

Outbreak of Listeriosis in South Africa-update information

Event introduction

As of [20 February 2018](#), 915 laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases have been reported to NICD since 01 January 2017 (Figure 1). Most cases have been reported from Gauteng Province (59%, 541/915) followed by Western Cape (12%, 112/915) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%, 66/915) provinces. Cases have been diagnosed in both public (64%, 587/915) and private (36%, 328/915) healthcare sectors. Diagnosis was based most commonly on the isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* in blood culture (73%, 669/915), followed by CSF (22%, 198/915). Where age was reported (n=886), ages range from birth to 92 years (median 20 years) and 41% (361/886) are neonates aged ≤ 28 days (Figure 2). Of neonatal cases, 97% (351/361) had early-onset disease (birth to ≤ 6 days). Females account for 56% (499/886) of cases where gender is reported. Final outcome data is available for 67% (617/915) of cases, of which 28% (172/617) 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 diverse food 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.

Food involved

Unknown

Hazard

- Bacteria›*Listeria*›*monocytogenes*

Computed WHO FAO Regions

- WHO regions: African Region

Countries

South Africa