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This edition of *Monthly Report* signposts three important surveillance outputs. The annual *HIV and STI Surveillance in Northern Ireland* report, featuring data for the calendar year 2006, is now available on the CDSC (NI) website. While new first-UK diagnoses of HIV made in Northern Ireland seem to have stabilised, albeit at the relatively high levels of recent years, diagnoses of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, infectious syphilis and genital herpes have risen compared with 2005.

The HPA has recently published its annual update to *Shooting Up: Infections among injecting drug users in the UK*. Using data taken from the Unlinked Anonymous Prevalence Monitoring Programme and routine laboratory reporting, this report and its Northern Ireland summary provide estimates on the prevalence of the major blood borne viral infections in Northern Ireland injecting drug users.

Finally, DEFRA has just published the annual UK Zoonoses Report. Data are presented on the major food and water borne infections and the main notifiable zoonotic diseases of animals.

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World Aids Day

World AIDS Day on 1 December 2007 provides a backdrop against which to review the epidemiology of HIV and STIs in Northern Ireland for 2006.

During 2006:

- 57 first-UK diagnoses of HIV infection were made, a decrease of 10% on 2005 figures
- New episodes of uncomplicated Chlamydia increased by 21%
- New diagnoses of uncomplicated gonorrhoea rose by 7%
- First episodes of genital herpes increased by 15%
- New episodes of infectious syphilis increased by 13%
- New diagnoses of genital warts decreased by 7%

The full report is available at:-

<http://www.cdscni.org.uk/publications/AnnualReports/pdf/HIVSTIinNorthernIreland2007.pdf>

Shooting Up: Infections among injecting drug users in the UK

The Health Protection Agency has issued the annual update of its report *Shooting Up: Infections Among Injecting Drug Users in the UK*.

Drawing on findings from the Unlinked Anonymous Prevalence Monitoring Programme (UAPMP) and from routine laboratory reporting, the report highlights that injecting drug use is associated with a variety of bacterial and viral infections.

Key findings from data, combined for 2005 and 2006, in Northern Ireland, show that of the participating injecting drug users (IDUs):

- 29% (90/312) had antibodies to hepatitis C
- 8% (25/312) had antibodies to hepatitis B core antigen
- 2% (6/312) had antibodies to HIV
- 21% (19/90) of those who had injected in the past four weeks reported the direct sharing of needles and syringes during those four weeks

76% (230/304) reported having received one or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine

Prevalence figures for hepatitis B and C in Northern Ireland IDUs remain among the lowest in the UK. While HIV prevalence is higher than the figure for England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a whole, this must be interpreted with caution given the small numbers involved.

The complete Shooting Up report can be accessed at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/injectingdrugusers/shooting_up_2006_data.pdf

A summary of the findings of the UAPMP for Northern Ireland can be accessed at:

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/diaru-survey-injecting-drug-users-ni-summary-05-06.pdf>

UK Zoonoses Report 2006

This annual report has just been published by the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and is available from the Defra website at:-

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/zoonoses/reports.htm>.

The report is the result of collaboration with the Devolved Administrations, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, the Scottish Agricultural College, the Food Standards Agency, the HPA and other national surveillance centres. It draws together information from a wide number of sources on zoonoses in man, food and animals and, where appropriate, provides comparable data from previous years. Zoonoses covered include the major food and water borne zoonoses (campylobacter, salmonella, *E. coli* O157 and cryptosporidium) and the main notifiable zoonotic diseases of animals including bovine TB, brucellosis, anthrax, rabies, avian influenza, West Nile Virus and BSE.

Influenza Vaccination

Interim uptake data from the seasonal influenza vaccination programme to 31 October is now available.

The uptake rate among those aged 65 years and over was 52.3% a slight increase compared to 49.2% for the same period last year. The uptake rate for those deemed "at risk" and aged under 65 years was 42.2% (41.5% for the comparable period last year).

By 31 October 194,776 individuals had received influenza vaccine from their general practitioner. This excludes those who may have received influenza vaccine from occupational health departments. As there were some late data returns the true uptake for 31 October will be higher. However this is a very encouraging start to the seasonal programme and reflects considerable preparatory work by Boards, Trusts and Primary Care.

