

SITUATION REPORT ON LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK, SOUTH AFRICA, 2018

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Report issued by: Centre for Enteric Diseases (CED) and Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, Outbreak Response Unit (ORU), National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)/ National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS).

Descriptive epidemiology

As of 14 February 2018, 872 laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases have been reported to NICD from all provinces since 01 January 2017 (Figure 1). Most cases have been reported from Gauteng Province (59%, 517/872) followed by Western Cape (13%, 111/872) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%, 62/872) provinces. Cases have been diagnosed in both public (64%, 559/872) and private (34%, 205/872) healthcare sectors. Diagnosis was based most commonly on the isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* in blood culture (73%, 640/869), followed by CSF (22%, 183/869). Where age was reported (n=849), ages range from birth to 92 years (median 23 years) and 43% (352/829) are neonates aged ≤28 days (Figure 2). Of neonatal cases, 97% (342/346) had early-onset disease (birth to ≤6 days). Females account for 53% (466/868) of cases where gender is reported. Outcome is known for 597/872 (68%) patients of whom 164 (27%) have died

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 14 March 2018

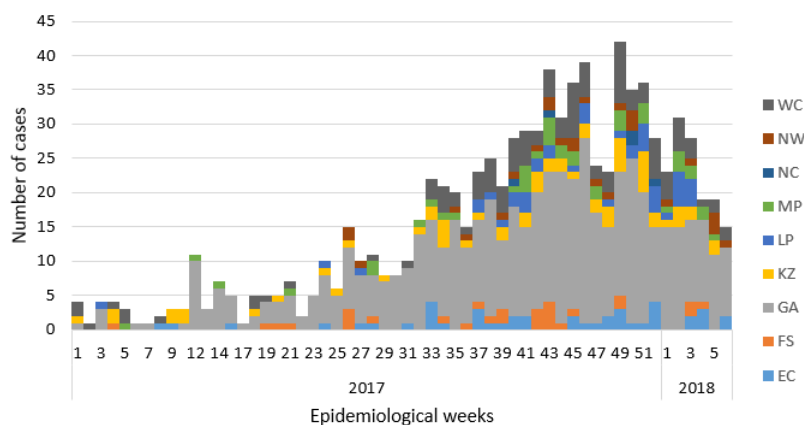


Table 1. Outcome of 872 persons with laboratory-confirmed listeriosis by province, as per 13 February 2018

	EC	FS	GA	KZ	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	Total
Died	5	8	98	6	7	8	2	2	28	164
Discharged	13	13	255	19	10	28	2	14	79	433
Incomplete	24	7	154	36	25	3	1	10	4	264
UNK/RHT	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Total	42	28	517	62	42	39	5	26	111	872

Figure 2: Age distribution of 804 laboratory-confirmed cases of listeriosis identified from 01 January 2017 to 14 March 2018 (n=849 where age was reported)

