

**National Enteric Pathogens Laboratory-based Surveillance Network (UEPLA) in Turkey, July 2007-June 2011**

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**Objectives:** The National Enteric Pathogens Laboratory-based Surveillance Network (UEPLA) was established in Turkey in 2007. The general aim of the network was to convey a laboratory based surveillance to promote sharing of information between participating laboratories and the reference laboratory, Refik Saydam National Public Health Agency, to facilitate typing of selected gastrointestinal pathogens and their antimicrobial resistance. The aim of this study is to describe the isolates sent by the participating laboratories to national reference laboratory in the framework of UEPLA in Turkey between July 2007 and June 2011. **Methods:** The UEPLA includes 34 laboratories nationwide. The selected microorganisms were Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter and verotoxigenic Escherichia coli (VTEC). Isolates were confirmed by using biochemical methods, serotyped, and screened for antimicrobial resistance using disc diffusion test. Data was collected by Open-Office 3.0 programme and analyzed by SPSS 15.0 software package, CHICAGO, IL, RSHMB 9887381. **Results:** Totally 2526 isolates were analyzed between July 2007 and June 2011. The distribution of confirmed microorganisms by years are given in Figure 1. Among the 1676 Salmonella isolates, 1101 (65.7%) were Salmonella Enteritidis; 102 (6.1%) S.Typhimurium and 96 (5.7%) S.Paratyphi B. The most common Shigella serogroup was Shigella sonnei (n=420, 68.3%). Of the 231 isolates of Campylobacter 160 (69.3%) were C. jejuni and 65 (28.1%) were C. coli. Salmonella isolates were resistant to nalidixic acid (n=200, 11.9%) and ampicillin (n=160, 9.6%). Shigella isolates were resistant to streptomycin (n=436, 70.9%), tetracycline (n=241, 39.2%), trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (n=236, 38.4%), and ampicillin (n=206, 33.5%). None of the E. coli strains were verotoxigenic. **Conclusions:** UEPLA results demonstrate that the S.Enteritidis, S.sonnei and C.jejuni are most prevalent gastrointestinal pathogens in Turkey. Highest resistance percentages were observed to nalidixic acid in Salmonella, and streptomycin in Shigella. The number of participating laboratories and the interested pathogens are expected to increase in years. The UEPLA will strengthen the collaboration between participating laboratories and the reference laboratory.

