

SCIEH Weekly Report

SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR INFECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



29 June 2004

Volume 38 No. 2004/26

ISSN 1357-4493

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CURRENT NOTES

Diagnosis of Hepatitis C Virus in Scotland: data to December 2003

38/2601 This week's report presents data, to the end of 2003, on laboratory reports of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) diagnoses made in Scotland. During 2003, 1779 new cases of HCV antibody positivity were diagnosed. This figure compares with those of 1904 and 2325 for 2001 and 2002 respectively, and an annual average of just over 2000 during 1998-2002. The cumulative number of HCV diagnoses is now 18109, of whom 8% are known to have died. Given an estimated total of 40,000 and 50,000 persons in Scotland who have been infected with HCV, well over half of this population remain undiagnosed. As highlighted in the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Consensus Statement on Hepatitis C 2004, 'A high priority for case finding should be given to former injecting drug users, especially those over 40, who are likely to have a stage of disease which would benefit from treatment'.

The Consensus Statement (see *Current note* 38/1803) can be accessed at http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/esd/consensus/hep_c_04.html.

Polio in west and central Africa

38/2602 Epidemiologists of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative issued a stark warning that west and central Africa is on the brink of the largest polio epidemic in recent years. The warning follows confirmation that a child was paralyzed on 20 May by polio in the Darfur region of the Sudan, a country which had not seen the disease in more than three years. The virus is closely linked genetically to poliovirus endemic to northern Nigeria, which has spread through Chad in recent months.

Epidemiological data show that transmission of wild poliovirus continues to accelerate at an alarming rate in the region. In addition to the re-infection of the Sudan, five times as many children in west and central Africa have been paralyzed by polio so far in 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. In Nigeria 197 children have been paralyzed following the suspension of polio immunisation campaigns in northern Nigeria late last year.

Epidemiologists fear that a major epidemic this autumn (during the polio 'high season') would leave thousands of African children paralyzed for life. Children are particularly vulnerable in west and central African countries, surrounding Nigeria, as less than half of children in the region are routinely immunised against a series of diseases, including polio. In response to this threat, they recommended plans to hold massive, synchronised immunisation campaigns across 22 African countries in October and November, aiming to reach 74 million children. These campaigns could avert a public health tragedy.

Recognizing that the northern Nigerian state of Kano remains the epicentre of the outbreak, federal and state authorities have been working to resolve a local controversy over the safety of the polio vaccine which had led to the suspension of campaigns in that area. In May 2004, Kano state authorities publicly announced to the world's press that polio immunisation activities in the state would soon be restarted. [Source: WHO Press Release, 22 June 2004. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2004/pr45/en/>]

ESSTI working groups on lymphogranuloma venereum and HIV/STI prevention

38/2603 The European Surveillance of Sexually Transmitted Infections (ESSTI) network, at its third collaborative group meeting on 27-28 May 2004, established two working groups to facilitate information exchange on lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV), following the emergence of outbreaks in men who have sex with men (MSM) in cities in western Europe; and to appraise options for strengthening HIV/STI prevention activities in MSM in the European Union (EU).

Three outbreaks of LGV in Rotterdam, Antwerp and Paris have been detected recently (see also *Current note* 38/0408). ESSTI's early warning and alert system, ESSTI ALERT, which

Current notes continue on pages 155 and 156

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Printed in the UK
SCIEH is a division of the NHS
National Services Scotland.
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Post Office © SCIEH 2004

Surveillance Report

Surveillance of known hepatitis C antibody positive cases in Scotland: Results to 31 December 2003

Prepared by Glenn Codere, Louise Shaw and David Goldberg

In Scotland

During 2003, 1779 cases of hepatitis C antibody-positivity were diagnosed (This figure is subject to reporting delay).

- This figure compares with 1904 and 2325 for 2001 and 2002 respectively.
- 576 (32%) resided in the Greater Glasgow NHS Board area.
- 1197 (67%) are male and 568 (32%) female. Gender was not known in 14 cases.
- 1030 (58%) are known to have ever injected drugs.
- 1522 (86%) are aged between 15 and 44 years.
- 897 (50%) were diagnosed within the hospital setting (including infectious disease and gastroenterology units), while 397 (22%) were diagnosed by general practitioners.

A total of 18109 cases of hepatitis C antibody-positivity were known as at 31 December 2003.

