

# 1.6 Pertussis

## Summary

Number of cases, 2007: 78  
 Number of cases, 2006: 62  
 Crude incidence rate, 2007: 1.8/100,000

Seventy-eight cases (1.8/100,000) of pertussis were notified in 2007 compared to 62 in 2006. Of the 78 cases in 2007 47 were classified as confirmed, three as probable, 27 as possible while case classification was not specified for one (table 1).

In 2007, the majority of cases (n=46, 59%) and the highest age-specific incidence rate (75.3/100,000) were in children aged less than one year (table 1) with fifty-five percent (n=43) of all cases in children less than six months of age. Forty cases were male and 38 were female.

In Ireland it is recommended that children be vaccinated with a pertussis-containing vaccine at two, four and six months of age and a booster at four to five years of age. An additional booster with low dose acellular pertussis for those 11-14 years of age will be included

in the childhood immunisation schedule in the near future. The vaccine provides protection in over 80% of recipients who are fully vaccinated. However, protection declines over time, with little or no protection 10-12 years after primary immunisation, without boosting.

In 2007, the vaccination status was reported for 44 (56%) pertussis cases. Twenty-six (n=26/44, 59%) cases were unvaccinated. Nine (n=9/44, 20%) cases were reported as incompletely vaccinated, but this included six cases 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=9/44, 20%) cases were reported as completely vaccinated, with two of the nine cases reported to have received a booster dose. The two cases vaccinated with the booster dose were aged eight and 15 years.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008. These figures may differ slightly from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.

Table 1. Number of notified pertussis cases by age group and case classification and the age specific incidence rate per 100,000 population (ASIR) in 2007

Age Group (Year/s)	Case Classification				Total	ASIR
	Confirmed	Probable	Possible	Not Specified		
<1	31	1	14	0	46	75.3
1-4	8	2	6	1	17	7.0
5-9	2	0	1	0	3	1.0
10-14	3	0	1	0	4	1.5
15-19	2	0	1	0	3	1.0
20-24	0	0	2	0	2	0.6
25-34	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
35-44	1	0	1	0	2	0.3
45-54	0	0	1	0	1	0.2
55+	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1.8*</b>

\*Crude incidence rate per 100,000 total population