four per cent (1250/1961) of the cases occurred in those aged between 25 to 44 years. The ratio of males to females is 2.2:1.

**Table Laboratory reports of hepatitis C infection in England and Wales: April to June 2006**

Age group (years)	Male	Female	unknown	Total
≤4	4	4	–	<b>8</b>
5-9	1	2	1	<b>4</b>
10-14	1	1	–	<b>2</b>
15-24	81	81	1	<b>163</b>
25-34	416	199	11	<b>626</b>
35-44	479	156	15	<b>650</b>
45-54	240	102	6	<b>348</b>
55-64	81	33	5	<b>119</b>
≥65	30	39	5	<b>74</b>
Unknown	9	2	–	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1342</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2005</b>

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