- 82% (14876) have been diagnosed since 1 January 1996.
- 68% (12362) are male and 31% (5579) female. In 1% (168) of cases, gender is, as yet, not known.
- 61% (11010) are known to have ever injected drugs and of the 5943 cases for whom there was no risk information available, 4397 (74%) are aged between 15 and 44 – the range within which most injecting drug users belong – at the time of testing; 2% (360) of the cases were associated with the receipt of blood factor* and for the 4% (796) who were placed in the 'Other' category, risk information such as 'sexual intercourse' and 'tattoo' were indicated.
- 86% (15645) are aged between 15 and 44, 9% (1700) between 45 and 69 and 2% (296) 70 and over.
- 36% (6484) resided within the Greater Glasgow NHS Board area, 14% (2483) within Grampian, 14% (2461) within Lothian, 8% (1465) within Tayside, and 21% (3884) in Argyll & Clyde, Ayrshire & Arran, Forth Valley, and Lanarkshire NHS Board areas combined.
- 46% (8283) were diagnosed within the hospital setting (including infectious disease and gastroenterology units), 21% (3862) by general practitioners, 6% (1116) in genito-urinary medicine clinics, and 8% (1470) in prisons.
- 1534 (8%) cases are known to have died

As at 31 December 2003, approximately one in 300 of Scotland's population was known to be hepatitis C antibody-positive. It is likely that the number of unknown cases exceeds the number of known cases.

Presented data is subject to reporting delay and is based on reports received to 30 April 2004

Methods

For details of methods see *SCIEH Weekly Report* vol.33 no.99/29.

Principal Investigators

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Co-workers

We are very grateful to the following staff who have put an enormous amount of effort into collecting and collating the data:

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Support

The work is supported by the Scottish Executive Health Department.

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* Persons who acquired their hepatitis C infection in Scotland through blood factor will have become infected prior to the time, in the mid 1980's, when heat treatment was introduced to eradicate bloodborne infection.

TABLE 1

Persons in Scotland reported to be hepatitis C antibody-positive; Number and rate/100000 population¹ by NHS board and year of earliest positive specimen to 31 December 2003

		Prior to 1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total reports
Argyll & Clyde	Number	117	55	53	81	121	160	149	128	163	127	1154
	Rate/100,000	-	12.7	12.3	18.9	28.3	37.6	35.2	30.4	38.9	30.5	-
Ayrshire & Arran	Number	58	32	37	50	82	119	145	103	145	149	920
	Rate/100,000	-	8.5	9.8	13.3	21.8	31.8	38.8	28.0	39.5	40.6	-
Borders	Number	20	12	6	6	5	3	8	5	11	13	89
	Rate/100,000	-	11.3	5.7	5.6	4.7	2.8	7.5	4.7	10.2	12.0	-
Dumfries & Galloway	Number	25	23	12	20	30	34	57	88	54	46	389
	Rate/100,000	-	15.6	8.1	13.6	20.4	23.2	39.1	59.5	36.7	31.2	-
Fife	Number	41	24	48	36	49	62	66	63	37	30	456
	Rate/100,000	-	6.8	13.7	10.3	14.0	17.8	18.8	18.0	10.6	8.5	-
Forth Valley	Number	77	39	42	64	85	86	98	81	91	67	730
	Rate/100,000	-	14.2	15.3	23.2	30.8	31.0	35.3	29.0	32.6	24.0	-
Grampian	Number	106	144	179	159	232	278	381	343	341	320	2483
	Rate/100,000	-	27.0	33.7	30.1	44.2	52.9	72.8	65.2	65.2	61.1	-
Greater Glasgow	Number	646	392	416	618	893	753	701	644	845	576	6484
	Rate/100,000	-	43.0	45.7	68.3	98.0	83.1	77.5	74.2	97.6	66.5	-
Highland	Number	16	31	23	47	29	41	34	47	43	44	355
	Rate/100,000	-	14.9	11.0	22.5	13.9	19.7	16.3	22.5	20.7	21.0	-
Lanarkshire	Number	86	50	82	75	147	110	131	95	180	124	1080
	Rate/100,000	-	8.9	14.6	13.4	26.2	19.6	23.3	17.2	32.6	22.4	-
Lothian	Number	684	200	251	191	190	186	266	209	181	103	2461
	Rate/100,000	-	26.2	32.7	24.7	24.6	23.9	33.9	26.8	23.2	13.2	-
Orkney	Number	2	1	2	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	12
	Rate/100,000	-	5.0	10.1	5.0	15.3	0.0	0.0	5.2	10.4	0.0	-
Shetland	Number	4	3	2	2	3	1	5	2	3	3	28
	Rate/100,000	-	13.0	8.7	8.7	13.1	4.4	22.3	9.1	13.7	13.7	-
Tayside	Number	202	141	103	117	139	128	134	95	229	177	1465
	Rate/100,000	-	35.6	26.2	29.8	35.7	33.0	34.8	24.4	59.1	45.8	-
Western Isles	Number	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Rate/100,000	-	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Scotland	Number	2086	1147	1256	1468	2008	1961	2175	1904	2325	1779	18109
	Rate/100,000	-	22.3	24.5	28.7	39.2	38.3	42.5	37.6	46.0	35.2	-

¹Based on population as at 30 June of indicated year.

