

2.2 Legionellosis

Summary

Number of cases in 2007: 16
 Crude incidence rate: 3.8/million
 Number of deaths in 2007: 1

In 2007, 16 cases of legionnaires' disease were notified in Ireland, a rate of 3.8/million population. This was the highest rate recorded to date but the numbers are small (Table 1). One death was recorded in 2007. Ten cases were notified from HSE East, three from HSE Midlands, two from HSE North East and one case from HSE Mid-West.

The majority of cases (56.3%) were male. The median age was 47 years, with a range from 18 to 77 years.

There were fourteen confirmed cases and two probable cases. The organism involved was *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 in fourteen cases while the *Legionella* species was unknown in two cases. Urinary

antigen testing was the method of diagnosis in thirteen cases, serology in two cases and culture in one case. With increasing use of urinary antigen testing it can be anticipated that numbers of cases notified will continue to increase.

Of the 16 cases, eleven were travel-associated, four were community-associated and one was hospital-associated. Countries of travel included Italy (3), France (2), Thailand (2), Spain (1), Germany (1), China (1), and USA (1). A case of legionnaires' disease is defined as travel-associated if the patient spent one or more nights away from home in accommodation used for commercial purposes (hotels, holiday apartments) in the 10 days before onset of illness. Travel-associated cases may involve travel within Ireland or abroad.

Table 1. Number of legionnaires' disease cases per million population notified in Ireland, 2000-2007

Age group (years)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<30	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
30-39	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	4
40-49	1	1	3	0	1	4	8	4
50-59	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	2
60-69	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
70+	2	0	0	3	1	1	2	2
Total	9	3	6	7	4	9	13	16
CIR	2.3	0.8	1.5	1.8	0.9	2.1	3.1	3.8