

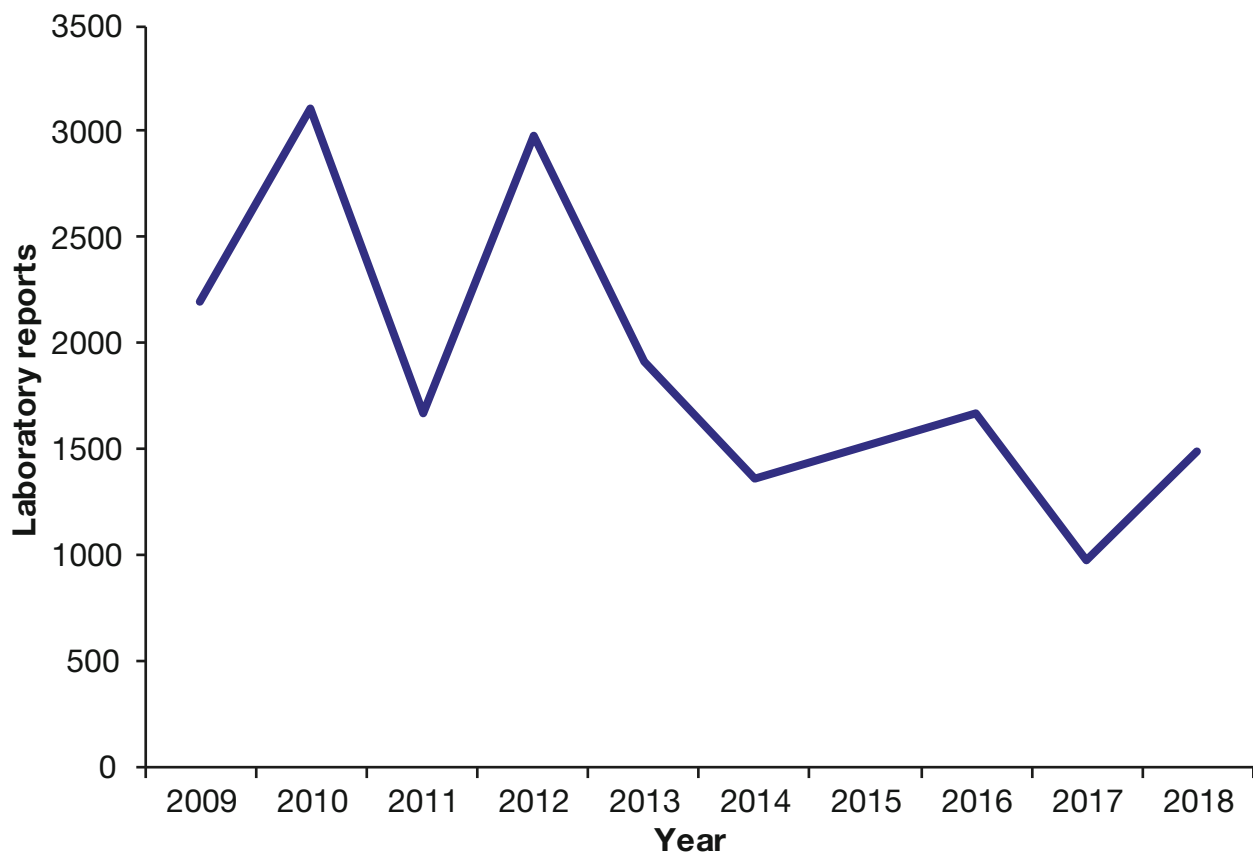
# Surveillance report.

## Annual surveillance report: Norovirus in Scotland, 2018

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In 2018, HPS received 1491 laboratory reports of norovirus (NV), a rate of 16.3 per 100,000. This was an increase of 514 (52.6%) on the 977 reports received in 2017. However, this was within the range of the number of reports over the past nine years (mean 1933 cases, range 977-3109 cases) (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1:** Laboratory reports of norovirus to HPS 2009-2018

