

7. Outbreaks

Summary

Number of outbreaks: 435
 Number of IID outbreaks: 294
 Number of non-IID outbreaks: 141

During 2014, 435 outbreaks of infectious diseases were reported with 4,529 associated cases of illness, including 422 (9.3%) cases hospitalised and 40 deaths.* Regional variation in outbreaks was observed between HSE areas with the highest rates observed in HSE-NW (17.8/100,000 population) while the lowest rate was observed in HSE-NE at 5.2 per 100,000 population. Table 1 details the regional distribution of all outbreaks by HSE area and outbreak disease.

The number of outbreaks peaked between January and March. The January peak observed was mainly due to high numbers of norovirus and AIG outbreaks while the March peak was mostly due to influenza and acute respiratory infection outbreaks. Figure 1 illustrates the number of IID and non-IID outbreaks by month of notification during 2014.

Similar to previous years, airborne/ person-to-person spread was reported as the mode of transmission for the majority of outbreaks (75.6%, n=329). Table 2 details all outbreaks by infectious disease and probable mode of transmission.

The most frequently reported outbreak locations were private houses (n=115, 26.4%), nursing homes (n=90, 20.7%) and community hospital/ long-stay units (n=57, 13.1%). The highest numbers ill were reported from outbreaks in nursing homes (n=1,452), community hospital/long-stay units (n=662) and hospitals (n=604).

General outbreaks accounted for 71.0% (n= 309) of all outbreaks notified during 2014. The remaining outbreaks (29.0%, n= 126) were reported as family/ household outbreaks.

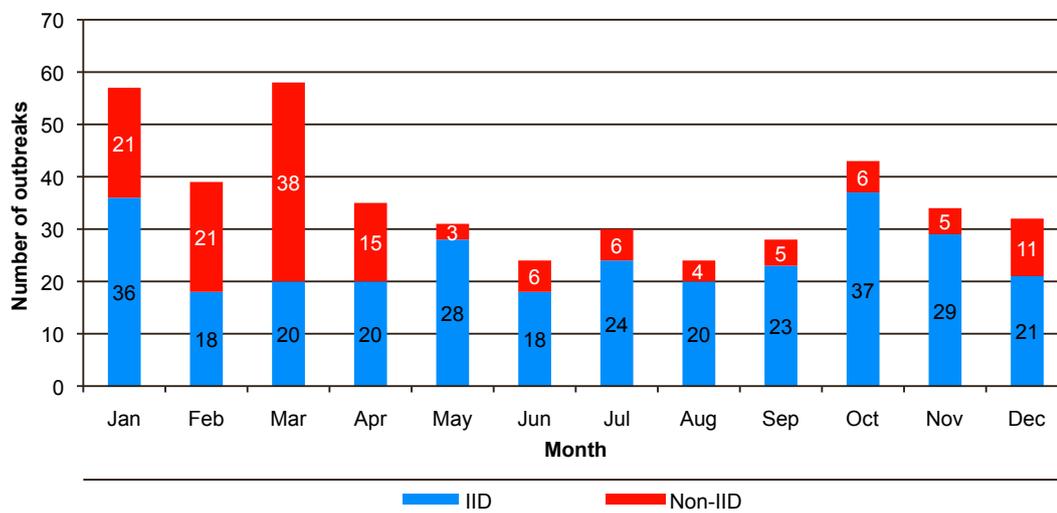


Figure 1: Number of IID and non-IID outbreaks by month of notification, 2014

Outbreak data extracted from CIDR on 24/07/2015.

