

## Shigellosis

Fifty-four cases of shigellosis were notified in 2006 compared to 36 in 2005 and 56 in 2004.

Cases ranges in age from one to 66 years (mean age=25 years, median age=28 years), with approximately equal numbers of males (n=26) and females (n=28).

As in previous years, *Shigella sonnei* was the most common species reported (n=27). There were also 16 *S. flexneri*, one *S. boydii*, and 10 cases for which the species was not reported.

Twelve cases (22%) were reported associated with foreign travel: the countries of infection reported were India (n=3), Morocco (n=3), and there was one case associated with travel to each of Botswana, South Africa, Mexico, Thailand, Tunisia and Pakistan. Seven cases were reported as being acquired in Ireland, and for the remaining 35 cases, country of infection was unknown or not specified.

During 2006, three small outbreaks were notified: two family outbreaks and one general outbreak. In total,

there were 12 cases ill between the three outbreaks. The mode of transmission was reported as person-to-person spread in two outbreaks, and as unknown for the third outbreak.

In the last decade, the number of cases of shigellosis has remained low in comparison to the number of cases notified in the early 1990s (figure 1).

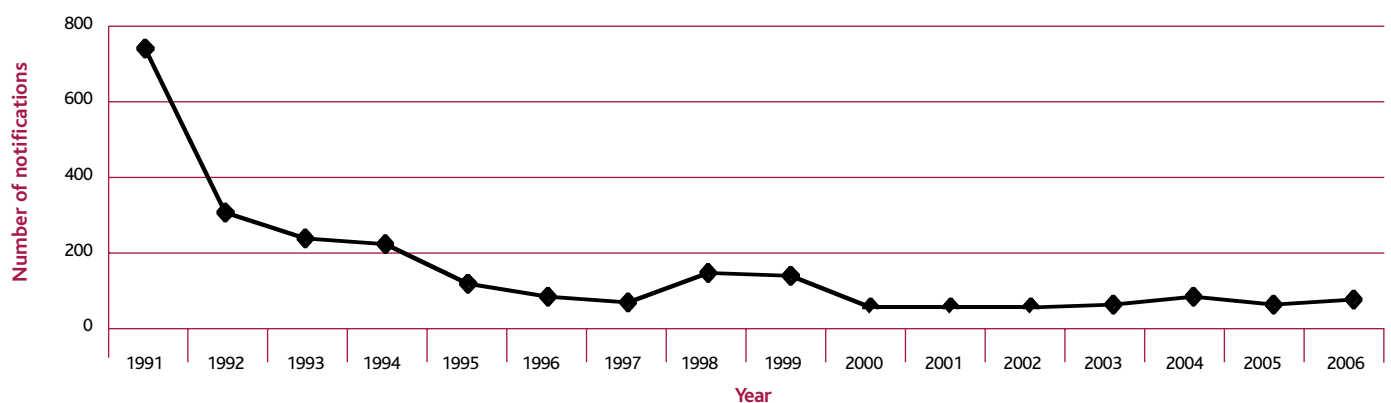


Figure 1. Annual number shigellosis notifications, Ireland 1991-2006