

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD****Epidemiology of listeriosis in England and Wales between 2008 and 2013\*****(\*2013 data only reports to week 50)**

1. A total of 1017 cases were reported to the enhanced *listeria* surveillance system between 2008 and 2013. Of these, 12.7% (129/1017) were pregnancy related (Figure 1). The numbers of pregnancy related cases are below levels seen in recent years, while the numbers of non-pregnancy related cases are within levels seen in recent years for the same time period (up to week 50) (Table 1).
2. In the six year period, 17 outbreaks/clusters were investigated involving a total of 83 cases (Figure 1). Regardless of what year the clusters were investigated, the cases tend to span across several years. This means that a cluster or outbreak identified and investigated in 2013 may include cases from 2008 and 2009 that were previously thought to be sporadic. Despite the low numbers of cases reported between 2010 and 2012, the proportion of clustered/outbreak cases were considerably high at 13.2%, 15.5% and 13.3% respectively. This shows the effectiveness of the enhanced *listeria* surveillance system, which was established in 2009, in detecting clusters.
3. Fifty four per cent of cases were males (549/1017) and 64.7% (659/1017) were over 60 years of age. The age pyramid in figure 2 shows majority of the cases to be clustered at the bottom as the incidence of listeriosis is higher in the elderly. A substantial proportion of the cases were male adults aged 50 years and above (Figure 2). In the cases aged between 20 and 39 years, 78% were females which can be explained by pregnancy associated listeriosis.
4. Cases presenting with bacteraemia accounted for 79% (742/941) of all cases with known clinical presentation. In the first half of the reporting period, the proportion of cases above 60 years presenting with bacteraemia decreased and subsequently increased in 2012 and 2013, although the numbers are still much lower than what was reported in 2008. Between 2008 and 2010, the proportion of cases presenting with CNS symptoms were similar for both age groups (<60 and 60+). However, from 2011, there has been an increase the proportion of cases over 60 years presenting with CNS symptoms. The reason for this increase is currently unknown as is being investigated (Figure 3).
5. There is no obvious regional distribution of listeriosis; however, the North East region has the highest rate of listeriosis when compared with other regions in the reporting period (Figure 4).

**Table 1:** Numbers of *Listeria monocytogenes* cases by patient type up to week 50 in England and Wales

PATIENT TYPE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NON PREGNANCY ASSOCIATED	156	171	134	116	147	138
PREGNANCY ASSOCIATED	17	33	19	27	17	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>150</b>