TABLE 2

Persons in Scotland reported to be Hepatitis C antibody-positive by NHS board, risk group, and year of earliest positive specimen; to 31 December 2003

NHS board	Risk group	<1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Argyll & Clyde	IDU	20	23	29	37	89	114	99	83	73	62	629
	Blood factor	39	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	44
	Other	7	6	2	6	0	4	7	0	4	1	37
	Not known	51	24	21	38	32	42	41	45	96	64	444
	Total	117	55	53	81	121	160	149	128	163	127	1154
Ayrshire & Arran	IDU	17	10	10	15	35	49	74	46	53	56	365
	Blood factor	17	1	2	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	27
	Other	3	1	4	2	1	3	1	2	0	2	19
	Not known	21	20	21	31	46	63	69	55	92	91	509
	Total	58	32	37	50	82	119	145	103	145	149	920
Borders	IDU	6	6	3	4	2	1	4	1	4	2	33
	Blood factor	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Other	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	9
	Not known	10	5	2	2	3	2	2	3	6	11	46
	Total	20	12	6	6	5	3	8	5	11	13	89
Dumfries & Galloway	IDU	11	11	5	11	17	17	41	62	37	36	248
	Blood factor	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Other	2	5	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	14
	Not known	8	7	7	8	9	16	15	25	17	10	122
	Total	25	23	12	20	30	34	57	88	54	46	389
Fife	IDU	15	17	33	25	35	43	46	41	19	11	285
	Blood factor	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
	Other	4	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	2	19
	Not known	14	6	13	8	12	18	19	20	15	17	142
	Total	41	24	48	36	49	62	66	63	37	30	456
Forth Valley	IDU	26	15	16	24	38	42	51	36	39	30	317
	Blood factor	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
	Other	5	1	1	3	1	2	3	0	7	0	23
	Not known	35	20	25	37	46	42	44	45	45	37	376
	Total	77	39	42	64	85	86	98	81	91	67	730
Glamorgan	IDU	54	102	134	121	180	195	269	276	255	208	1794
	Blood factor	16	5	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	25
	Other	8	13	8	6	10	5	4	8	6	10	78
	Not known	28	24	36	31	41	78	107	59	90	102	586
	Total	106	144	179	159	232	278	381	343	341	320	2483
Greater Glasgow	IDU	302	198	250	345	535	582	536	466	615	408	4237
	Blood factor	65	5	2	2	1	1	6	2	4	0	88
	Other	31	14	11	25	15	29	28	31	40	26	250
	Not known	243	175	153	246	342	141	131	145	186	142	1909
	Total	646	392	416	618	893	753	701	644	845	576	6484
Highland	IDU	1	3	8	23	7	27	17	24	23	21	154
	Blood factor	6	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	12
	Other	0	9	1	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	25
	Not known	9	17	13	21	20	13	13	20	18	20	164
	Total	16	31	23	47	29	41	34	47	43	44	355
Lanarkshire	IDU	19	23	41	43	80	48	77	42	85	69	527
	Blood factor	16	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
	Other	9	1	6	1	1	3	0	1	5	6	33
	Not known	42	21	33	31	66	59	54	52	90	49	497
	Total	86	50	82	75	147	110	131	95	180	124	1080
Lothian	IDU	430	143	162	128	111	106	188	142	115	64	1589
	Blood factor	61	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	71
	Other	44	19	19	18	16	8	14	24	12	6	190
	Not known	149	36	68	44	62	71	63	42	53	33	621
	Total	684	200	251	191	190	186	266	209	181	103	2461
Orkney	IDU	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	6
	Blood factor	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Not known	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Total	2	1	2	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	12
Shetland	IDU	0	2	0	1	3	1	5	2	2	2	18
	Blood factor	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Other	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Not known	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6
	Total	4	3	2	2	3	1	5	2	3	3	28
Tayside	IDU	128	95	77	90	70	89	74	45	78	61	807
	Blood factor	21	4	0	1	4	0	2	0	1	2	35
	Other	14	13	12	3	9	11	10	3	15	16	106
	Not known	39	29	14	23	56	28	48	47	135	98	517
	Total	202	141	103	117	139	128	134	95	229	177	1465
Western Isles	IDU	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Blood factor	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not known	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Scotland	IDU	1029	648	768	869	1204	1314	1481	1267	1400	1030	11010
	Blood factor	269	29	13	7	8	6	15	5	6	2	360
	Other	130	85	67	72	60	68	73	74	95	72	796
	Not known	658	385	408	520	736	573	606	558	824	675	5943
	Total	2086	1147	1256	1468	2008	1961	2175	1904	2325	1779	18109

Notes: Earliest positive specimens with specimen dates prior to 1991 were identified through retrospective testing of stored sera.

