

Listeriosis

Annual Epidemiological Report for 2018

Key facts

- In 2018, 30 countries reported 2 575 confirmed listeriosis cases in the EU/EEA.
- The age-standardised EU/EEA notification rate was 0.42 cases per 100 000 population.
- The highest rate was detected among elderly people over 64 years of age (1.7 cases per 100 000 population).
- The number of confirmed listeriosis cases in the EU/EEA showed an increasing trend.

Methods

This report is based on data for 2018 retrieved from The European Surveillance System (TESSy) on 17 September 2019. TESSy is a system for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on communicable diseases.

For a detailed description of methods used to produce this report, please refer to the 'Methods' chapter in the 'Introduction to the Annual Epidemiological Report' [1]. An overview of the national surveillance systems is available online [2].

A subset of the data used for this report is available through ECDC's online 'Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases' [3].

Epidemiology

For the purpose of this report only tables and figures are presented. Please refer to the 2019 and more recent ECDC annual epidemiological reports for the most up-to-date information relating to listeriosis.

Table 1. Distribution of confirmed listeriosis cases and rates per 100 000 population by country EU/EEA, 2014–2018

Country	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018			
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Confirmed cases	Rate	ASR	Reported cases
Austria	49	0.58	38	0.44	46	0.53	32	0.36	27	0.31	0.28	27
Belgium	84	1.07	83	0.92	103	1.14	73	0.80	74	0.81	0.74	74
Bulgaria	10	0.14	5	0.07	5	0.07	13	0.18	9	0.13	0.13	9
Croatia	4	0.09	2	0.05	4	0.10	8	0.19	4	0.10	0.09	4
Cyprus	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.12	-	1
Czech Republic	38	0.36	36	0.34	47	0.45	30	0.28	31	0.29	0.27	35
Denmark	92	1.63	44	0.78	40	0.70	58	1.01	49	0.85	0.78	49
Estonia	1	0.08	11	0.84	9	0.68	4	0.30	27	2.05	1.87	27
Finland	65	1.19	46	0.84	67	1.22	89	1.62	80	1.45	1.21	80

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Country	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018			
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Confirmed cases	Rate	ASR	Reported cases
France	373	0.56	412	0.62	375	0.56	370	0.55	338	0.51	0.46	338
Germany	573	0.71	557	0.69	665	0.81	725	0.88	683	0.82	0.67	684
Greece	10	0.09	31	0.29	20	0.19	20	0.19	19	0.18	0.15	19
Hungary	39	0.39	37	0.38	25	0.25	36	0.37	24	0.25	0.23	24
Iceland	4	1.23	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	1.77	2	0.57	0.70	2
Ireland	15	0.32	19	0.41	13	0.28	14	0.29	21	0.43	0.50	21
Italy	132	0.22	153	0.25	179	0.30	164	0.27	178	0.29	0.24	180
Latvia	3	0.15	8	0.40	6	0.30	3	0.15	15	0.78	0.66	15
Liechtenstein	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Lithuania	7	0.24	5	0.17	10	0.35	9	0.32	20	0.71	0.65	20
Luxembourg	5	0.91	0	0.00	2	0.35	5	0.85	5	0.83	0.95	5
Malta	1	0.23	4	0.91	1	0.22	0	0.00	1	0.21	0.19	1
Netherlands	90	0.53	71	0.42	89	0.52	108	0.63	69	0.40	0.37	69
Norway	29	0.57	18	0.35	19	0.36	16	0.30	24	0.45	0.45	24
Poland	87	0.23	70	0.18	101	0.27	116	0.31	128	0.34	0.33	128
Portugal	NR	NR	28	0.27	31	0.30	42	0.41	64	0.62	0.52	64
Romania	5	0.03	12	0.06	9	0.05	10	0.05	28	0.14	0.14	28
Slovakia	29	0.54	18	0.33	10	0.18	12	0.22	17	0.31	0.31	18
Slovenia	18	0.87	13	0.63	15	0.73	13	0.63	10	0.48	0.42	10
Spain	161	NR	206	NR	362	NR	284	NR	370	NR	NR	372
Sweden	125	1.30	88	0.90	68	0.69	81	0.81	89	0.88	0.80	89
UK	201	0.31	186	0.29	201	0.31	160	0.24	168	0.25	0.25	170
EU/EEA	2 250	0.47	2 201	0.43	2 522	0.47	2 501	0.48	2 575	0.47	0.42	2 587

Source: country reports.

