

2.2 Legionellosis

Summary

Number of cases in 2014: 8
Crude incidence rate: 1.7 per million

In 2014, there were eight cases of Legionnaires' disease notified in Ireland, a rate of 1.7 per million population, a decrease from the rate of 3.1 per million seen in 2013. No deaths associated with Legionnaires' disease were reported.

Six cases were reported from HSE East, one from HSE North West and one from HSE West.

Males and females were equally affected by Legionnaires' disease with half of all cases occurring in males and half in females. Although the number of cases reported was low, this was the first year since the reporting of cases to the national infectious disease surveillance system, CIDR that the majority of cases did not occur in males. The median age was 59.5 years with a range from 37 to 85 years.

All eight cases were classified as confirmed. The organism involved in seven of these cases which was detected by urinary antigen test was *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1. The diagnosis in one of the seven cases also included the use of the laboratory method nucleic acid amplification (PCR). The organism cultured from the remaining confirmed case was a previously unrecognised *Legionella pneumophila* non serogroup 1 or 2-15, with a novel sequence type ST1796.

Monoclonal subtyping information was not available for any of the cases.

Four cases were travel-associated. Countries of travel included Democratic Republic of Congo (1), Italy (1), Portugal (1) and Spain (1). No cases were linked to travel related clusters. The remaining four cases were assumed to be community acquired.

An autumnal seasonality was evident in the cases in 2014 where half of all cases reported were notified in September, as described in Figure 1.

Legionnaires' Disease Events by Month of Notification

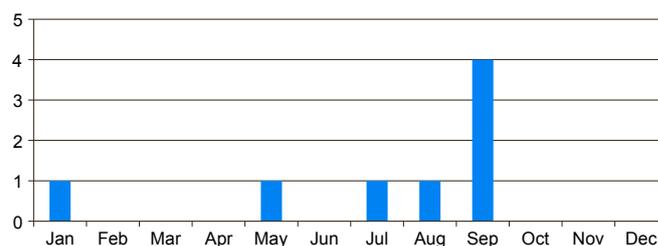


Figure 1. Number of Legionnaires' disease cases by month of notification in Ireland, 2014

Figures for the year 2014 presented in this report were extracted from the computerised infectious disease reporting (CIDR) system on the 11th August, 2015.

Table 1. Number of Legionnaires' disease cases per million population in Ireland, 2007-2014

Age group (years)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<30	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
30-39	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
40-49	4	2	0	2	0	1	3	1
50-59	2	3	2	1	1	1	4	2
60-69	3	4	3	3	4	6	1	3
70+	2	2	2	4	2	6	5	1
Total	15	11	7	11	7	15	14	8
CIR	3.5	2.6	1.5	2.4	1.5	3.3	3.1	1.7

For details of denominator data used, please see Explanatory Notes section at the end of the HPSC annual report