

2.2 Legionellosis

Summary

Number of cases in 2006: 13
 Crude incidence rate: 3.1/million
 Number of deaths in 2006: 0

In 2006, 13 cases of legionnaires' disease were notified in Ireland, a rate of 3.1/million population. This was the highest rate recorded to date but the numbers are small (table 1). No deaths were recorded in 2006. Eight cases were notified from HSE East, two each from HSE North East and Mid-West, and one from HSE West.

The majority of cases (61.5%) were male. The median age was 47 years, with a range from 40 to 70 years.

There were twelve confirmed cases and one probable case. The organism involved was *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 in twelve cases while the *Legionella* species was unknown in one case. Urinary antigen testing was the method of diagnosis in eleven cases and serology in two cases.

Of the 13 cases, four were community-acquired and nine were travel-associated. Countries of travel included France (2), Spain (2), Poland (2), Greece (1), Italy (1) and Ireland (1). A case of legionnaires' disease is defined as travel-associated if the patient spent one or more nights away from home in accommodation used for commercial purposes (hotels, holiday apartments) in the 10 days before onset of illness. Travel-associated cases may involve travel within Ireland or abroad.

Table 1. Number of legionnaires' disease cases per million population notified in Ireland, 2000-2006

Age group (years)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<30	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
30-39	2	1	2	0	0	2	0
40-49	1	1	3	0	1	4	8
50-59	1	0	0	1	1	1	2
60-69	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
70+	2	0	0	3	1	1	2
Total	9	3	6	7	4	9	13
*CIR	2.3	0.8	1.5	1.8	0.9	2.1	3.1

*CIR = crude incidence rate