**Figure 1**

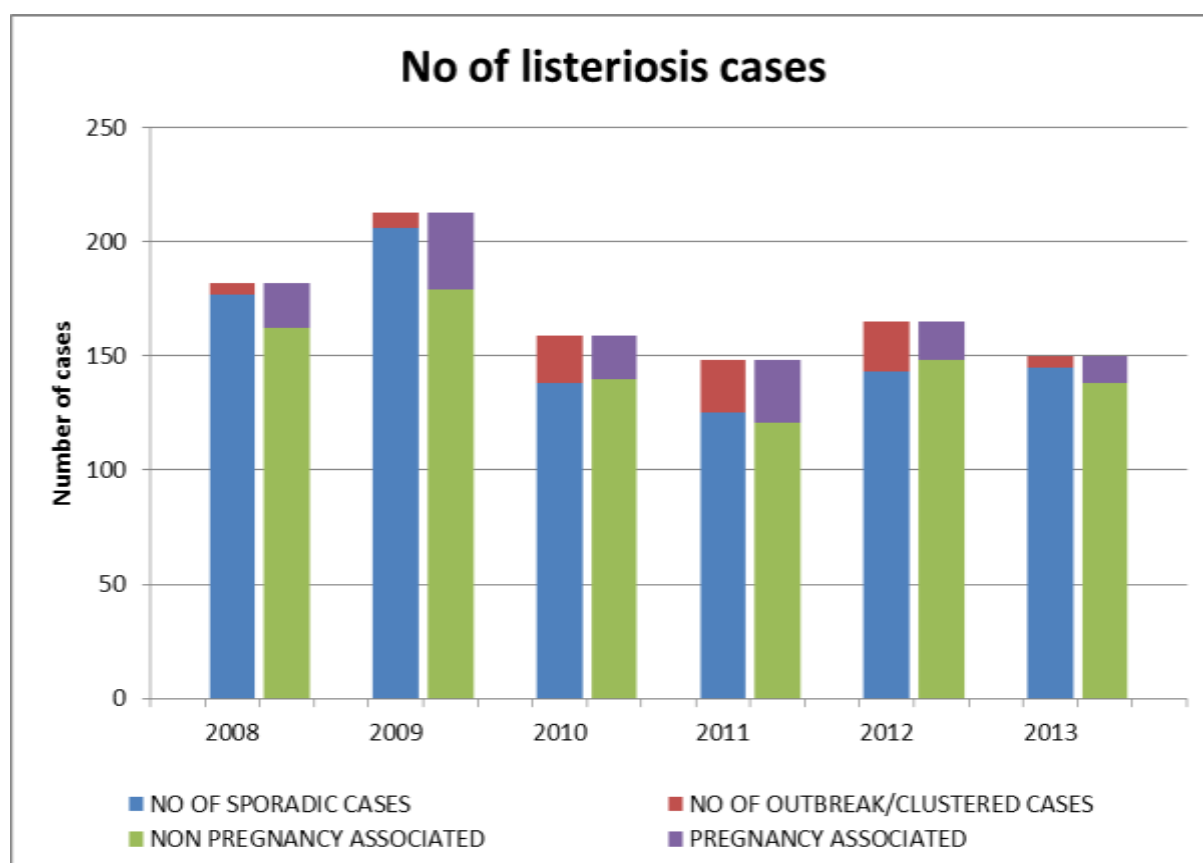


Figure 2

