

3.7 Less common gastroenteric infections

Listeriosis

Ten cases of human listeriosis were notified in 2010, the same number as in 2009. This equates to a crude incidence rate of 0.24 (95% CI 0.09-0.38) per 100,000, below the EU average of 0.36 per 100,000 in 2009.

Among these, there were three pregnancy-related and one neonatal case reported. This is an increase on the number of pregnancy-associated cases reported relative to 2009 (Figure 1).

There were also six adult cases. Five were female and one male, and ages ranged from 42 to 81 years of age. Three cases were reported as elderly (>65 years); and all six were reported as suffering from an underlying illness that predisposed them to listeriosis.

There were no reported deaths due to listeriosis this year.

Since 2007, the National Salmonella Reference Laboratory (now the National Salmonella, Shigella and Listeria Reference Laboratory) in Galway has offered a national service for typing of *Listeria* strains. Between 2007 and 2009, isolates for 77% of the notified listeriosis cases were referred. In 2010, isolates from only four of the ten notified cases were referred. The serotypes for these four cases are listed in table 1 below. Listeriosis in Ireland remains a hazard for the elderly, persons with underlying illness, and other vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and neonates.

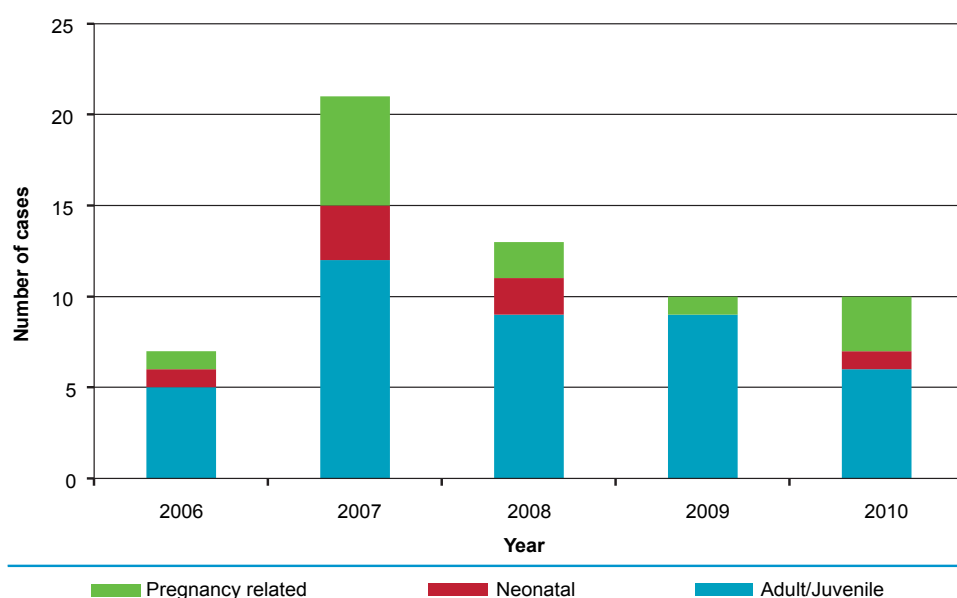


Figure 1. Number Listeriosis Notifications by Case Type, Ireland 2006-2010

Table 1. Listeriosis Notifications by Case Type and Serotype, Ireland 2010 -typing data provided courtesy of Prof Martin Cormican and staff at the NSSLRL

Type	Serotype 1/2	Serotype 4b	Not referred for sero-typing	Total
Adult or juvenile	0	2	4	6
Pregnancy-related	1	0	2	3
Neonatal	1	0	0	1
Total	2	2	6	10