

4.4 Other Vectorborne Diseases

Other Vectorborne Diseases

Four vectorborne diseases were added to the notifiable disease list in Ireland from the beginning of 2012. This chapter summarises the information gathered on these notifications in the second year of formal surveillance. The case definitions for these diseases are outlined on the HPSC website at <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/NotifiableDiseases/CaseDefinitions/>.

Lyme neuroborreliosis

Lyme neuroborreliosis is an infection caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted to humans by bites from ticks, generally hard-bodied ticks (*Ixodidae*).

During 2013, 13 cases of Lyme neuroborreliosis were notified in Ireland, seven female and six male. Two patients were admitted to hospital, five were reported as day-patients, two were emergency department patients and three were GP patients. The hospitalisation status of the remaining case was not specified. No cases were reported as being acquired abroad.

Cases were reported from all HSE areas except HSE-M. Over half of the 13 cases were reported by HSE-S and –SE. Table 2 displays the regional distribution of cases by age group in years.

Table 1: Lyme neuroborreliosis notifications by age group (years) and HSE-area, 2013

Age group (years)	HSE-E	HSE-M	HSE-MW	HSE-NW	HSE-SE	HSE-S	HSE-W	Total
10-14 yrs							1	1
15-19 yrs					1			1
20-24 yrs				1				1
25-34 yrs							1	1
35-44 yrs						3		3
45-54 yrs		1	1		2			4
55-64 yrs	1							1
65+ yrs						1		1
Total	1	1	1	1	3	4	2	13

Table 2: Dengue fever notifications by age group (years) and HSE-area, 2013

Age group (years)	HSE-E	HSE-M	HSE-MW	HSE-SE	HSE-W	Total
20-24 yrs	4	1	0	0	2	7
25-34 yrs	2	0	1	0	1	4
35-44 yrs	1	0	0	0	0	1
45-54 yrs	0	0	1	0	0	1
65+ yrs	1	0	0	1	0	2
Total	8	1	2	1	3	15

Dengue Fever

Fifteen confirmed cases of dengue fever were notified during 2013. Three cases were reported as being admitted to hospital, four were GP patients and patient type was not reported for the remaining eight cases. Table 2 displays the regional distribution of cases by age group in years.

Dengue is found commonly throughout the tropics and subtropics and is endemic in about 100 countries. Of the 15 cases reported in 2013, country of infection was reported for four cases, with one each in Cambodia, Columbia, Thailand and Viet Nam. The remaining 11 cases did not have country of infection specified. These destinations probably reflect the frequency of travel by Irish residents to dengue endemic countries.

West Nile fever

One case of West Nile fever was notified in Ireland in 2013. Country of infection was reported as United States for this case.

Chikungunya fever:

No cases of chikungunya were notified in Ireland in 2013