

1.6 Pertussis

Summary

Number of cases, 2009: 78
 Number of cases, 2008: 104
 Crude incidence rate, 2009: 1.8/100,000

Seventy eight cases (1.8/100,000) of pertussis were notified in 2009 compared to 104 cases in 2008. Of the 78 cases in 2009 61 (78%) were classified as confirmed, 15 (19%) as possible while two (3%) had no case classification specified.

In 2009, the majority of cases (n=55, 71%) and the highest age-specific incidence rate (90.0/100,000) were in children aged less than one year with two thirds (n=52) of all cases aged less than six months (figures 1 and 2). Thirty-nine cases (50%) were female, 37 (47%) were male, while gender was not reported for two cases (3%).

In Ireland it is recommended that children be vaccinated with an acellular pertussis-containing vaccine at two, four and six months of age and a booster dose at four to five years of age. Since 2008 a booster with low dose acellular pertussis vaccine is recommended for those aged 11-14 years. The vaccine provides protection in over 80% of children who are fully vaccinated. However, protection declines over time, with little or no protection 10-12 years after primary immunisation, if no booster doses are administered.

In 2009, the vaccination status was reported for 42 (54%) pertussis cases. Twenty-one (n=21/78, 27%) cases were unvaccinated; these cases ranged in age from one month to 12 years, with 20 cases aged less than six months. Eleven unvaccinated cases (n=11/21, 52%) were less than two months of age and were therefore not eligible for pertussis vaccine in the Irish schedule. Twelve (n=12/78, 15%) cases were reported as incompletely vaccinated, but this included seven cases (n=7/12, 58%) who were less than six months of age and were therefore not eligible for three doses of pertussis vaccine in the Irish schedule. Nine (n=9/78, 12%) cases were reported as completely vaccinated for their age; four of these were reported to have had three doses of pertussis vaccine, one was reported to have four doses while the number of doses was not specified for four. Three of the nine cases reported as completely vaccinated for their age were classified as confirmed.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 8th September 2010. 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.

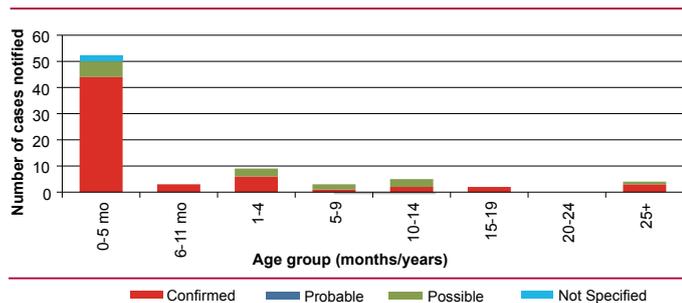


Figure 1. Number of notified pertussis cases in 2009 by age group and case classification. "Mo" in graph indicates months i.e. 0-5 months and 6-11 months, the remaining age groups are in years.

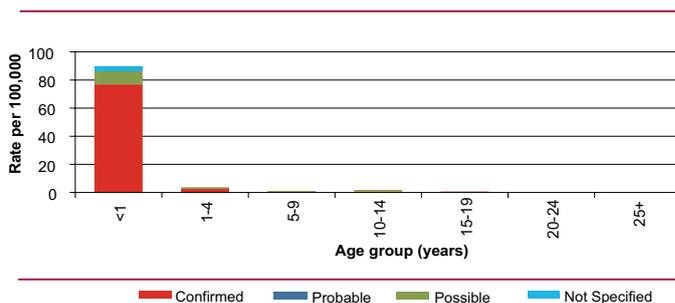


Figure 2. The age specific incidence rate (per 100,000 population) of notified pertussis cases in 2009 by case classification.