

# 1.2 Measles

## Summary

Number of cases, 2007: 53  
 Number of confirmed cases, 2007: 20  
 Crude incidence rate, 2007: 1.3/100,000  
 Crude confirmed incidence rate, 2007: 0.5/100,000

Measles notifications continued to decline in 2007 (figure 1). There were a total of 53 notified cases (1.3/100,000) during 2007 compared to 83 (2.0/100,000) in 2006.

Thirty-three cases in 2007 were classified as possible while 20 were classified as confirmed, giving a crude confirmed incidence rate of 0.5 per 100,000 total population. Fourteen of the confirmed cases were laboratory confirmed while six were epidemiologically linked to a laboratory confirmed case.

Measles cases ranged in age from 8 months to 63 years (age was unknown for one case). Of the 53 total cases the largest number (n=15) was in the age group one to two years while of the 20 confirmed cases the largest

number (n=5) was in the age group 5-9 years (figure 2). Of the 53 total cases the highest incidence rate was in those aged less than one year (14.7/100,000) while among the 20 confirmed cases the highest incidence rates were in those aged one to two years (2.5/100,000) and those aged three to four years (2.5/100,000) (figure 3). Of the 53 measles cases 29 were male and 24 were female.

Laboratory results were provided for 25 (47%) cases. Fourteen cases were laboratory positive for measles. Eleven cases were laboratory negative for measles, however, for five of these the oral fluid specimens were not taken at the optimal time following disease onset or the date of specimen collection in relation to disease onset was unknown (the optimal time for collecting oral fluid specimens for measles IgM testing following onset of measles is greater than seven days to two months). All cases reported as laboratory negative for measles were classified as possible measles cases.

Measles vaccine in Ireland is available as part of the combined measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. In Ireland, vaccination with the first dose of MMR (MMR<sub>1</sub>) is routinely recommended at twelve months of age and

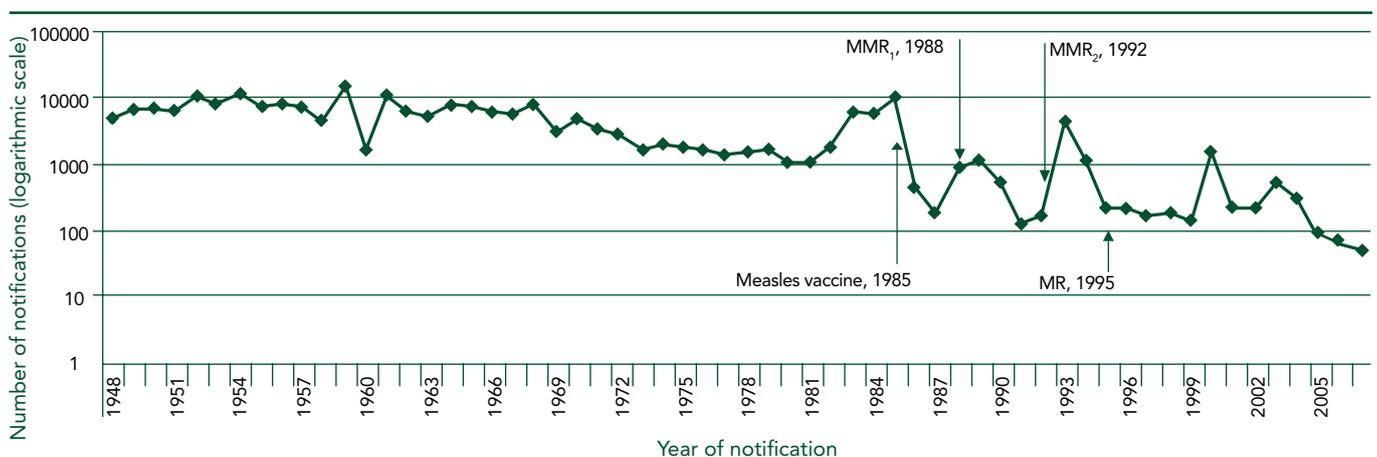


Figure 1. Annual number (logarithmic scale) of measles notifications in Ireland 1948-2007 and year of introduction of measles vaccine and the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine (A measles and rubella (MR) campaign for primary school-age children was conducted in 1995)  
 MMR<sub>1</sub>-first dose of MMR  
 MMR<sub>2</sub>-second dose of MMR  
 1948-June 2000 data collated by DoHC  
 July 2000-2007 data collated by HPSC

the second dose (MMR<sub>2</sub>) at four to five years of age.