'NHS board' refers to the persons NHS board of residence, or where this is not known, the NHS board of source of specimen.

'Other' includes sexual contact, tattoo/body piercing, needlestick, bite, blood spillage, blood transfusion, or perinatal risk.

Persons who acquired their hepatitis C infection in Scotland through blood factor will have become infected prior to the time, in the mid 1980's, when heat treatment was introduced to eradicate blood borne infection.

TABLE 3

Persons in Scotland reported to be hepatitis C antibody-positive by NHS board, age group at time of earliest positive specimen and year of earliest positive specimen, to 31 December 2003

NHS board	Age group	<1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Argyll & Clyde	under 15	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
	15-29	30	22	23	34	64	85	81	73	74	75	571
	30-44	39	22	25	34	52	51	58	42	71	41	435
	45-59	20	7	2	8	2	7	5	7	14	8	78
	60+	10	4	3	5	1	3	1	4	3	4	38
	NK	12	0	0	0	2	3	4	2	1	1	25
Total		117	55	53	81	121	160	149	128	163	127	1154
Ayrshire & Arran	under 15	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
	15-29	21	12	9	17	34	61	82	52	74	75	437
	30-44	20	14	20	26	38	41	52	41	60	56	368
	45-59	6	1	3	3	4	6	8	6	11	11	59
	60+	3	4	3	4	4	4	0	1	0	4	27
	NK	5	1	2	0	2	7	3	3	0	0	2
Total		58	32	37	50	82	119	145	103	145	149	920
Borcers	under 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15-29	8	4	1	1	3	0	5	1	0	5	26
	30-44	9	4	3	3	1	1	2	3	7	14	17
	45-59	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	16
	60+	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
	NK	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		20	12	6	6	5	3	8	5	11	13	89
Dumfries & Galloway	under 15	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15-29	11	5	6	5	11	17	35	42	34	27	193
	30-44	12	9	4	12	10	4	10	27	9	17	114
	45-59	1	3	2	2	2	3	5	6	6	0	30
	60+	1	3	0	1	2	3	2	0	2	2	16
	NK	0	1	0	0	1	5	7	0	1	3	0
Total		25	23	12	20	30	34	57	88	54	46	389
Fife	under 15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15-29	10	14	25	19	32	30	34	31	13	12	220
	30-44	19	8	15	13	17	21	29	26	14	14	171
	45-59	5	1	3	3	2	6	1	5	8	4	38
	60+	4	1	5	1	3	4	2	1	2	0	23
	NK	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Total		41	24	48	36	49	82	86	63	37	30	456
Forth Valley	under 15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15-29	33	18	17	31	38	53	56	44	40	28	358
	30-44	26	15	20	23	38	25	28	23	40	26	264
	45-59	7	4	5	4	6	3	8	8	8	7	60
	60+	7	1	0	0	2	0	4	4	1	2	28
	NK	3	0	0	0	2	2	4	2	2	4	18
Total		77	39	42	64	85	86	98	81	91	67	730
Grampian	under 15	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
	15-29	54	66	117	95	146	182	237	187	167	164	1416
	30-44	34	56	52	48	70	74	115	144	121	124	838
	45-59	12	8	7	12	13	13	25	24	23	29	166
	60+	3	5	2	2	1	6	3	3	6	3	34
	NK	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	3	0	24
Total		106	144	179	159	232	278	381	343	341	320	2483
Greater Glasgow	under 15	14	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	20
	15-29	340	187	208	283	429	335	271	228	257	201	2739
	30-44	207	151	172	295	390	356	382	340	443	294	3010
	45-59	41	22	16	23	27	25	41	43	58	55	351
	60+	29	21	13	8	20	8	17	8	22	23	162
	NK	15	11	4	10	27	28	24	16	65	2	202
Total		646	392	416	618	893	753	701	644	845	576	6484
Highland	under 15	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15-29	5	6	9	20	5	12	11	19	15	15	117
	30-44	3	12	9	21	20	25	20	21	21	20	172
	45-59	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	5	5	6	34
	60+	3	9	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	25
	NK	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total		16	31	23	47	29	41	34	47	43	44	355
Lanarkshire	under 15	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	15-29	26	15	32	26	65	44	62	50	83	49	452
	30-44	38	27	38	40	63	47	53	33	72	58	469
	45-59	13	3	9	5	12	10	9	15	9	15	95
	60+	6	4	6	4	5	3	5	3	6	8	41
	NK	2	1	0	0	3	4	3	0	5	2	20
Total		86	50	82	75	147	110	131	95	160	124	1080
Lothian	under 15	10	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	13
	15-29	249	61	68	45	43	54	60	58	40	26	704
	30-44	320	111	140	106	103	85	157	97	104	48	1281
	45-59	56	13	26	29	34	22	34	42	30	25	311
	60+	43	10	14	10	8	10	12	10	6	4	128
	NK	5	5	3	1	2	0	2	2	0	0	24
Total		884	200	281	191	190	186	286	208	161	103	2461
Orkney	under 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15-29	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	30-44	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	6
	45-59	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	60+	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	NK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		2	1	2	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	12
Shetland	under 15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	15-29	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	2	12
	30-44	1	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	10
	45-59	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
	60+	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	NK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		4	3	2	2	3	1	5	2	3	3	28
Tayside	under 15	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	11
	15-29	110	69	34	43	47	63	32	28	71	50	545
	30-44	66	57	57	61	65	50	82	50	95	87	674
	45-59	9	6	6	10	11	8	11	14	30	28	133
	60+	10	6	4	3	12	6	7	5	25	11	89
	NK	3	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	13
Total		202	141	103	117	139	128	134	95	229	177	1465
Western Isles	under 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15-29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	30-44	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	45-59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	60+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Scotland	under 15	42	6	6	2	2	5	2	1	4	2	72
	15-29	996	478	548	819	921	947	959	792	691	729	7792
	30-44	798	490	556	584	863	790	970	848	1063	793	7853
	45-59	178	72	83	106	118	105	151	171	213	181	1378
	60+	121	71	49	44	58	55	34	52	73	62	619
	NK	53	29	13	13	46	59	49	40	81	12	

