

3.7 Less common gastrointestinal infections

Listeriosis

Seven cases of listeriosis were notified in 2006 compared to 12 in 2005 and 11 in 2004 (table 1).

There was one pregnancy-related case and an associated neonatal case.

There were four adult cases, all of which were reported either as elderly (≥ 65 years) or as suffering from an underlying illness that predisposed them to listeriosis. There were 3 males, one female, and ages ranged from 50 to 87 years of age. Clinical presentations included septicemia ($n=2$) and meningitis ($n=1$); no clinical information was provided for the remaining adult case.

No information on risk factors was available for the seventh case.

There were two deaths in 2006 due to listeriosis, one neonatal and one adult.

Listeriosis remains a hazard for the elderly, persons with underlying illness, and other vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and neonates.

Giardiasis

In 2006, there were 65 cases of giardiasis notified, a slight increase on the number notified in 2005 ($n=57$) and in 2004 ($n=53$), when the disease first became notifiable.

Cases ranges in age from 1-84 years (mean age=26 years, median age=28 years), with approximately equal numbers of males ($n=33$) and females ($n=31$); sex unknown for one case.

Five cases were reported associated with foreign travel: the countries of infection reported were Nepal, Niger, Liberia, Nigeria and Kenya. Two cases were reported as being acquired in Ireland, and for the remaining 58 cases, country of infection was unknown or not specified.

In 2006, there was one small family outbreak reported with two persons ill. The mode of transmission was reported as unknown.

Table 1. Listeriosis notifications by case type, Ireland 2004-2006

	2004	2005	2006
Adult or juvenile	8	12	4
Pregnancy-related	3	0	1
Neonatal	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	1
Total	11	12	7