

SITUATION UPDATE ON LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK, SOUTH AFRICA

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Summary

- The outbreak continues, with 53 additional cases recorded since the last update. However, 13 of these cases occurred during 2017 and have been retrospectively reported.
- Outcome data is now available for 29% (238/820) of cases, of which 34% (82/238) died.
- At present, the source of the outbreak is not known.
- Municipal Environmental Health Practitioners in all provinces have embarked on systematic inspection and sampling of meat & poultry production, processing, and packaging facilities.
- Cases of listeriosis will continue to be investigated, with trace back and further investigation of any positive food/environmental samples.

As of 23 January 2018, a total of 820 laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases have been reported to NICD since 01 January 2017 (Figure 1). Most cases have been reported from Gauteng Province (59%, 486/820) followed by Western Cape (13%, 105/820) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%, 59/820) provinces. Cases have been diagnosed in both public (66%, 542/820) and private (34%, 278/820) healthcare sectors. Diagnosis was based most commonly on the isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* in blood culture (71%, 579/820), followed by CSF (23%, 188/820). Where age was reported (n=784), ages range from birth to 93 years (median 18 years) and 42% (329/784) are neonates aged ≤28 days (Figure 2). Of neonatal cases, 96% (317/329) had early-onset disease (birth to ≤6 days). Females account for 55% (431/783) of cases where gender is reported. Final outcome data is available for 29% (238/820) of cases, of which 34% (82/238) died.

Note:

- Case data is the best available at time of publication.
- Due to challenges with NHLS laboratory information system data (since epidemiological week 47) and a possible lag in reporting as a result of the public holidays, case numbers are likely to change and trends must be interpreted with caution.

- ❖ All healthcare workers are requested to complete case investigation forms (CIFs – available on the website) for case-patients with listeriosis, and submit these to the NICD (outbreak@nicd.ac.za).
- ❖ Clinical listeriosis management guidelines are available on the website (www.nicd.ac.za).
- ❖ Where clinicians suspect listeriosis but specimens (including CSF and blood) are culture negative, a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test can be performed at the NICD. PCR can also be performed on placenta samples for investigation of stillbirths/miscarriages. Please contact the Centre for Enteric Diseases on (011) 555 0343 for further details
- ❖ The NICD continues to operate its 24-hour hotline for healthcare workers.

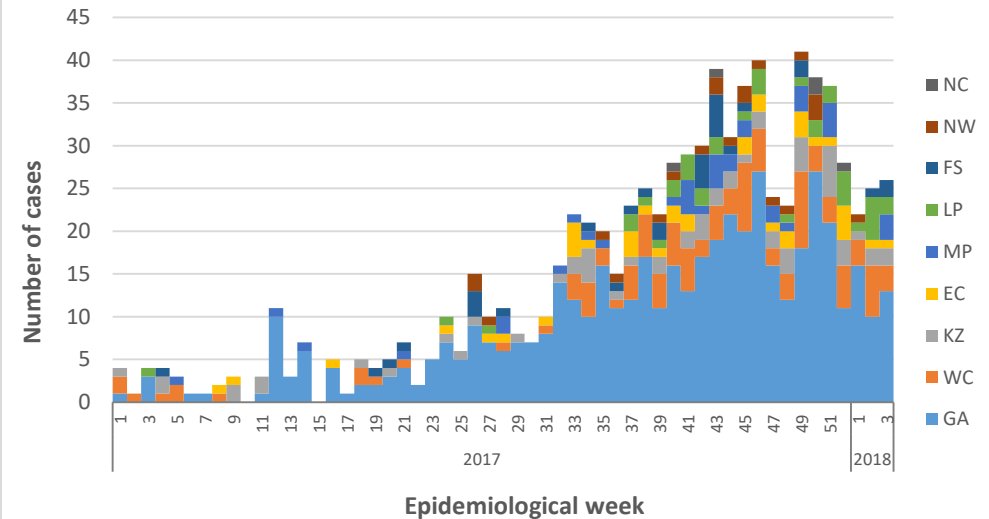


Figure 1: Epidemic curve of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases by epidemiological week and date of sample collection and province, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 23 January 2018 (n=820)

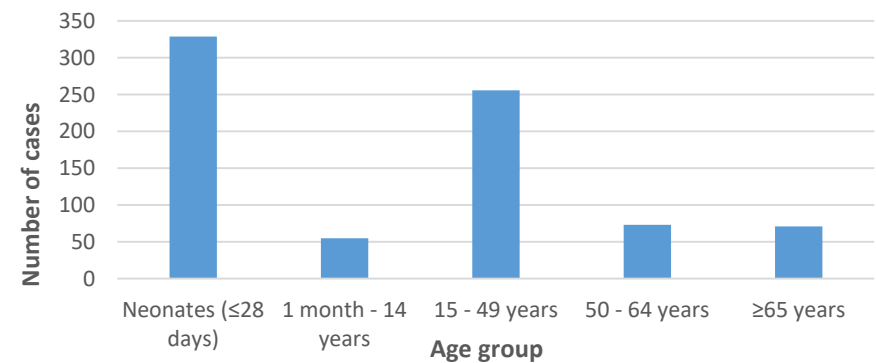


Figure 2: Age distribution of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 23 January 2018 (n=820)