Table 1 Number of IID and non-IID outbreaks by disease and HSE area, 2014

IID/ Non-IID	Outbreak Disease	HSE-E	HSE-M	HSE-MW	HSE-NE	HSE-NW	HSE-SE	HSE-S	HSE-W	Total
IID	Acute infectious gastroenteritis	23	2	1	2	14	12	12	10	76
	<i>Campylobacter</i> infection	2	1			1		2	4	10
	<i>C. difficile</i> infection	6		1				2	1	10
	Cryptosporidiosis	1	4			3	2	6	2	18
	Giardiasis		1						2	3
	Hepatitis A (acute)							1		1
	Noroviral infection	17	14	7	3	10	13	7	4	75
	Rotavirus infection	1					2		1	4
	Salmonellosis	2		2		1		1	2	8
	Shigellosis	1			1				2	4
	Typhoid	1								1
	Verotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> infection	4	19	8	5	4	11	18	14	83
	Viral meningitis							1		1
IID Total		58	41	19	11	33	40	50	42	294
Non-IID	Acute respiratory infection	3	1		1	2	1	5	4	17
	Dengue fever	1								1
	<i>E. coli</i> (ESBL)				1					1
	Enterococci (Carbapenam resistant)			1						1
	<i>H. influenzae</i> disease (invasive)				1					1
	Hand foot and mouth (suspected)						1			1
	Hepatitis B	1								1
	Human metapneumovirus	1						1		2
	Impetigo (suspected)	1								1
	Influenza	24	2	4	7	8	7	9	4	65
	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (MDR)			1						1
	Lymphogranuloma venereum	1								1
	Measles	2							1	3
	Meningococcal disease				1					1
	Mumps	6		3		3	3	3	5	23
	Pertussis			1					2	3
	<i>Pseudomonas</i>	1							1	2
	Respiratory syncytial virus infection	3						1		4
	Scabies (suspected)	1					1			2
	<i>S. aureus</i> (drug resistant							2		2
Tuberculosis	1			1			3		5	
Varicella-zoster/ suspected varicella zoster	1	1							2	
Viral illness							1		1	
Non-IID Total		48	4	10	12	13	13	24	17	141
Total		106	45	29	23	46	53	74	59	435

Table 2: Number of IID and non-IID outbreaks by disease and probable route of transmission, 2014

IID/ Non-IID	Outbreak disease	Airborne/ P-P	Animal contact	Food- borne	Water- borne	Other	Unk	Total
IID	Acute infectious gastroenteritis	61		6	1		8	76
	<i>Campylobacter</i> infection	4		1			5	10
	<i>C. difficile</i> infection	7					3	10
	Cryptosporidiosis	6	7		1		4	18
	Giardiasis	2	1					3
	Hepatitis A (acute)						1	1
	Noroviral infection	69			1		5	75
	Rotavirus infection	4						4
	Salmonellosis	4		2			2	8
	Shigellosis	2					2	4
	Typhoid				1			1
	Verotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> infection	40	6	1	9	3	24	83
	Viral meningitis						1	1
IID total		199	14	10	13	3	55	294
Non-IID	Acute respiratory infection	16					1	17
	Dengue fever					1		1
	<i>E. coli</i> (ESBL)	1						1
	Enterococci (Carbapenam resistant)					1		1
	<i>H. influenzae</i> disease (invasive)					1		1
	Hand foot and mouth (suspected)	1						1
	Hepatitis B	1						1
	Human metapneumovirus	2						2
	Impetigo (suspected)	1						1
	Influenza	65						65
	<i>K.pneumoniae</i> (MDR)	1						1
	Lymphogranuloma venereum	1						1
	Measles	3						3
	Meningococcal disease	1						1
	Mumps	20					3	23
	Pertussis	3						3
	<i>Pseudomonas</i>						1	1
	Respiratory syncytial virus infection	4						4
	<i>S. aureus</i> (drug resistant)						2	2
	Scabies (suspected)	2						2
Tuberculosis	5						5	
Varicella-zoster/ suspected varicella zoster	2						2	
Viral illness	1						1	
Non-IID total		130				4	7	141
Total		329	14	10	13	7	62	435

Infectious intestinal disease (IID) outbreaks:

During 2014, 294 IID outbreaks were reported, accounting for 67.6% of all outbreaks. This was a decrease of 21.0% compared to the number of reported during 2013 (n=520) and lower than the mean proportion of IID outbreaks in the previous 3 years (74.7%). After VTEC (n=83 outbreaks with 200 ill), the next most commonly reported IID outbreaks were AIG (n=76 outbreaks with 792 ill) and norovirus (n=75 outbreaks with 1,230 ill).

Non-infectious intestinal disease (Non-IID) outbreaks:

During 2014, 141 non-IID outbreaks were reported, accounting for 32.4% of all outbreaks. This remains stable compared to the number reported during 2014 (n=148) but was higher than the mean proportion of IID outbreaks in the previous three years (25.3%). After influenza (n=65 outbreaks with 1,209 ill), the next most commonly reported non-IID outbreaks were mumps (n=23 outbreaks with 395 ill) and acute respiratory infection (n=17 outbreaks with 147 ill).