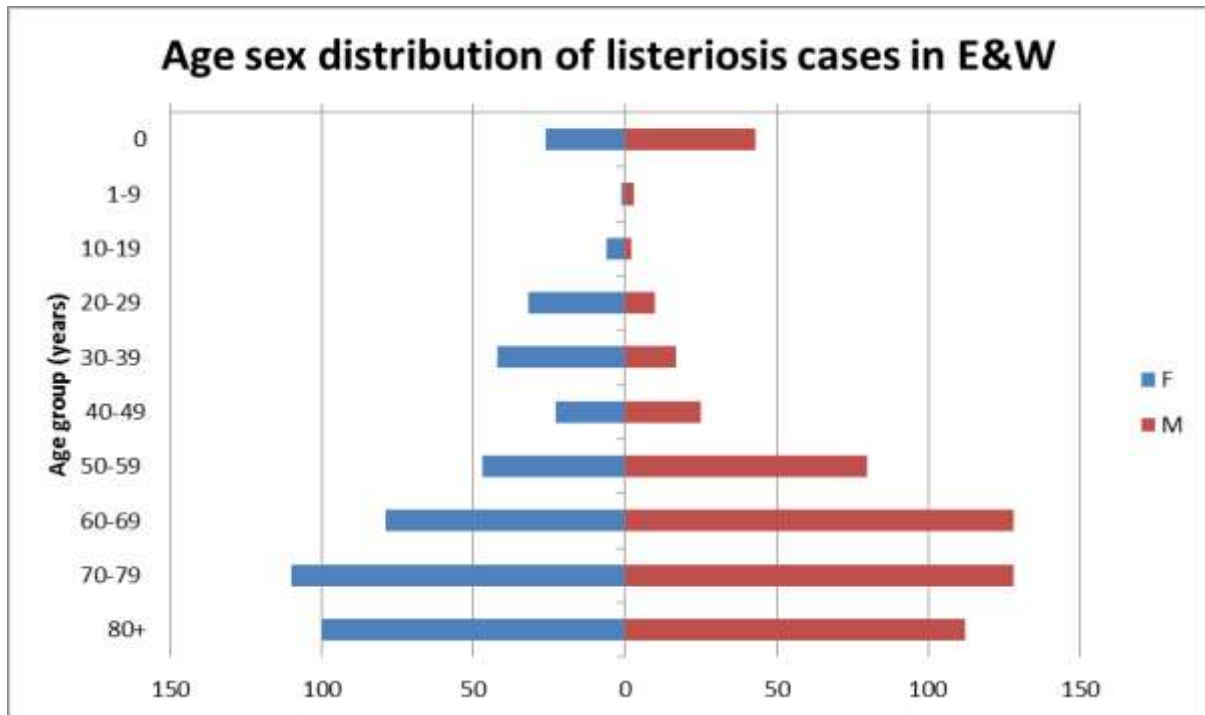


Figure 3

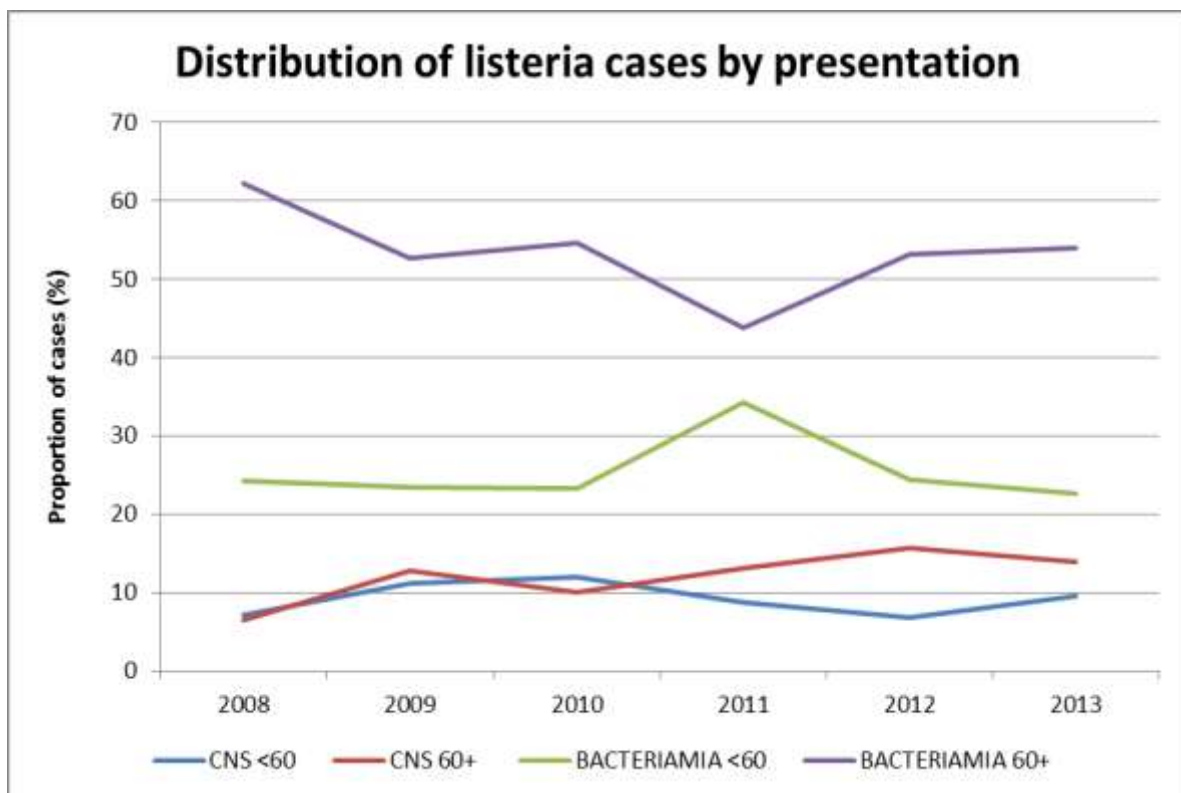


Figure 4

