

28 February 2008

Coverage
England and Wales
Theme
Health and Care

Reported deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* rise by 72 per cent

Health Statistics Quarterly spring 2008

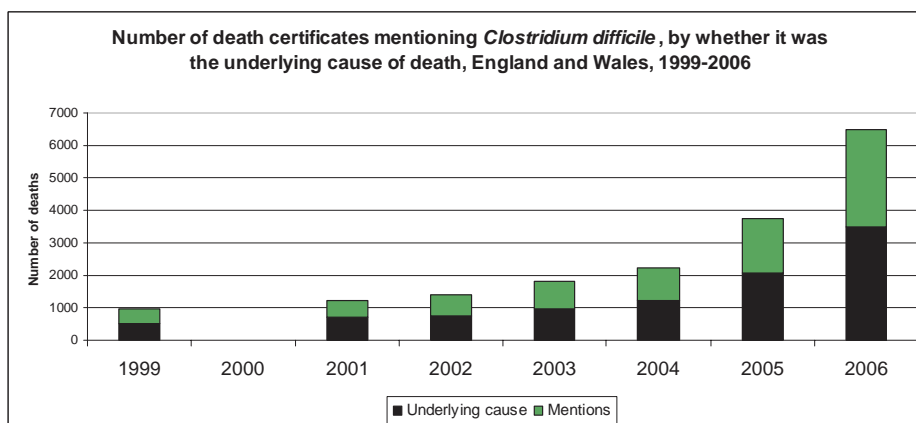
The number of deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* continued to rise between 2005 and 2006, while deaths involving MRSA levelled out, according to new figures published by the Office for National Statistics in *Health Statistics Quarterly* 37 spring 2008.

Clostridium difficile

The number of death certificates in England and Wales that mentioned *C. difficile* infection rose from 3,757 in 2005 to 6,480 in 2006, an increase of 72 per cent. Some of the increase in deaths involving *C. difficile* may be due to more complete reporting on death certificates.

Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths involving *C. difficile* increased by 77 per cent among males, and 66 per cent among females between 2005 and 2006. Rates increased from 37.0 to 65.5 per million population among males, and from 38.6 to 64.2 per million population among females between 2005 and 2006.

Among deaths with a mention of *C. difficile*, the percentage for which it was the underlying cause has been similar (around 55 per cent) in each year since 1999.



Issued by
National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone
Press Office 020 7533 5702
Email press.office@ons.gsi.gov.uk
Public Enquiries 0845 601 3034

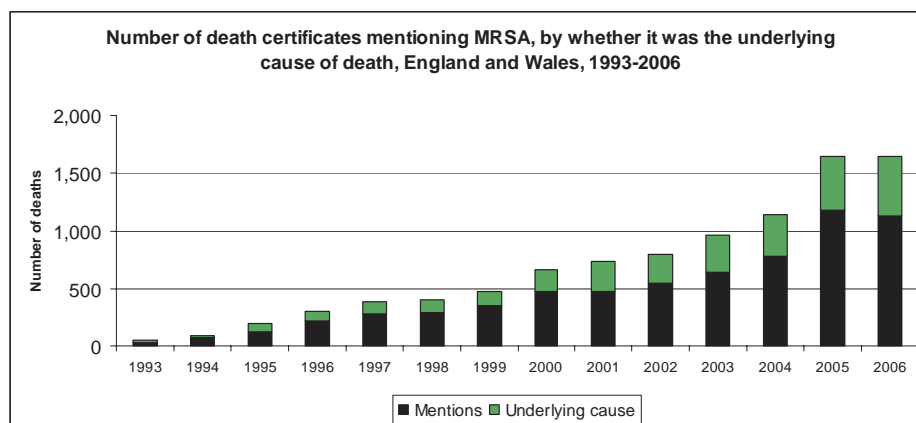
Internet
www.statistics.gov.uk

MRSA

The number of death certificates that mentioned meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) stabilised at 1,652 in 2006. This follows a sustained increase in MRSA-related deaths from 51 in 1993 to 1,649 in 2005.

Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths involving MRSA among males increased by 4 per cent, from 25.8 to 26.8 per million population, between 2005 and 2006. Rates among females decreased by 9 per cent over the same period, falling from 14.4 to 13.2 per million population.

The proportion of mentions of MRSA that were also selected as the underlying cause of death has stabilised at around one in three in the last five years.



This report is published in *Health Statistics Quarterly 37* spring 2008, available free on the National Statistics website:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725>

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. This is the fourth annual report on deaths in England and Wales involving MRSA and the third annual report on deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*. Data for 2006 are published for the first time.
2. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
3. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2008.