

3 SEASONAL DISEASES

b The rotavirus season, 2016

The 2016 rotavirus season began in week 28 (11 Jul) and is currently ongoing. Detection rates in July and August have ranged between 40% and 63% (Figure 4). The majority of rotavirus-positive cases in August originated from Mpumalanga (19/39; 49%), KwaZulu-Natal (8/39; 21%) and Gauteng (7/39; 18%) provinces.

The 2016 rotavirus season started much later than the 2015 season (week 28 compared to week 20; 11 May). The 2015 rotavirus season ended in week

39 (27 September).

For epidemiological weeks 1-35, the numbers of stools testing positive for rotavirus continues to be lower in 2016 (16.6%; 94/566) compared to 2015 (22.4%; 142/634).

Source: Centre for Enteric Diseases, NICD-NHLS; (nicolap@nicd.ac.za)

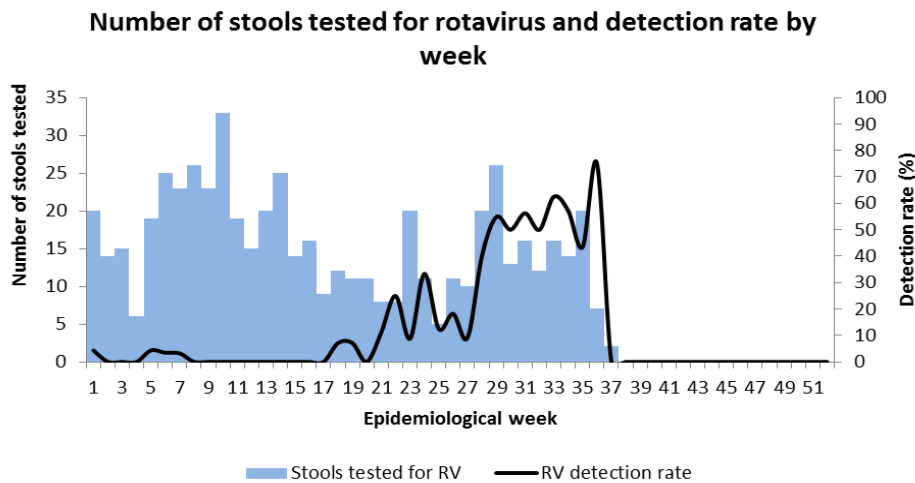


Figure 4. The rotavirus detection rate and the numbers of specimens tested by week for 10 sentinel surveillance sites in South Africa.