

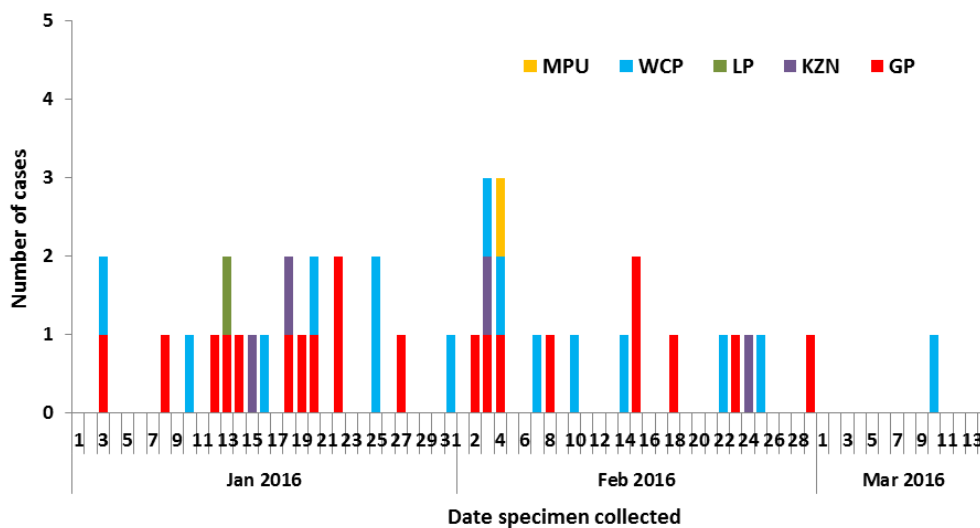
5 ENTERIC DISEASES

a *Salmonella* Typhi cases in South Africa, 2016

As of 14 March 2016, a total of 41 confirmed typhoid fever case-patients has been reported in five provinces across South Africa (Figure 5). Diagnosis was based on the isolation of *Salmonella* Typhi in blood culture (95%, n=39) and stool specimens (5%, n=2). The ages of these 41 case-patients range from 9 months to 52 years with a median of 13 years (IQR 8 –30 years). One case-patient’s age is unknown. Six (6/41; 15%) case-patients are children <5 years of age while 13 are adults 20-45 years of age. Females account for 59% (n=24) of cases. Two deaths (5%) have been reported. Of 41 case-patients, 40 were admitted to hospital. The average length of stay was 7.1 days. Amongst the 41 case-patients, three epidemiological clusters were identified as reported in the Communiqué, February 2016. Currently, amongst the 32 case-patients in whom travel history is known, 17 (17/32; 53%) have reported a history of travel outside their hometown/city within 1 month before the onset of illness. Travel was to Bangladesh (n=1), KwaZulu-Natal Province (n=1),

India (n=2), Limpopo (n=2), Malawi (n=1), Eastern Cape Province (n=1) and Zimbabwe (n=9). Case investigation and screening of contacts is ongoing by the provincial and district departments of health. All isolates of *Salmonella* Typhi remain susceptible to ciprofloxacin, azithromycin and the 3rd generation cephalosporins. Clinicians are encouraged to remain vigilant for cases of typhoid, to exclude malaria and submit blood cultures for investigation in febrile patients who have no other apparent focus of infection.

Source: Division of Public Health, Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS (karenk@nicd.ac.za)



GP= Gauteng; KZN= KwaZulu-Natal; LP= Limpopo; WCP:=Western Cape ; MPU = Mpumalanga

Figure 5. Number of Laboratory-confirmed typhoid fever cases identified in five South African Provinces, 1 January to 14 March 2016