

# 1.6 Pertussis

## Summary

Number of notifications, 2006: 62  
Number of notifications, 2005: 83  
Crude incidence rate, 2006: 1.5/100,000

Sixty-two cases (1.5/100,000) of pertussis were notified in 2006 compared to 83 in 2005. Of the 62 cases in 2006 38 were classified as confirmed, five as probable, 15 as possible while case classification was not reported for four.

In 2006, cases ranged in age from one month to 57 years. The majority of cases (n=34, 55%) were in children aged less than one year (table 1) with half (n=31) of all pertussis notifications in children less than six months of age. The highest incidence rate (55.7/100,000) was also in children aged less than one year (table 1). Three cases were aged between 38 and 57 years, two of these were classified as confirmed. Thirty-three cases were female and 29 were male.

Pertussis vaccine in Ireland is available as part of the combined diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. Children should be vaccinated at two, four and six months of age and at four to five years. A full course of vaccine confers protection in over 80% of recipients. In those not fully protected the disease is usually less severe.

Fifteen of the cases in 2006 were reported as unvaccinated, these cases were aged between one month and 53 years. Five cases were reported as completely vaccinated for their age, only one of these was laboratory confirmed. These five cases were aged between one and four years. Nine cases had received at least one dose of pertussis vaccine but not the complete four doses; these cases were aged between two months and five years. Vaccination status was not reported for the remainder of cases (n=33).

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

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

Age Group (Year/s)	Number of Notifications	ASIR	Number of Confirmed Notifications
<1	34	55.7	27
1-2	5	4.1	2
3-4	11	9.2	4
5-9	6	2.1	2
10-14	3	1.1	1
15-19	0	0.0	0
20+	3	0.1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1.5*</b>	<b>38</b>

\*Crude incidence rate per 100,000 population