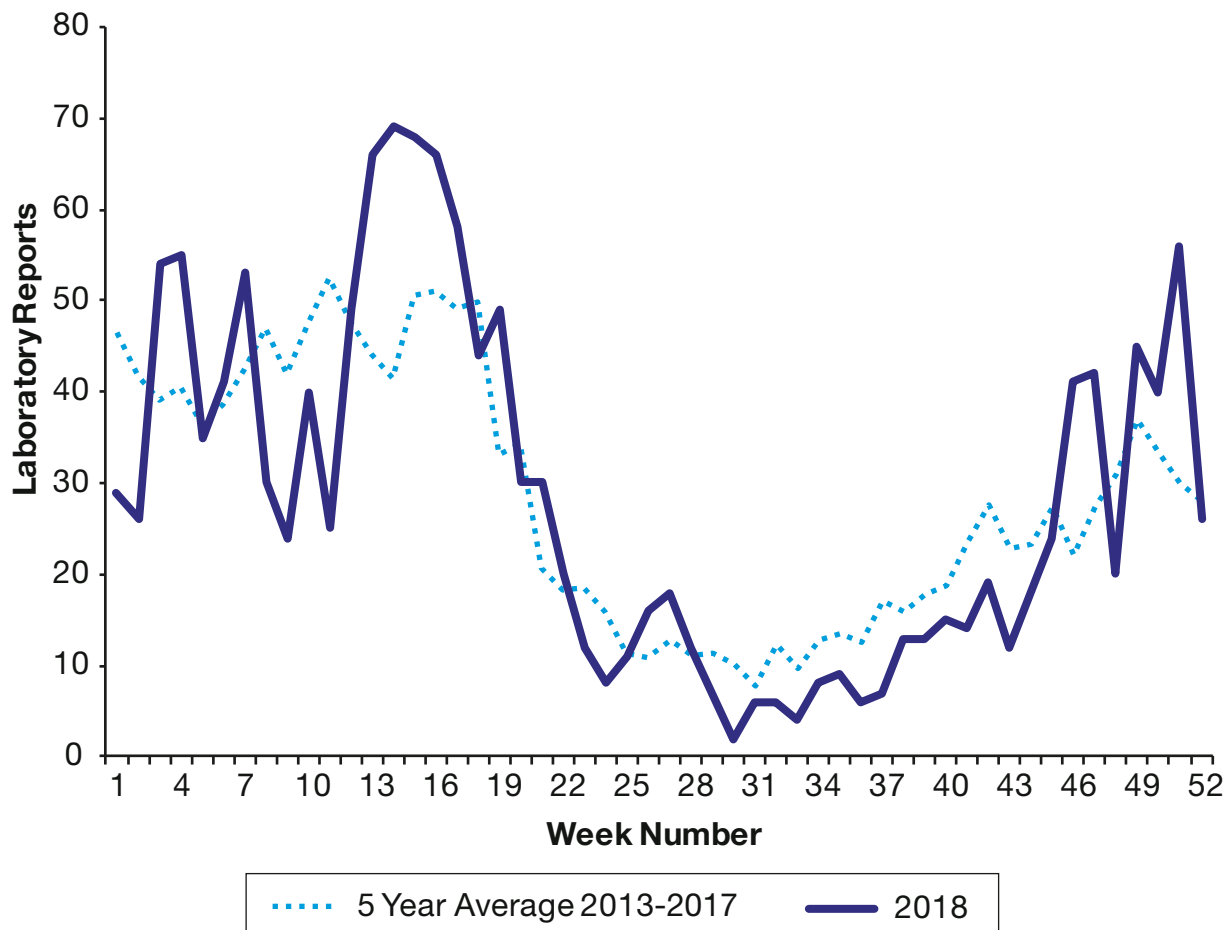


The laboratory reports arise from confirmed infection in the whole population (community and healthcare). Laboratory confirmations represent just a small proportion of the true incidence in the community. The second study of infectious intestinal disease in the community (IID 2 study available at <https://www.food.gov.uk/science/research/foodborneillness/b14programme/b14projlist/b18021>) estimated that approximately 290 cases of NV occur in the community for every case reported to national surveillance.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that data from 2014-2017 may differ from previously published data due to a revalidation exercise with the Scottish virology reference laboratories.

