

1.7 Rubella

Summary

Number of notifications, 2006: 14
 Number of notifications, 2005: 17
 Crude incidence rate, 2006: 0.3/100,000

In 2006, 14 cases of rubella were notified in Ireland, giving a crude incidence rate of 0.3 per 100,000 total population. The number of rubella notifications in 2006 is the lowest since rubella was specified as a notifiable disease under the Health Act, 1947 (figure 1).

Only one of the cases in 2006 was classified as confirmed, 12 were classified as possible while case classification was not reported for one case.

Cases ranged in age from six months to 51 years. The majority of cases (n=9, 64%) and the highest incidence rate (14.9/100,000) were in children one year of age (table 1). Six cases were female and eight were male.

Rubella vaccine in Ireland is available as part of the combined measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. In Ireland, vaccination with the first dose of MMR (MMR₁) is recommended at twelve to fifteen months of age and the second dose (MMR₂) at four to five years of age.

Vaccination status was reported for eight of the rubella notifications in 2006. Four were unvaccinated, all four were aged 12 months or less. Four were reported as completely vaccinated for their age; all four were between 16 and 20 months of age.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 23rd August 2007 and may differ from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.

Table 1. Number of rubella notifications by age group and the age specific incidence rate per 100,000 population (ASIR) in 2006

Age Group (Year/s)	Number	ASIR
<1	2	3.27
1	9	14.89
2-4	0	0.00
5-9	1	0.35
10-14	1	0.37
15-19	0	0.00
20+	1	0.03
Total	14	0.33*

*Crude incidence rate per 100,000 population

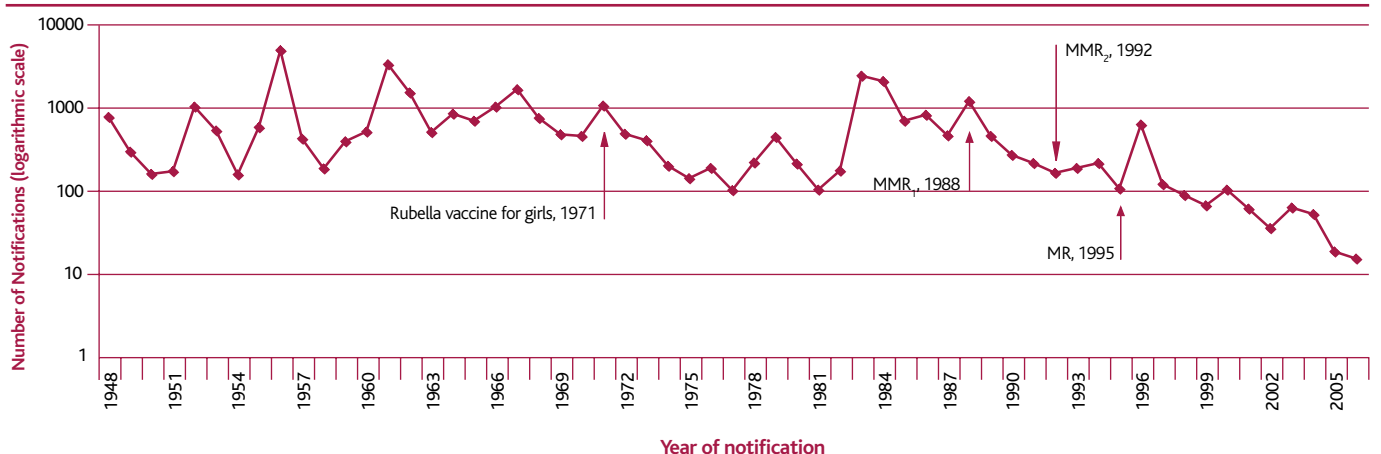


Figure 1. Annual number (logarithmic scale) of rubella notifications in Ireland 1948-2006 and year of introduction of rubella and MMR vaccine (A measles and rubella campaign for primary school-age children was conducted in 1995)
 1948-June 2000 data collated by DoHC
 July 2000-2006 data collated by HPSC