Vaccination status was reported for 39 (74%) cases in 2007. Eighteen cases (n=18/39, 46%) were unvaccinated; eight of these were less than 12 months of age.

Fourteen cases (n=14/39, 36%) had one dose of MMR vaccine. Only three of these were classified as confirmed cases. Ten of these cases were known to be less than six years of age. The date of vaccination in relation to disease onset was reported for 10 cases, all 10 were vaccinated  $\geq 2$  months prior to onset. An additional case, aged 20 months, received at least one dose of MMR. This case was classified as a possible case.

Six cases were reported as having received two doses of MMR. The dates of vaccination were reported for four of these cases, all four were vaccinated  $\geq 3$  months prior to onset. Two of the cases vaccinated with two doses of MMR were laboratory confirmed (the dates of vaccination were not provided for one of these).

Two cases were hospitalised representing six percent

(n=2/35) of all cases with known hospitalisation status. Both cases were laboratory confirmed for measles. One case was unvaccinated while the second case was reported to have two doses of MMR, however, the vaccination dates were not reported.

None of the 23 cases, where information on measles associated complications was reported, had pneumonia, encephalitis or seizures. No measles deaths were reported.

Three localised outbreaks of measles were notified during 2007, with a total of 13 cases of illness.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008. These figures may differ slightly from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.

EU data are available at [www.euvac.net](http://www.euvac.net) and WHO European data are available at <http://data.euro.who.int/CISID/>.

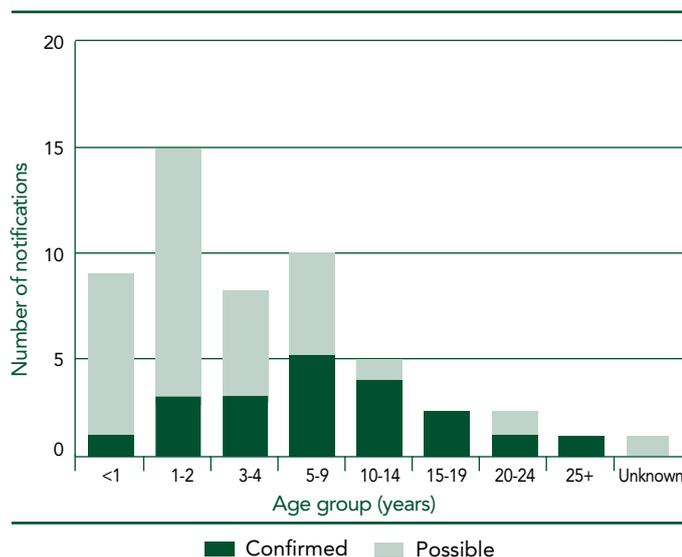


Figure 2. Number of notified measles cases in 2007 by age group and case classification

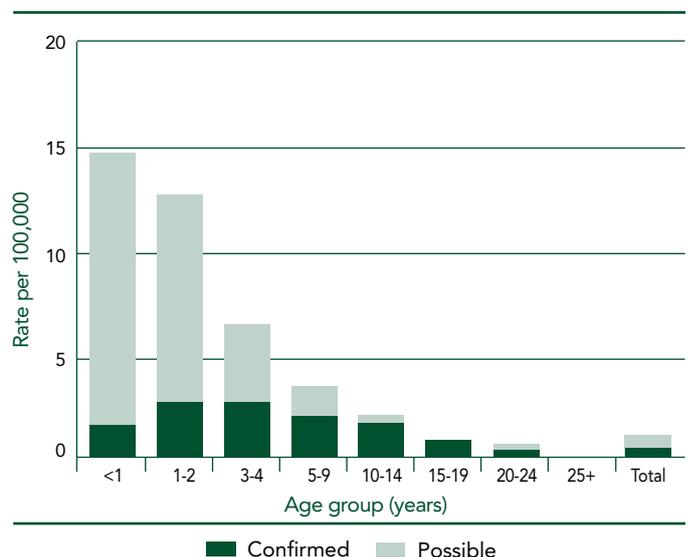


Figure 3. The age specific incidence rate of notified measles cases by age group and case classification in 2007