TABLE 4

Persons in Scotland reported to be hepatitis C antibody-positive by age group at time of earliest positive specimen and gender; to 31 December 2003

Sex	AgeGroup	Pre 1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Male	Under 5	4	3	3	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	16
	05-09	18	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	24
	10-14	18	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	26
	15-19	53	9	20	16	54	53	60	37	35	15	352
	20-24	191	113	97	147	230	244	235	204	202	189	1852
	25-29	356	210	242	240	329	341	329	280	326	224	2877
	30-34	280	159	202	250	326	302	346	291	323	245	2724
	35-39	172	99	121	145	203	166	236	218	270	226	1856
	40-44	131	72	73	90	105	91	97	118	157	126	1058
	45-49	64	29	37	42	48	52	76	75	76	70	569
	50-54	32	11	12	22	20	21	29	36	54	46	283
	55-59	27	5	6	10	13	4	4	15	18	13	115
	60-64	18	14	8	6	6	11	7	9	11	8	98
	65-69	29	5	5	5	4	8	3	8	12	10	89
	70-74	24	12	10	2	6	10	3	6	6	9	88
	75+	14	16	9	8	12	9	4	12	9	6	99
	NK	27	17	5	3	21	40	30	20	64	9	236
Total		1458	778	854	988	1380	1353	1461	1327	1566	1197	12362
Female	Under 5	2	4	3	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	15
	05-09	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	10
	10-14	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	12
	15-19	24	9	10	24	36	42	48	37	40	30	300
	20-24	87	42	68	76	115	130	150	111	138	139	1056
	25-29	182	96	103	110	150	123	140	115	142	123	1284
	30-34	112	68	83	104	124	117	140	112	149	92	1101
	35-39	66	52	53	49	67	70	99	74	98	72	700
	40-44	35	39	22	42	32	39	43	33	56	28	369
	45-49	20	15	11	11	19	17	20	28	26	27	194
	50-54	17	7	9	15	6	8	14	11	19	17	123
	55-59	18	5	8	5	11	2	7	5	19	8	88
	60-64	8	11	4	5	7	5	2	5	9	6	62
	65-69	14	4	2	8	9	6	8	4	7	9	71
	70-74	5	4	8	6	9	2	2	3	8	4	51
	75+	9	5	3	3	5	4	5	4	9	9	56
	NK	17	4	2	6	15	8	9	8	15	3	87
Total		622	367	391	466	608	577	689	553	738	568	5579
Not Known	Under 5	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	05-09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15-19	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	2	9
	20-24	0	0	2	3	4	7	4	3	2	4	29
	25-29	3	0	6	1	3	5	2	4	6	3	33
	30-34	0	0	1	2	4	5	5	0	8	1	26
	35-39	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3	1	2	10
	40-44	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	9
	45-49	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
	50-54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	55-59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
	60-64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	65-69	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	70-74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
	75+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NK	3	0	0	1	6	11	8	10	1	0	40
Total		6	2	11	14	20	31	25	24	21	14	168
Total	Under 5	6	8	6	3	4	0	2	2	2	0	33
	05-09	19	5	3	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	34
	10-14	23	1	3	1	0	3	1	1	3	2	38
	15-19	77	18	31	42	90	97	109	75	75	47	661
	20-24	278	155	167	226	349	381	389	318	342	332	2937
	25-29	541	306	351	351	482	469	471	399	474	350	4194
	30-34	392	227	286	356	454	424	491	403	480	338	3851
	35-39	238	151	175	195	270	238	337	295	369	300	2566
	40-44	166	112	95	133	139	130	142	150	214	155	1436
	45-49	84	44	48	53	68	70	97	103	103	97	767
	50-54	49	18	21	37	26	29	43	47	73	63	406
	55-59	45	10	14	16	24	6	11	21	37	21	205
	60-64	26	25	12	11	13	16	9	14	21	14	161
	65-69	43	9	7	14	13	14	11	12	19	19	161
	70-74	29	16	18	8	15	12	5	10	14	14	141
	75+	23	21	12	11	17	13	9	16	18	15	155
	NK	47	21	7	10	42	59	47	38	80	12	363
Total		2086	1147	1256	1468	2008	1961	2175	1904	2325	1779	18109

