

**Table 2: Provisional laboratory indicators for NHLS and NICD, South Africa, corresponding periods 1 January - 31 March 2014/2015\***

Programme and Indicator	1 Jan to 31 Mar, year	EC	FS	GA	KZ	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	South Africa
<b>Acute Flaccid Paralysis Surveillance</b>											
Cases < 15 years of age from whom specimens received	2014	27	15	41	42	16	20	7	10	14	192
	2015	27	9	18	27	10	15	1	5	6	118

**Footnotes**

\*Numbers are for all ages unless otherwise specified. Data presented are provisional numbers reported to date and are updated from figures reported in previous bulletins.

Provinces of South Africa: EC – Eastern Cape, FS – Free State, GA – Gauteng, KZ – KwaZulu-Natal, LP – Limpopo, MP – Mpumalanga, NC – Northern Cape, NW – North West, WC – Western Cape

Monitoring for the presence of polio in a country is based on AFP (acute flaccid paralysis) surveillance – the hallmark clinical expression of paralytic poliomyelitis. The clinical case definition of AFP is an acute onset of flaccid paralysis or paresis in any child under 15 years of age. AFP is a statutory notifiable disease and requires that 2 adequate stool specimens are taken as soon as possible, 24 to 48 hours apart, but within 14 days after onset of paralysis, for isolation and characterisation of polio virus. The differential diagnosis of AFP is wide, the most common cause of which is Guillain-Barre Syndrome. The incidence of AFP in a population has been studied in a number of developing countries and WHO have determined, as a result of these studies, that the criterion for adequate surveillance of AFP is 2 cases per 100 000 population of children less than 15 years of age (it was formerly 1 per 100,000 but this was thought to be inadequately sensitive).

The Communicable Diseases Surveillance Bulletin is published by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS), Private Bag X4, Sandringham, 2131, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Suggested citation: [Authors' names or National Institute for Communicable Diseases (if no author)]. [Article title]. Communicable Diseases Surveillance Bulletin 2015; 13(2): [page numbers].

**Editorial and Production Staff**

Basil Brooke

*Editor*

Irma Latsky

Nombuso Shabalala

*Production*

**Editorial Committee**

Cheryl Cohen

John Freen

Andries Dreyer

Veerle Msimang

Vanessa Quan

Gillian Hunt

Jaishree Raman

Nicola Page

Requests for e-mail subscription are invited - please send request to Mrs Irma Latsky: [irmal@nicd.ac.za](mailto:irmal@nicd.ac.za)

Material from this publication may be freely reproduced provided due acknowledgement is given to the author, the Bulletin and the NICD.

This bulletin is available on the NICD website: <http://www.nicd.ac.za>