

1.2 Measles

Summary

Number of cases, 2015: 2
 Number of confirmed cases, 2015: 2
 Crude incidence rate, 2015: 0.04/100,000

There were two measles cases (0.04/100,000) in 2015. This is the lowest annual number reported since 1948 (figures 1 and 2).

Both measles cases were classified as confirmed. The first case was imported, with probable country of infection

reported as Indonesia. Measles virus from this case was genotyped by the NVRL and was genotype D8. The second case was epidemiologically linked to it with probable country of infection recorded as Ireland. The cases were in the age groups 10-14 years and 15-19 years. One case was unvaccinated while the second case had one dose of MMR. Both cases were hospitalised. One of the cases was reported as having pneumonia.

The figures presented above are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 16th August 2016. These figures may differ slightly from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.

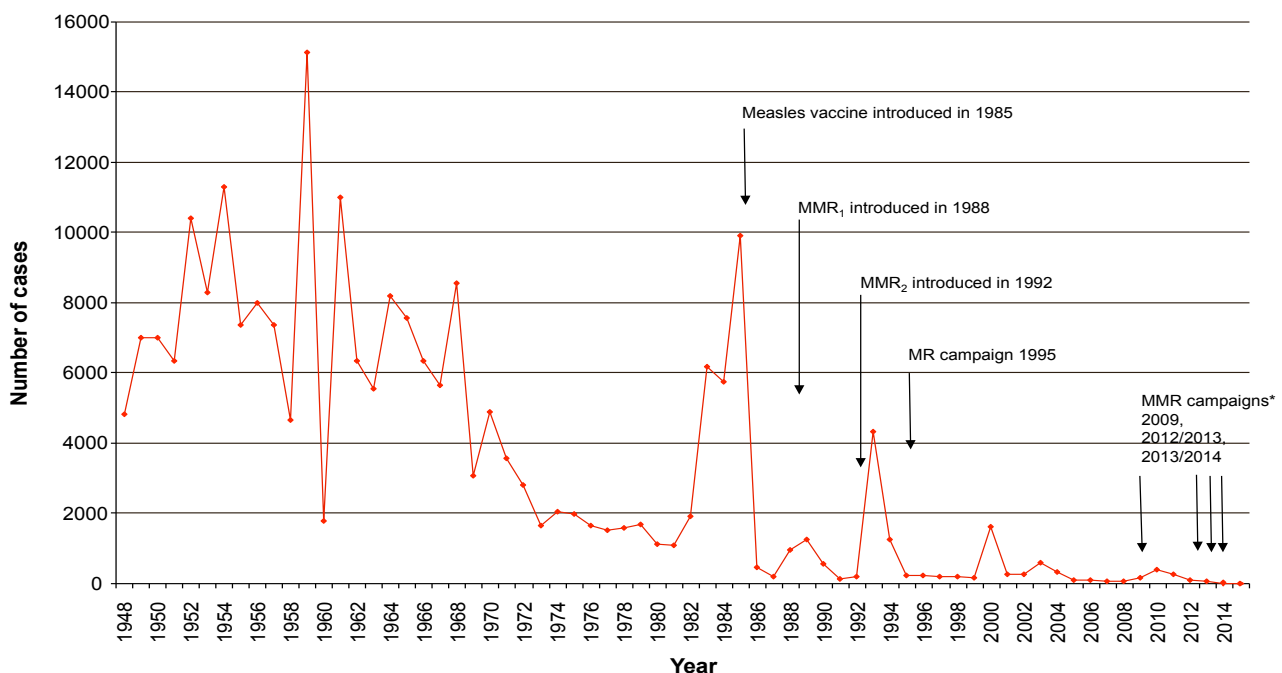


Figure 1. Annual number of measles cases in Ireland 1948-2015, the year of introduction of the measles vaccine and the measles mumps rubella (MMR) vaccine and vaccination campaigns years

A measles and rubella (MR) campaign for primary school age children was conducted in 1995

*A MMR vaccination campaign started in April 2009 for students in fourth, fifth and sixth year of second level schools

*A MMR catch-up campaign was conducted during the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 academic years for children/students attending primary schools, second level schools and special schools and home-schooled students who had not completed (or were not sure they had) their two dose MMR vaccination schedule.

MMR₁-first dose of MMR

MMR₂-second dose of MMR

1948-June 2000 data collated by DoHC

July 2000-2015 data collated by HPSC

WHO require information on discarded measles cases ie measles cases investigated and who were found not to meet the case definition. The HSE Areas reported the number of discarded CIDR cases to HPSC. For 2015, 69 cases were discarded from CIDR as following investigation they were not considered to be measles cases. Discarded cases are not available in CIDR for reporting and are therefore not included in the analysis above.

The NVRL is the WHO accredited National Measles Rubella laboratory for Ireland. Laboratories that perform measles or rubella investigations in their own laboratories are requested to send all positive samples for measles or rubella to the NVRL for confirmatory testing. In addition, a selection of negative specimens should also be referred. Genotyping is undertaken on a selection of specimens.

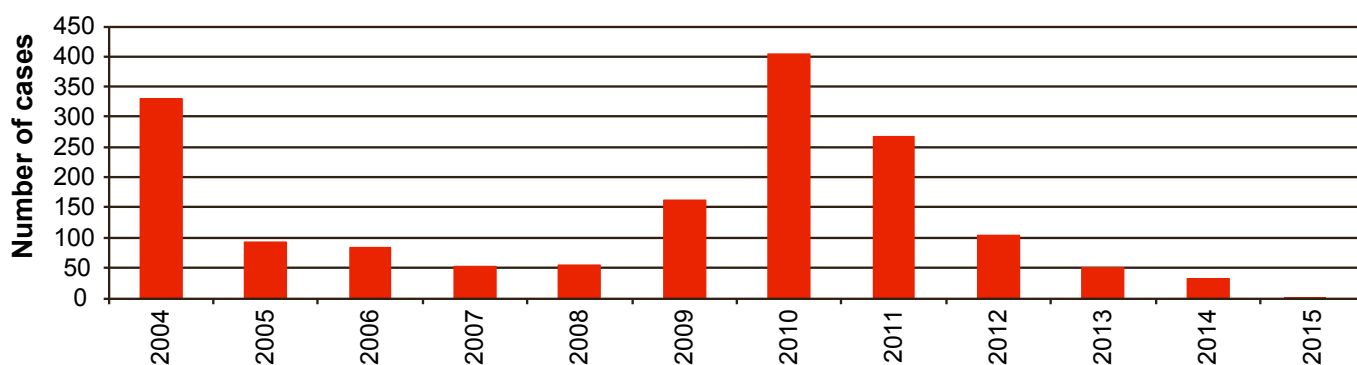


Figure 2. Number of measles cases by year, 2004-2015