ND: no data reported

NR: no rate calculated.

Figure 1. Distribution of confirmed listeriosis cases per 100 000 population by country, EU/EEA, 2018

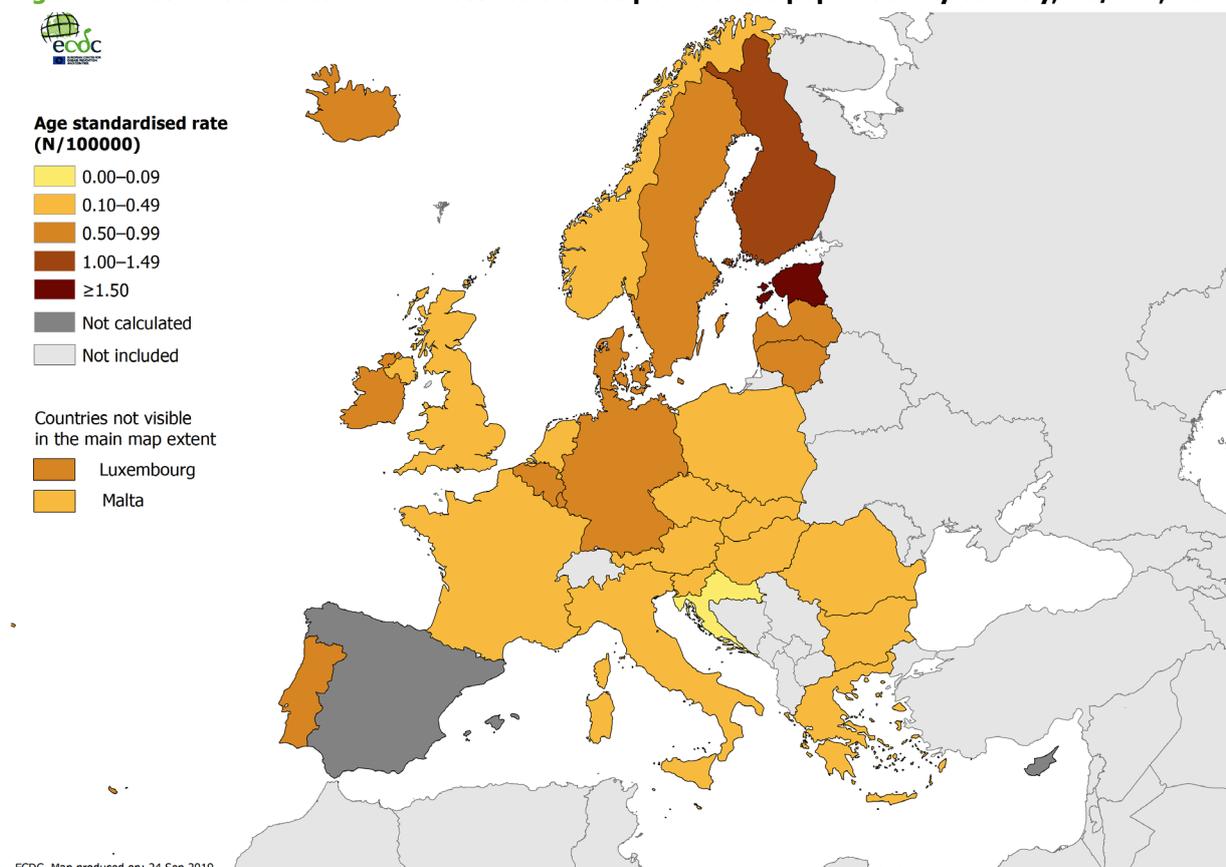
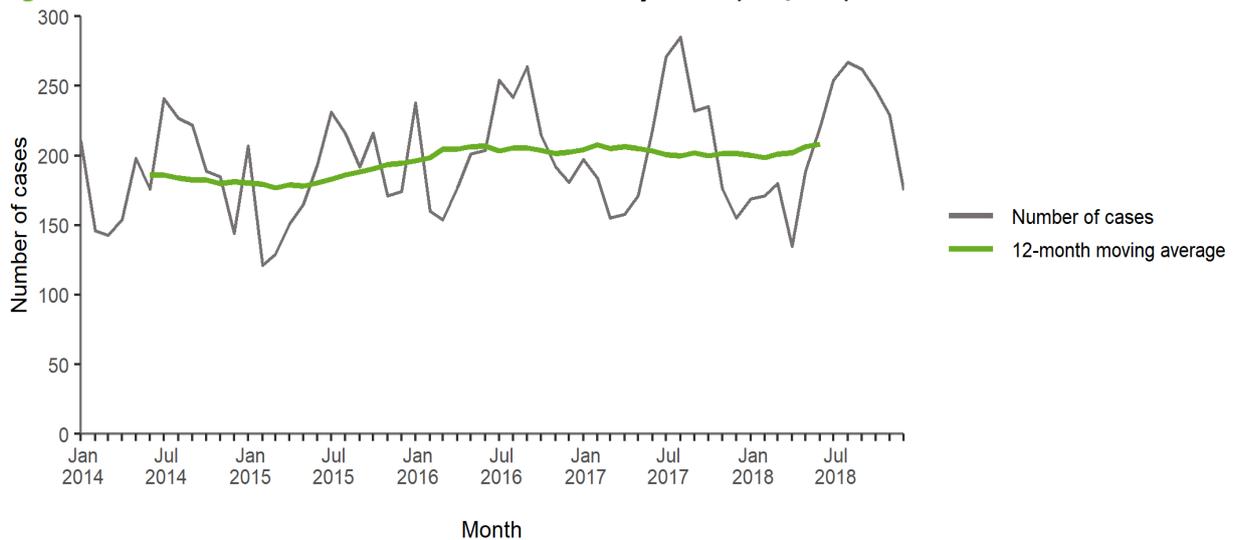
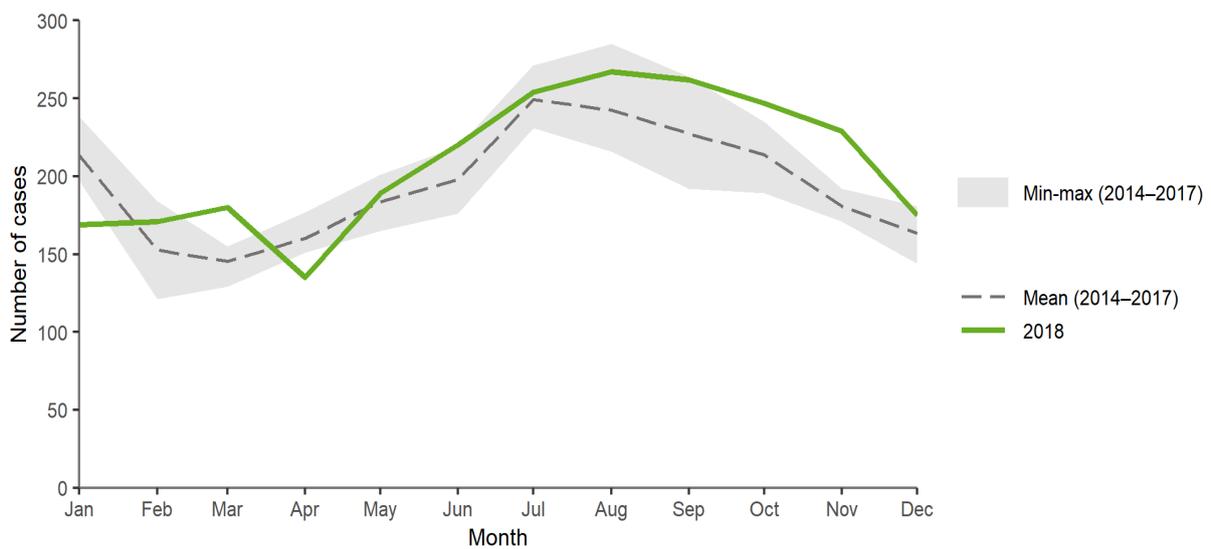


