

3.4 Hepatitis A

Summary

Number of cases, 2011: 19
 Crude notification rate, 2011: 0.4/100,000 population
 Number of cases, 2010: 46

The incidence of hepatitis A in Ireland has been low in recent years and remained low in 2011, with 19 cases notified. This corresponds to a crude notification rate of 0.4/100,000 population. This represents a considerable decrease in cases compared to 2010 when 46 cases were notified (figure 1). Case classification was reported for all cases. Eighteen cases were laboratory confirmed and one case was classified as possible.

Hepatitis A virus causes an acute, usually self-limiting disease of the liver. It is primarily transmitted from person to person via the faecal-oral route and is associated with poor hygiene and sanitation. Common source outbreaks due to contaminated food or water also occur.

Fifty three percent of cases were male (n=10) and 47% were female (n=9). Only two cases (11%) of hepatitis A were detected in children, while the remaining 17 cases (89%) were in adults (figure 2).

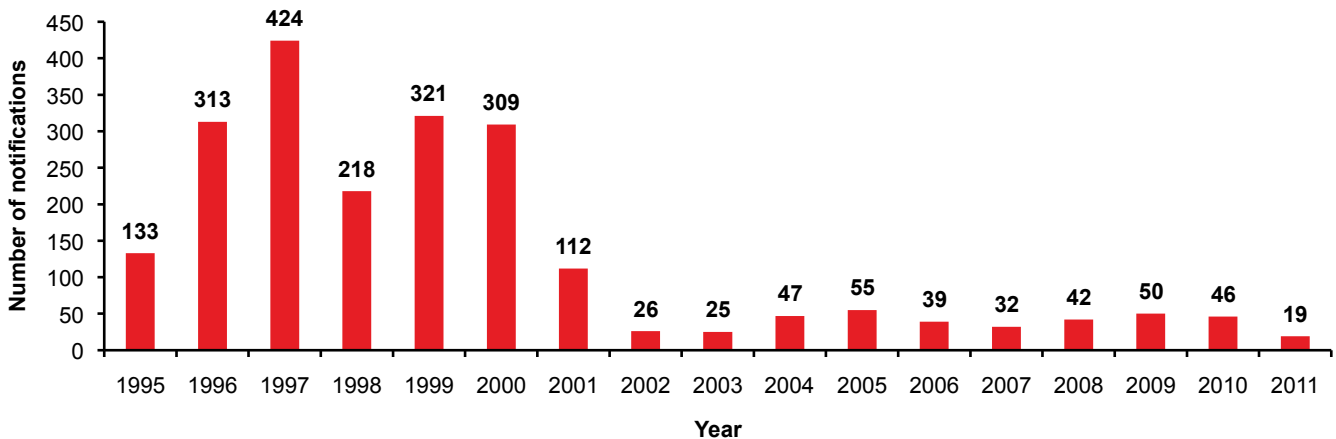


Figure 1. Number of hepatitis A notifications, 1995-2011

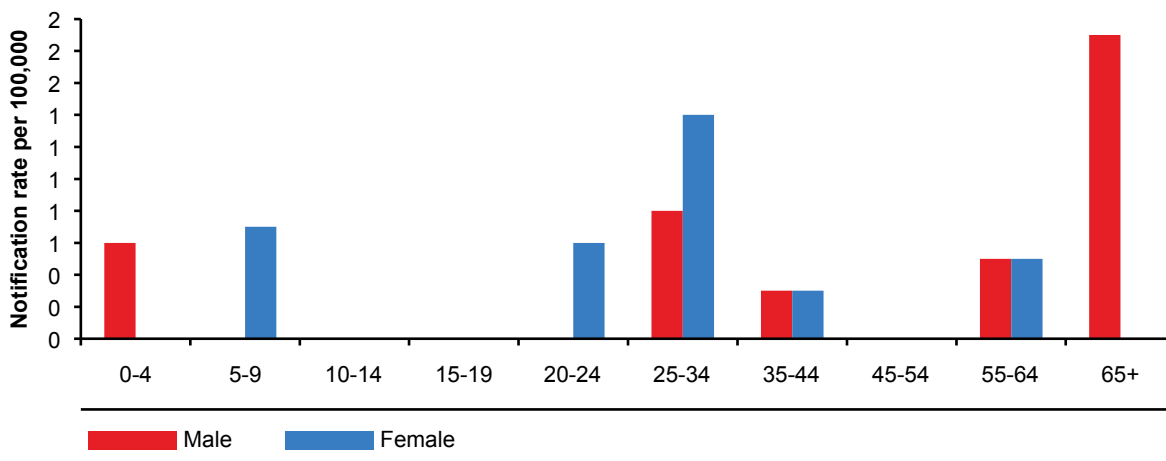


Figure 2. Age and sex-specific notification rates/100,000 population for hepatitis A, 2011

Five cases were linked to travel outside of Ireland and six cases were infected in Ireland. Country of infection was not known for the remaining eight cases.

There were no hepatitis A outbreaks recorded in Ireland for 2011.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) System on 27th July 2012.

These figures may differ from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.