

**Table S1. Number of MRSA isolates in each region per year**

Target collection (ANY <i>S. aureus</i> )	10 <i>S. aureus</i>	10 <i>S. aureus</i>	10 <i>S. aureus</i>	10 <i>S. aureus</i>	10 <i>S. aureus</i>	10 <i>S. aureus</i>	10 <i>S. aureus</i>	20 <i>S. aureus</i>	20 <i>S. aureus</i>	14 <i>S. aureus</i>	
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	total number of MRSA isolates per region
<b>ENGLAND</b>											
Central-East Midlands	4 (1)	3 (1)	0 (1)	7 (1)	3 (1)	3 (1)	3 (1)	5 (1)	2 (1)	3 (1)	<b>33</b>
East 1	10 (2)	3 (1)	1 (1)	4 (1)	1 (1)	5 (1)	3 (1)	5 (1)	- (0)	8 (2)	<b>40</b>
East 2	5 (1)	12 (2)	9 (2)	12 (2)	9 (2)	9 (2)	6 (2)	7 (2)*	8 (2)*	2 (2)	<b>79</b>
North-Central	4 (1)	9 (2)	7 (2)	9 (2)	8 (2)	11 (2)	6 (2)	9 (2)	10 (2)	4 (2)*	<b>77</b>
North-East 1	3 (1)	2 (1)	3 (1)	5 (1)	4 (1)	4 (1)	1 (1)	4 (1)	4 (1)	0 (1)*	<b>30</b>
North-East 2	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)	3 (1)	<b>3</b>
North-West 1	4 (1)	6 (1)	4 (1)	6 (1)	2 (1)	1 (1)	7 (1)	6 (1)	4 (1)	3 (2)	<b>43</b>
North-West 2	4 (1)	2 (1)	4 (1)	1 (1)	3 (1)	0 (1)*	6 (1)	4 (1)	9 (1)	1 (1)	<b>34</b>
South-Central	7 (1)	4 (1)	5 (1)	2 (1)	3 (1)	8 (1)	4 (1)	4 (1)	4 (1)	2 (1)	<b>43</b>
South-East	7 (2)	9 (2)	10 (2)	10 (2)	11 (2)	8 (2)*	8 (2)	8 (2)*	7 (3)	9 (4)	<b>87</b>
South-West	10 (2)	5 (2)	8 (2)	8 (2)	10 (2)	9 (2)	8 (2)	15 (2)	7 (2)	6 (4)**	<b>86</b>
West Midlands	11 (3)	13 (3)	16 (3)	15 (3)	11 (3)	12 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)	7 (3)*	2 (3)	<b>103</b>
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b>	4 (2)	5 (2)	9 (2)	9 (2)	6 (2)	9 (2)	7 (2)	3 (1)	11 (2)	9 (3)	<b>72</b>
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	10 (2)	5 (2)	7 (2)*	9 (2)	8 (2)	9 (2)	5 (2)	10 (2)	11 (2)	16 (4)*	<b>90</b>
<b>WALES</b>	11 (2)	10 (2)	9 (2)	11 (2)	6 (2)	9 (2)	11 (2)	15 (2)	13 (2)	14 (3)	<b>109</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	9 (2)	3 (2)	3 (2)	9 (2)	4 (2)	11 (2)	7 (2)	15 (2)	10 (2)	13 (4)	<b>84</b>
<b>total number of MRSA isolates per year</b>	<b>103 (24)</b>	<b>91 (25)</b>	<b>95 (25)</b>	<b>117 (25)</b>	<b>89 (25)</b>	<b>108 (25)</b>	<b>90 (25)</b>	<b>118 (24)</b>	<b>107 (25)</b>	<b>95 (38)</b>	<b>1013</b>

Numbers in brackets indicate the number of laboratories contributing any *S. aureus*. \* indicates that one lab has contributed less than 90% of target samples; \*\* indicates two labs have contributed less than 90% of target samples