

Giardiasis

In 2010, there were 57 cases of giardiasis notified, a slight decrease on the number notified in 2009 (n=61) and in 2008 (n=71). This equates to a crude incidence rate of 1.34 (95% CI 1.00-1.69) per 100,000.

Cases ranged in age from 0-84 years (median age=31 years) with only 12 paediatric cases reported. Similar numbers of males (n=26) and females (n=31) were affected. Hospitalization rates were low with four cases admitted out of 48 (8%) for which this information was available.

The number of cases for which travel status was reported has increased markedly over the last five years from 11% of cases in 2006 to 53% of cases this year (Figure 2). Twenty-three cases (40%) were reported as being associated with foreign travel: the countries of infection reported were India (n=7), Ethiopia (n=5), Spain (n=3), and there was one case each reported associated with travel to Egypt, South Africa, Uganda, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cuba, Haiti and Peru. Seven cases were reported as being acquired in Ireland, and for the remaining 27 cases, country of infection was unknown or not specified.

In 2010, there was one small family outbreak with two persons ill reported associated with foreign travel.

Giardiasis in Ireland appears to be largely an adult disease. And if the travel histories of those with known *Country of infection* are representative of all reported giardiasis cases in Ireland, then as many as three-quarters may be related to foreign travel. Among these

cases, Asia and Africa figure most prominently as travel destinations.

Yersiniosis

In 2010, there were three cases of yersiniosis, the same as in 2009 and 2008. All were adult males. Two cases were reported as *Y. enterocolitica* and one as *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*. The reported incidence of yersiniosis in Ireland is low relative to the EU as a whole, and to Northern Europe in particular.

Yersiniosis is commonly associated with consumption of pork products however, in Spring 2011, an outbreak was reported in Norway associated with salad leaves.¹

¹ E MacDonald et al. 2011. *Yersinia enterocolitica* O:9 infections associated with bagged salad mix in Norway, February to April 2011. Eurosurveillance, Volume 16, Issue 19, 12 May 2011

Foodborne intoxications

Notifications of foodborne intoxications in Ireland are uncommon. In 2010, there were no cases or outbreaks of *Clostridium perfringens* (type A) food-borne disease, staphylococcal food poisoning, *Bacillus cereus* food-borne infection/intoxication or botulism notified.

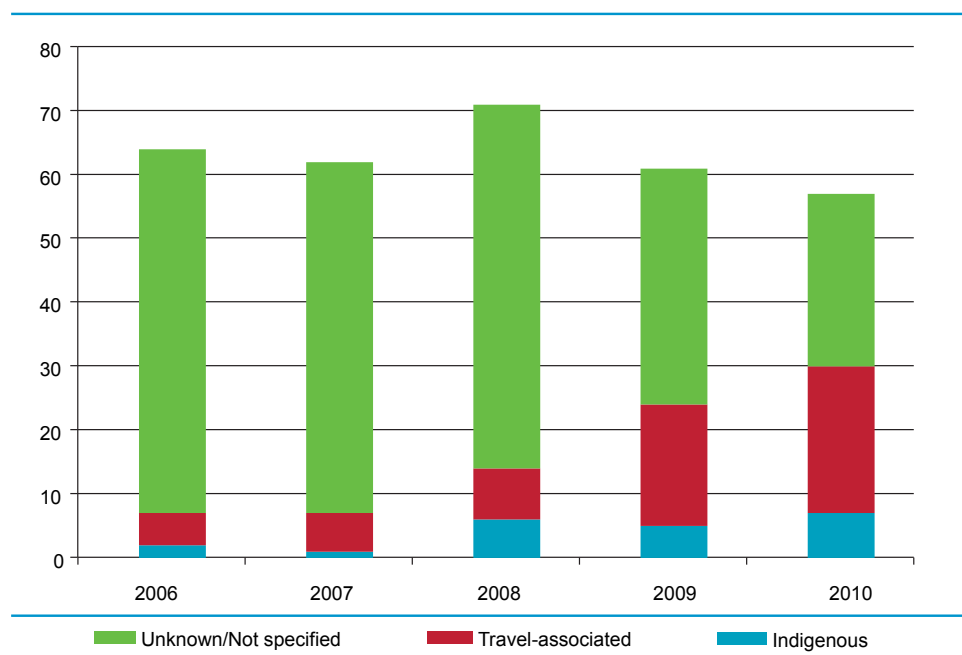


Figure 2. Number Giardiasis Notifications by Travel Status, Ireland 2006-2010

Note: Travel status is inferred from *Country of Infection* variable on CIDR