

4 ENTERIC DISEASES

a Typhoid fever in South Africa

To date a total of 21 laboratory confirmed typhoid fever cases has been reported in four provinces in South Africa: Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape. The majority of the cases occurred in January in Gauteng Province (Figure 5). One death in an 11-year-old patient from Gauteng Province was reported. Age was reported in 21 patients. Ages ranged between 33 months and 43 years: 0-4 years, n=3 (14.3%), 5-14 years, n=8 (38.1%), 15-54 years, n=10 (47.6%). Females accounted for 57% (n=12). A travel history to Zimbabwe was reported by one patient from Western Cape. Eighteen of 21 patients (85%) were confirmed as typhoid fever on the isolation of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhi from blood culture. Molecular subtyping using PFGE analysis is routinely performed on all *Salmonella* Typhi; a

database of diverse PFGE patterns has been established, which has proved invaluable in relating isolates and monitoring for emergence of new strains and clusters. PFGE analysis has assisted to show importation of typhoid cases from neighbouring countries and overseas countries, as well as assist in local outbreak investigations. For 2017, PFGE has been performed on 15 isolates and showed a total of eight PFGE patterns; six isolates showed PFGE patterns resembling the Zimbabwean outbreak pattern.

Source: Centre for Enteric Diseases, NICD-NHLS; Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS; outbreak@nicd.ac.za

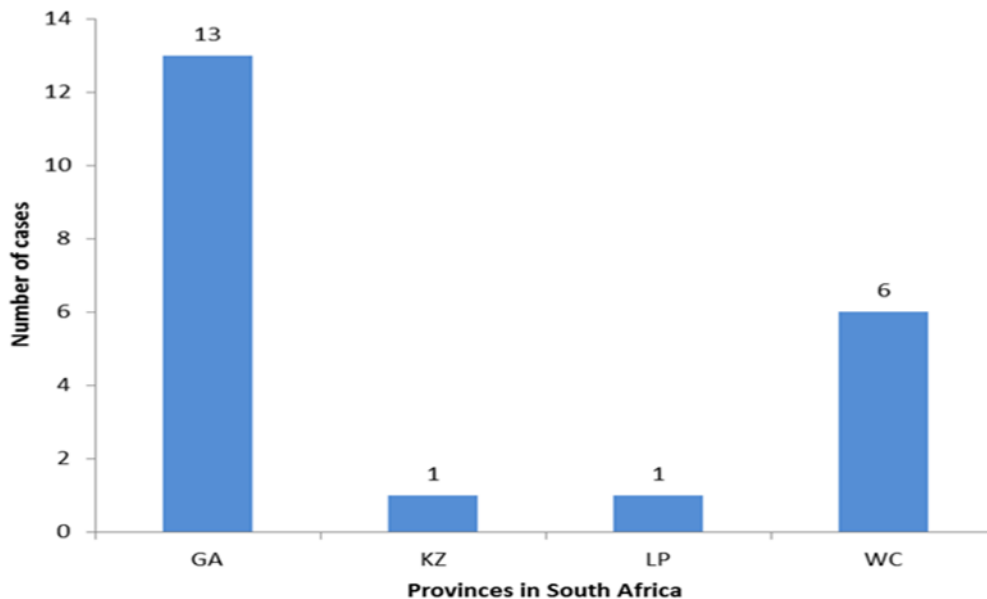


Figure 5.

Typhoid cases identified in South African provinces from 1st January to 15th February, 2017