Figure 2. Distribution of confirmed listeriosis cases by month, EU/EEA, 2014–2018



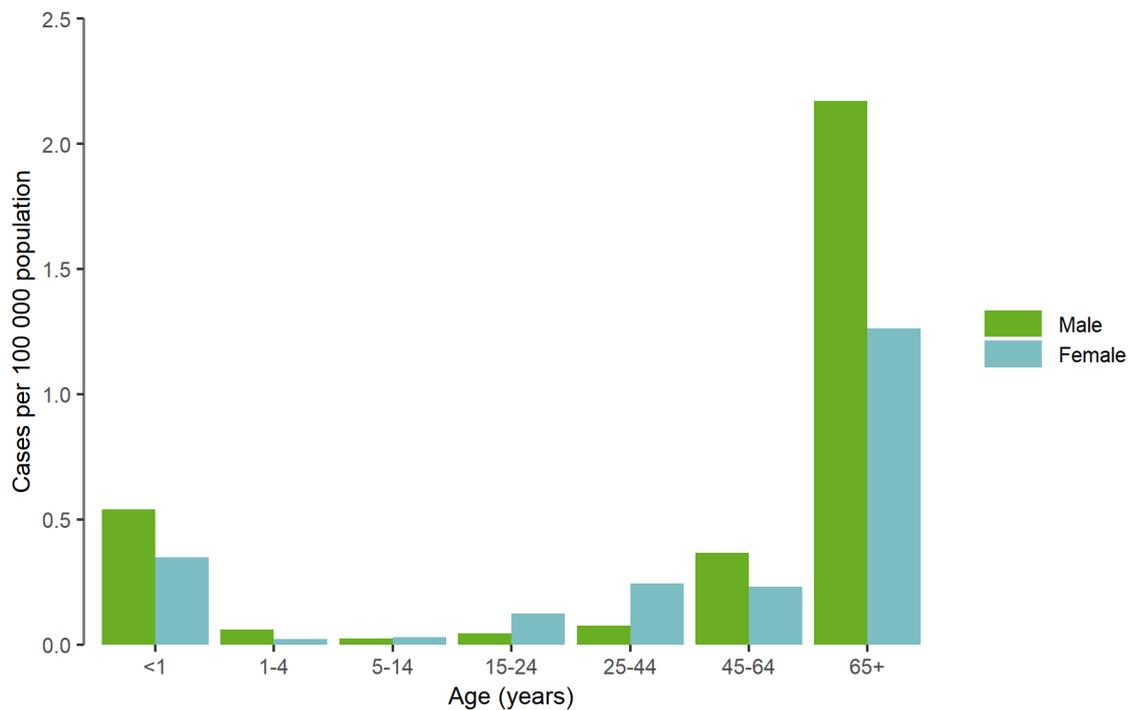
Source: Country reports from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

Figure 3. Distribution of confirmed listeriosis cases by month, EU/EEA, 2014–2017 and 2018



Source: Country reports from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

Figure 4. Distribution of confirmed listeriosis cases per 100 000 population by age and gender, EU/EEA 2018



Public health implications

The increasing trend in the number of listeriosis cases in the EU/EEA, which is probably partly due to the absolute increased size of the elderly susceptible population, is worrying. This calls for more attention to the prevention and control of the disease. It is important to raise awareness of listeriosis and related high-risk foods, particularly for risk groups such as the elderly, where the majority of cases occur, and pregnant women. In addition, supranational cross-sectorial collaboration is essential to address the occurrence of persistent *L. monocytogenes* strains in humans.

References

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Introduction to the Annual epidemiological report for 2016. In: ECDC. Annual epidemiological report for 2018. Stockholm: ECDC; 2019. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/annual-epidemiological-reports/methods>
2. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Surveillance systems overview [downloadable spreadsheet]. Stockholm: ECDC; 2018. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/surveillance-systems-overview-2018.xlsx>
3. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Surveillance atlas of infectious diseases. Stockholm: ECDC; 2018. Available from: <http://atlas.ecdc.europa.eu/public/index.aspx?Dataset=27&HealthTopic=33>