

3 ENTERIC DISEASES

a Typhoid fever cases in South Africa: January-April 2016

The number of typhoid cases in South Africa continues to follow the national monthly trends that have been seen over the last few years (Figure 3), with an annual peak of cases in the early months of the year, and few cases over the winter season.

As of 12 May 2016, a total of 58 laboratory-confirmed typhoid fever case-patients including two deaths has been reported in six provinces across South Africa, with 21 cases reported in January, 19 cases in February, eight cases in March and 10 cases in April (Figure 3). Where age was reported (n=56), age range is 9 months to 68 years with a median of 13 years (IQR 8-30 years). Nine (9/56; 16%) case-patients are children <5-years-old while 18 are adults 20-45 years of age. Females account for 50% (n=29) of cases reported. Diagnosis was based on the isolation of *Salmonella* Typhi in blood culture (88%, n=51), stool specimens (10%, n=6) and urine specimen (2%,

n=1). To date, amongst the 45 case-patients in whom travel history is known, 22 (22/45; 49%) reported a history of travel outside their hometown/city within 1 month before the onset of illness. Travel history was to Limpopo Province (n=2), Eastern Cape Province (n=1), KwaZulu-Natal Province (n=2), Zimbabwe (n=10), Malawi (n=2), India (n=2), India/Seychelles (n=1), Bangladesh (n=1) and America (n=1). Of the 23 case-patients without travel history, four had received visitors who had travelled from the Eastern Cape Province (n=1), Gauteng Province (n=2), and Tanzania (n=1) respectively.

Source: Division of Public Health, Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS (outbreak@nicd.ac.za); Centre for Enteric Diseases, NICD-NHLS

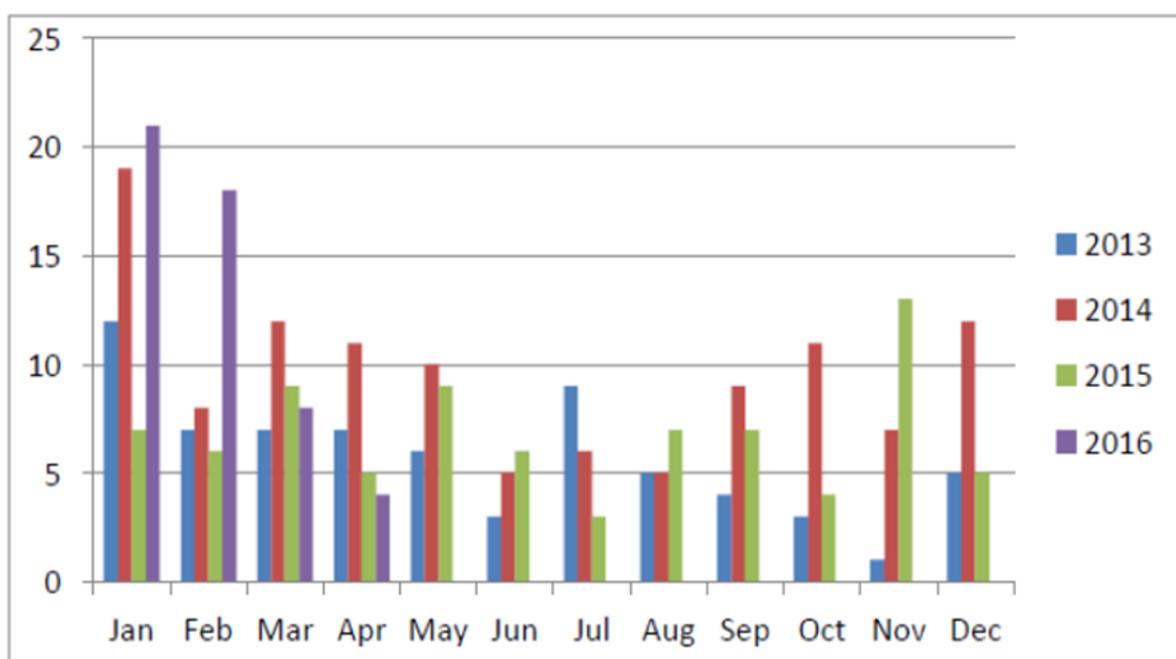


Figure 3. Number of laboratory confirmed typhoid fever cases by month, identified in South Africa 2013-2016. Data courtesy Central Data Warehouse, NHLS