Notes: Earliest positive specimens with specimen dates prior to 1991 were identified through retrospective testing of stored sera
Children aged under 5 years are included if they were confirmed PCR positive (i.e. two consecutive PCR positive tests), or HCV antibody positive at 12 months or older.

TABLE 5
Persons in Scotland reported to be hepatitis C antibody-positive by NHS board, source of referral, and year of earliest positive specimen, to 31 December 2003

NHS board	Source	Prior to 1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Argyll & Clyde	GP	1	4	6	12	21	33	35	26	25	12	175
	GUM Clinic	1	3	2	3	11	13	4	7	14	9	67
	Hospital Patients	62	39	34	42	64	64	69	69	93	67	602
	Prison	2	2	2	5	6	29	12	12	6	10	86
	Other/Not Known	51	8	9	19	19	21	29	14	25	29	224
Total	117	55	53	81	121	160	148	148	128	163	127	1154
Ayrshire & Arran	GP	3	1	2	9	16	25	40	33	33	13	175
	GUM Clinic	3	0	1	2	7	7	2	3	5	12	42
	Hospital Patients	33	27	28	30	53	49	56	31	75	73	455
	Prison	0	0	2	1	1	34	42	32	19	28	159
	Other/Not Known	19	4	4	8	5	4	5	4	13	23	89
Total	58	32	37	50	82	119	145	103	145	149	920	
Borders	GP	6	7	3	1	3	1	5	4	4	2	36
	GUM Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Hospital Patients	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prison	7	4	2	0	1	1	3	0	2	1	21
	Other/Not Known	7	1	1	5	1	1	0	0	5	10	31
Total	20	12	6	6	5	3	8	5	11	13	89	
Dumfries & Galloway	GP	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	GUM Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospital Patients	20	22	10	15	27	32	56	85	51	46	364
	Prison	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	9
	Other/Not Known	4	1	1	5	1	1	0	1	1	0	15
Total	25	23	12	20	30	34	57	88	54	46	389	
Fife	GP	8	8	19	15	27	30	30	30	12	2	181
	GUM Clinic	1	4	1	1	2	7	8	1	4	1	30
	Hospital Patients	16	8	19	16	14	17	18	21	9	8	146
	Prison	0	3	6	4	3	5	3	2	2	9	37
	Other/Not Known	16	1	3	0	3	3	7	9	10	10	62
Total	41	24	48	36	49	62	66	63	37	30	456	
Forth Valley	GP	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
	GUM Clinic	2	2	1	0	3	0	2	7	5	5	27
	Hospital Patients	51	26	30	35	66	77	89	71	81	61	587
	Prison	1	7	7	12	15	9	6	2	3	0	62
	Other/Not Known	21	4	4	17	1	0	1	0	2	1	51
Total	77	39	42	64	85	89	98	81	91	67	730	
Grampian	GP	10	39	41	29	67	102	93	101	88	54	623
	GUM Clinic	8	15	23	22	44	35	53	37	22	23	282
	Hospital Patients	70	76	66	66	85	107	194	179	221	226	1290
	Prison	2	5	33	21	18	31	35	26	10	14	195
	Other/Not Known	16	9	16	22	18	3	6	0	0	3	93
Total	106	144	179	159	232	278	381	343	341	320	2483	
Greater Glasgow	GP	77	47	66	113	183	170	169	179	277	214	1475
	GUM Clinic	20	18	30	43	52	38	26	29	23	29	308
	Hospital Patients	391	221	199	293	417	268	249	224	273	208	2743
	Prison	9	20	32	53	115	118	71	37	58	29	542
	Other/Not Known	149	86	89	116	146	159	186	175	214	96	1416
Total	646	392	416	618	893	753	701	644	845	576	6484	
Highland	GP	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	GUM Clinic	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
	Hospital Patients	9	28	23	35	28	38	29	47	42	44	324
	Prison	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
	Other/Not Known	8	1	0	9	0	1	3	0	0	0	20
Total	18	31	23	47	29	41	34	47	43	44	355	
Lanarkshire	GP	2	2	5	5	10	12	15	15	28	5	99
	GUM Clinic	2	1	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	12
	Hospital Patients	50	33	50	45	111	50	54	31	43	45	512
	Prison	1	2	7	4	7	11	17	4	18	4	75
	Other/Not Known	31	12	19	21	19	34	42	43	91	70	382
Total	86	50	82	75	147	110	131	95	180	124	1080	
Lothian	GP	115	63	79	56	89	89	70	59	83	57	740
	GUM Clinic	45	13	27	26	31	17	46	24	16	6	241
	Hospital Patients	204	63	66	45	50	40	97	76	54	27	722
	Prison	2	7	15	9	4	11	21	12	11	3	95
	Other/Not Known	318	54	64	55	46	29	32	38	17	10	663
Total	684	200	251	191	190	166	266	209	161	103	2461	
Orkney	GP	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
	GUM Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Hospital Patients	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	6
	Prison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other/Not Known	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	2	1	2	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	12	
Shetland	GP	0	2	1	2	3	1	4	2	2	3	20
	GUM Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospital Patients	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	6
	Prison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other/Not Known	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	4	3	2	2	3	1	5	2	3	3	28	
Tayside	GP	46	28	20	28	11	33	39	28	58	35	326
	GUM Clinic	19	12	6	9	5	6	11	10	12	12	102
	Hospital Patients	98	42	25	27	30	45	30	32	103	92	524
	Prison	5	14	12	22	10	21	18	18	37	28	185
	Other/Not Known	34	45	40	31	83	23	36	7	19	10	328
Total	202	141	103	117	139	128	134	95	229	177	1465	
Western Isles	GP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GUM Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospital Patients	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Prison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other/Not Known	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Scotland	GP	271	204	243	270	392	498	500	479	610	397	3862
	GUM Clinic	101	68	82	107	146	126	155	121	103	97	1116
	Hospital Patients	1008	585	552	651	947	788	842	866	1047	697	8283
	Prison	30	64	119	132	181	272	231	147	168	126	1470
	Other/Not Known	676	226	250	308	342	279	347	291	397	262	3378
Total	2086	1147	1256	1468	2008	1981	2175	1804	2325	1779	18109	