It is worth noting that the "at risk" population to receive influenza vaccine has increased by 1.3% in the past year (from 397870 to 403173). Therefore to meet the DHSSPS uptake targets of 70% in those aged 65 years and over and 60% in the under 65 years "at risk" groups additional individuals require to be vaccinated.

The next interim uptake results will be for the period ending 30 November and should be available by mid December.

Foodborne and gastrointestinal outbreaks: July - September 2007

Outbreak surveillance is primarily based on reports received from Consultants in Communicable Disease Control (CCDCs). Viral or suspect viral infections were thought to be the cause of the majority of the outbreaks of gastro-enteritis reported to CDSC (NI) during the third quarter of 2007. No foodborne outbreaks were reported.

Eleven non-foodborne outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness were reported to CDSC (NI) affecting at least 142 people. Seven of the outbreaks occurred in nursing/residential homes, three occurred in hospitals and one occurred in a school.

*In norovirus outbreaks once the causative organism is identified it is not normal practice for all other symptomatic individuals to be tested. Therefore, in norovirus outbreaks the number of symptomatic individuals is considerably in excess of the number of laboratory confirmed cases.

Table 1: General outbreaks of foodborne and other gastrointestinal illness reported to CDSC (NI), July - September 2007

Foodborne outbreaks					
HSSB	Location	Organism	Suspect vehicle	No. ill	No +ve
Nil reported					
Other gastrointestinal outbreaks					
HSSB	No of outbreaks reported	Location	Organism*	No ill	No +ve
N	2	Residential institution	Norovirus	60	4
	2	Residential institution	Nil identified	29	n/a
	1	Residential institution	Nil identified	n/a	1
	2	Hospital	<i>C. difficile</i>	n/a	14
	1	School	Nil identified	11	n/a
S	1	Residential institution	Norovirus	25	4
	1	Residential institution	Nil identified	6	0
	1	Hospital	Norovirus	11	3

Foodborne and gastrointestinal infections: Laboratory reports, Weeks 37-40

	Number of reports received		Cumulative total	
	07/37-40	06/37-40	07/01-40	06/01-40
<i>Campylobacter</i>	82	82	715	727
<i>C. difficile</i> Toxin	116	97	979	1178
<i>C. perfringens</i>	3	3	13	23
<i>E. coli</i> O 157	4	8	37	43
<i>Salmonella</i> total	23	24	139	177
<i>S. enteritidis</i> (PT 4)	4 (0)	12 (2)	38 (1)	82 (11)
<i>S. typhimurium</i> (DT 104)	2 (0)	4 (2)	24 (0)	38 (7)
<i>Salmonella</i> other	17	8	77	57
<i>Shigella</i>	1	1	14	8
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	3	8	78	115
<i>Giardia</i>	0	2	3	14
Adenovirus (faeces)	4	13	80	166
Enterovirus (faeces)	0	1	24	4
Rotavirus	2	4	357	415
Norovirus	5	6	265	316

Salmonella (other than *enteritidis* or *typhimurium*):

<i>S. soerenga</i>	1
<i>S. typhi</i>	1
<i>S. spp</i>	6
<i>S. unnamed</i>	8

Comment:

The following were associated with foreign travel:

Female, age 22 years, *Campylobacter* sp, Canada; Male, age 11 years, *Shigella sonnei*, Dominican Republic; Female, age 48 years, *Campylobacter* sp, Tanzania; Male, age 8 years, *Cryptosporidium*, Turkey; Female, age 8 years, *Campylobacter* sp, New Zealand; Female, age 14 years, *S. typhi*, India; Female, age 46 years, *Campylobacter* sp, Dominican Republic.

Hepatitis: Laboratory reports Quarter 3 (July - September 2007)

	Number of reports received			
	Quarter 3, 2007	Quarter 3, 2006	Cumulative total to September 2007	Cumulative total to September 2006
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	2
Hepatitis B	24	33	82	54
Hepatitis C	23 (2)	37	91 (13)	108 (15)

The figure in brackets represents those reports for which an association with intravenous drug use was noted on the laboratory form.

Contributing Laboratories

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Mater

Antrim

Regional Virus

Belfast City

Royal Hospitals Bacteriology

Causeway

Tyrone County

Craigavon

Ulster

Greenpark

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Comments and contributions are welcomed and should be sent to the Editor.

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