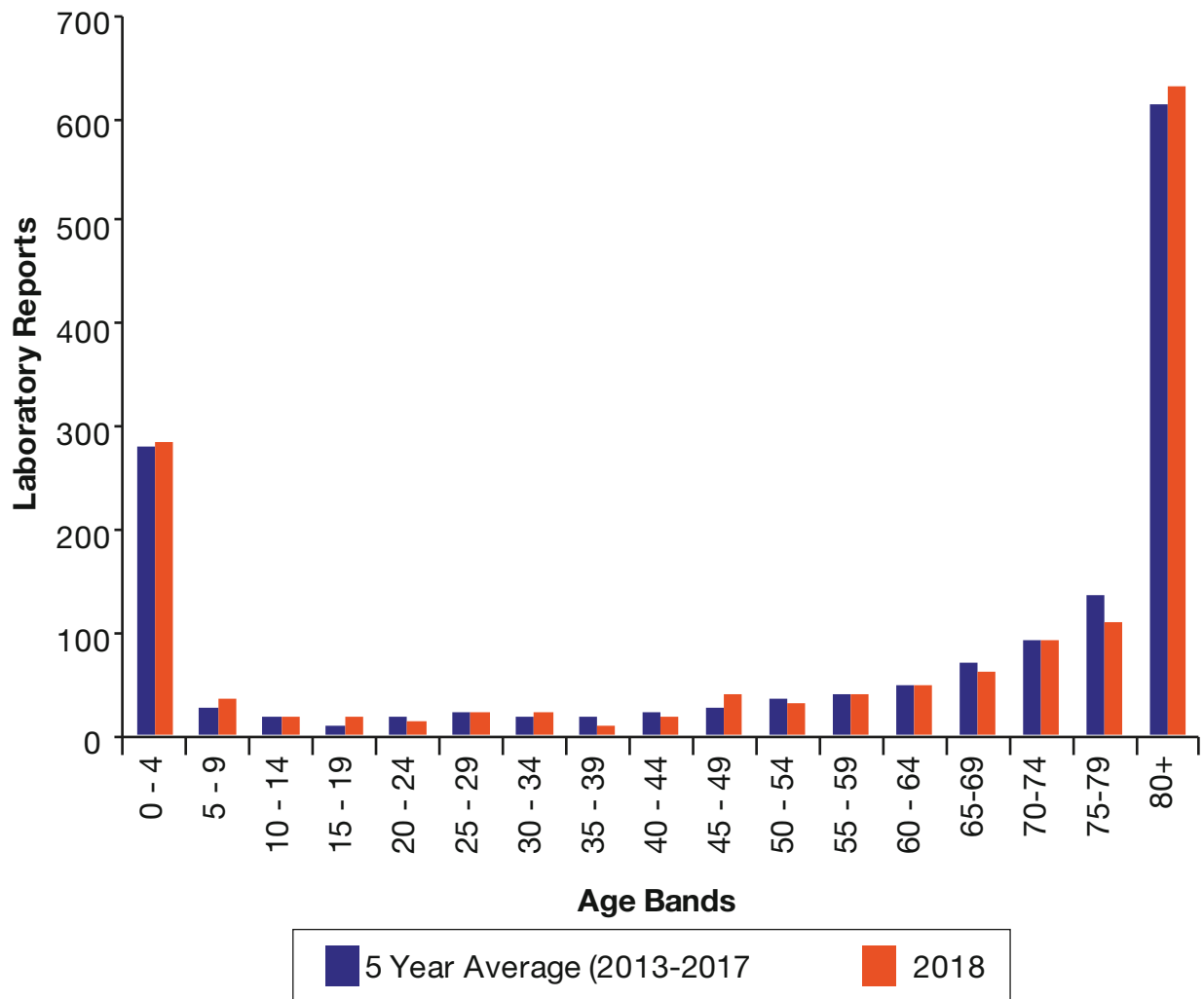
Laboratory reports of norovirus show a distinct seasonal trend, with the highest number of reports during the winter months (Figure 2). However, whilst reports are most common during the winter months, infection can occur throughout the year.

**Figure 2:** Laboratory reports of norovirus in Scotland by week, 2018 and 5 year average (2013-2017).



Laboratory reports of NV showed a distinct age distribution (Figure 3) affecting predominantly the elderly and young, with 60% (895/1491) reported from those aged 65 years and over, 19% (285/1491) from those under five years of age, while none of the other age bands accounted for more than 4% of reports. The distribution of laboratory reports among those at the extremes of age probably reflects those from whom samples are most likely to be taken.

**Figure 3:** Laboratory reports of norovirus by age band, 2018 and five year average (2013-2017)



### HPS Surveillance Report

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