Notes: Earliest positive specimens with specimen dates prior to 1991 were identified through retrospective testing of stored sera.

'NHS board' refers to the persons NHS board of residence, or where this is not known, the NHS board of source of specimen

TABLE 6

Persons in Scotland reported to be hepatitis C antibody-positive by risk group and age group at time of earliest positive specimen; to 31 December 2003

Age group	IDU	Blood Factor	Other	No Information	Total
Less than 1	0	0	18	4	22
01-04	0	1	7	3	11
05-09	0	14	13	7	34
10-14	1	18	5	14	38
15-19	491	28	19	123	661
20-24	2168	38	72	659	2937
25-29	2964	49	108	1073	4194
30-34	2588	53	145	1065	3851
35-39	1553	32	130	851	2566
40-44	670	38	98	630	1436
45-49	270	25	49	423	767
50-54	97	18	34	257	406
55-59	15	16	21	153	205
60-64	7	11	22	121	161
65-69	4	8	12	137	161
70-74	3	5	14	119	141
75+	0	3	23	129	155
NK	179	3	6	175	363
Total	11010	360	796	5943	18109

Notes: 'Other' includes sexual contact, tattoo/body piercing, needlestick bite, blood spillage, blood transfusion, or perinatal risk. Persons who acquired their hepatitis C infection in Scotland through blood factor will have become infected prior to the time, in the mid-1980s, when heat treatment was introduced to eradicate bloodborne infections. Children aged under 5 years are included if they were confirmed PCR positive (i.e. two consecutive PCR positive tests), or HCV antibody positive at 12 months or older.

The last Hepatitis C Surveillance Report was in Issue 03/15

CURRENT NOTES (contd)

has been operational since April 2003, was instrumental in increasing awareness of these and prompted the investigation of the outbreak in France. The outbreaks may be linked and investigations are ongoing. Discussions included an information exchange on microbiological confirmation of I.G.V cases (by genotyping) and the need for coordinating the investigation and reporting of these outbreaks across EU states. More generally however, recent increases in HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in MSM in many western and central European states raise wider cause for concern. Apart from I.G.V, outbreaks of syphilis, antimicrobial resistant gonorrhoea and hepatitis B among MSM have also been recently reported through ESSTI ALERT and in the published literature. Although changes in high risk sexual behaviour among this group may be a driving factor, other social, demographic and behavioural factors may be contributing to the rising disease incidence. A second working group was therefore established, under the leadership of Hans Blystad (Norway), to consider current EU HIV/STI prevention activities among MSM, and to identify ways of strengthening the EU's response to these emerging threats. [Source: *Eurosurveillance Weekly*, 17 June. <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2004/040617.asp#4>]

