



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# Laboratory reports of *Haemophilus influenzae* by age group and serotype (England): 2018

Health Protection Report  
Volume 13 Number 7  
22 February 2019

## Laboratory reports of *Haemophilus influenzae* by age group and serotype (England): 2018 (and 2017)

During 2018 (January to December inclusive), there were 741 laboratory confirmed cases of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* (Hi). This was a 6% decrease compared to the 791 cases confirmed in 2017.

Of the samples which underwent serotyping in 2018 (n=594; 80%), 85% were non-encapsulated *Haemophilus influenzae* (nHi), a further 13% were serotype a, e, or f, and 2% were serotype b (Hib). In comparison, in 2017; 82% of serotyped isolates were nHi, 17% were serotype a, e, or f, and 1% was Hib. Hib cases among those aged under 15 years remained stable at 2 in 2018 compared to 3 in 2017. The previously reported high of nine cases of serotype a (Hia) in 2017 declined, with only three cases reported in 2018.

Age-group was well-reported (see table). During 2018, 84% of all invasive Hi cases were aged 15 years and over; 7% were under one year of age; 6% were 1-4 years old; and 3% were 5-14 years old. The majority of cases with serotyped isolates in children under 15 years were nHi (n=79/89; 89%). This distribution was broadly similar to 2017, where: 86% were aged 15 years and over; 7% were under one year of age; 5% were among 1-4 year olds and 2% were among 5-14 year olds.

### Annual 2018 distribution by serotype and age group (and 2017)

Serotype	Age-group										Total	
	<1y		1-4y		5-14y		15+		nk		2018	2017
<b>B</b>	2	3	0	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>nc</b>	42	38	29	27	8	12	425	449	0	0	<b>504</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>a,e,f</b>	2	4	4	6	2	1	72	96	0	0	<b>80</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>not typed</b>	6	8	14	6	13	6	13	6	114	129	<b>147</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>791</b>

\* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

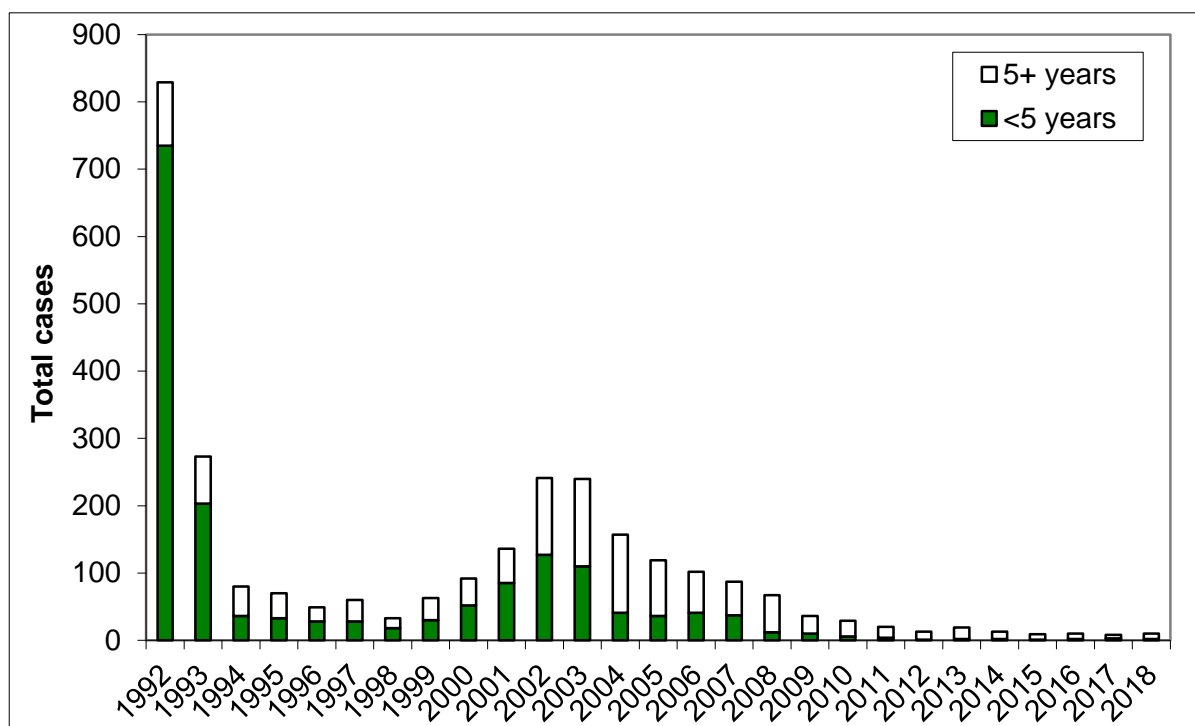
As reported previously [1], cases of invasive Hib disease have declined since the introduction of the Hib conjugate vaccine in 1992 and have remained at low levels since

the introduction of the 12-month booster in 2006 (see figure). In 2018, invasive Hib disease continued to be well controlled across all age groups. The number of Hib cases remained stable at 10 in 2018 and 8 in 2017.

During 2018, there were two cases of Hib among children who were eligible for immunisation: a three month old who had received one dose of vaccine and presented with septic arthritis, and a 10 month old who was unimmunised and presented with bacteraemia and cellulitis. Both children made a full recovery. In 2017, there were three cases of Hib among children who were eligible for immunisation: a three month old who had received one dose of vaccine and presented with meningitis; a four month old who had had two doses of vaccine and presented with bacteraemic pneumonia, and an eight month old who had received the recommended three doses of vaccine and presented with bacteraemic pneumonia. All three children made a full recovery.

There were no deaths attributed to invasive Hib disease in 2018 or 2017. The most recent death attributed to invasive Hib disease was in a child aged under 16 years in 2011.

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### Reference

1. Public Health England (2016). [Laboratory reports of \*Haemophilus influenzae\* by age group and serotype \(England and Wales\): annual report for 2015, HPR 10\(8\)](#).

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### *About Health Protection Report*

*Health Protection Report* is a national public health bulletin for England and Wales, published by Public Health England. It is PHE's principal channel for the dissemination of laboratory data relating to pathogens and infections/communicable diseases of public health significance and of reports on outbreaks, incidents and ongoing investigations.

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Published: **February 2019**

PHE publications

gateway number: **2018770**

PHE supports the UN

Sustainable Development Goals