Occupational health advice in primary health care

38/2604 On 15 June, the Health and Safety Executive published *The evaluation of occupational health advice in primary health care* (Research Report 242). The aim of this evaluation was to investigate whether the provision of occupational health advisory services in general practice settings would result in improvements in workplace environments and workers' well-being. Data was collected from working individuals attending 12 general practices in England. Half of the participants were offered occupational health advice almost immediately. At follow-up, four to six months later, workplace environment, procedure, and organisation, and symptom reports, were again measured in participants, and compared with their original baseline data. A second group of participants who received no occupational health advice until six months later were also measured on the same range of workplace factors, and compared with those workers at follow-up who had received advice interviews.

Those who received advice showed some workplace improvements compared with those who did not. At follow-

up, advised participants reported significantly fewer overall hazards in their workplaces, and fewer symptoms than they reported at baseline. Compared with un-advised workers, the advised workers reported more physical hazards in their workplaces, which may be an indication of their increased awareness as a result of receiving such advice. Measures of worker satisfaction and ratings of how useful the advice interviews were shows that such advice was positively received. The report is available from HSE Books (ISBN: 0717628574, £15.00) and can be accessed at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rhtml/r242.htm>.

Mapping health and safety standards in the UK waste industry, a report of a research project carried out by Bomel Limited for HSE shows that the number of fatal incidents are over ten times the national average, while accident rates are four times the average. The incidents predominantly occur to refuse/recycling collection workers who manually handle and sort waste.

The research shows that over 40% of injuries are handling and sprain types and approximately one third result from slips, trips and falls. Being struck by vehicles accounts for 3.5% of incidents.

Mapping health and safety standards in the UK waste industry Research Report 240, ISBN 0 7176 2865 5, price £35, is available from HSE Books and is available electronically at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rhtml/r240.htm>. [Source: HSE Press Release, 16 June 2004. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2004/e04083.htm>]

Waste industry incident rates

38/2605 Incident rates in the waste industry are higher than those in construction according to research published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Statutory Notification of Infectious Diseases Week ended 18 June 2004

An ISD Scotland *National Statistics* release

Infectious Disease	Age Group														Not known					
	All ages		Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 64		65 & over		Not known	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Bacillary dysentery	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox	354	292	19	25	181	156	112	75	14	12	11	10	10	3	3	4	1	-	3	7
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food poisoning	77	76	1	1	11	4	5	7	6	7	10	5	12	15	28	28	4	9	-	-
Legionellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lyme Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mumps	30	36	1	2	-	1	5	3	21	25	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Rubella	4	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	4	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis: resp.	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	2	-	-
Tuberculosis: non-resp.	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Viral hepatitis	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	486	419	24	29	195	164	126	85	41	44	27	17	27	25	36	36	7	12	3	7

Infectious Disease	NHS BOARD AREA																Current week	Previous week	Current week last year	Total from 1st week of year	
	AC	AA	BR	DG	FF	FV	GR	GG	HG	LN	LO	OR	SH	TY	WI	2003*				2004**	
Bacillary dysentery	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	19	27	
Chickenpox	36	28	14	23	82	36	39	72	23	53	156	-	1	83	-	646	524	344	14397	13377	
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	21	19	
Food poisoning	12	13	3	5	19	6	12	22	6	18	23	-	-	14	-	153	160	184	2728	2687	
Legionellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	6	
Lyme Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	14	17	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7	
Measles	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	6	119	122	
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	82	77	
Mumps	8	2	-	3	2	-	-	21	-	29	-	-	-	1	-	66	82	-	84	1307	
Rubella	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	3	6	107	115	
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	7	8	287	127	
Tuberculosis: resp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	7	5	7	128	148	
Tuberculosis: non-resp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	2	4	52	52	
Viral hepatitis	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	9	11	30	531	508	
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	30	35	
TOTAL	61	43	17	31	108	43	59	120	30	106	182	-	1	104	-	905	811	598	18622	18639	

Amendments: None

*This includes 2 Puerperal Fever, 3 Leptospirosis, 1 Typhoid Fever, 1 Toxoplasmosis

**This includes 1 Puerperal Fever (GG wk 13), 1 Tetanus (AC wk 09), 2 Typhoid Fever (FV wk 06, GG wk 16), 3 Toxoplasmosis (HG wk 07, 09, 16)

Source: Information and Statistics Division, Common Services Agency.

NHS BOARD ABBREVIATIONS					
AC Argyll & Clyde	DG Dumfries & Galloway	GG Greater Glasgow	LN Lanarkshire	SH Shetland	
AA Ayrshire & Arran	FF Fire	GR Grampian	LO Lothian	TY Tayside	
BR Borders	FV Forth Valley	HG Highland	OR Orkney	WI Western Isles	