

# 1.6 Pertussis

## Summary

Number of cases, 2008: 104  
 Number of cases, 2007: 77  
 Crude incidence rate, 2008: 2.5/100,000

One hundred and four cases (2.5/100,000) of pertussis were notified in 2008 compared to 77 cases in 2007. Of the 104 cases in 2008 71 (68%) were classified as confirmed, two (2%) as probable and 31 (30%) as possible.

In 2008, the majority of cases (n=54, 52%) and the highest age-specific incidence rate (88.4/100,000) were in children aged less than one year with 48 percent (n=50) of all cases aged less than six months (figures 1 and 2). Sixty-five cases (63%) were female, 36 were male (35%) while gender was not reported for three 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 at 11-14 years of age.

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 2008, the vaccination status was reported for 60 (58%) pertussis cases. Thirty-three (n=33/60, 55%) cases were unvaccinated; these cases ranged in age from one month to 16 years with two thirds (n=22) aged less than six months. Nine unvaccinated cases (n=9/33, 27%) were less than two months of age and were therefore not eligible for pertussis vaccine in the Irish schedule. Eighteen (n=18/60, 30%) cases were reported as incompletely vaccinated, but this included nine cases (n=9/18, 50%) 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=9/60, 15%) cases were reported as completely vaccinated, with one of the nine cases reported/known to have received a booster dose. The case vaccinated with the booster dose was aged 13 years.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 11th August 2009. 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).

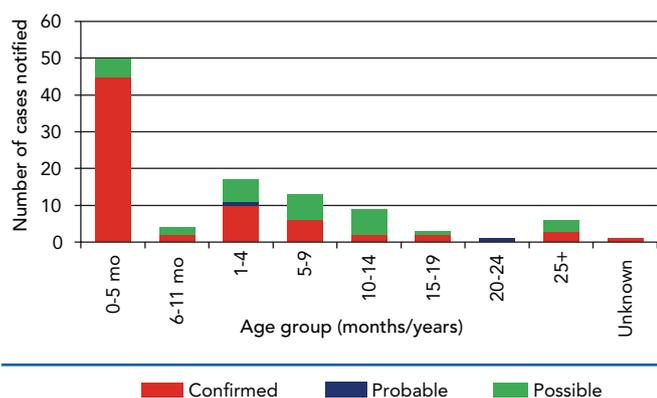


Figure 1. Number of notified pertussis cases in 2008 by age group and case classification. "Mo" in graph indicates months i.e. 0-5 months and 6-11 months, the remaining age groups are in years.

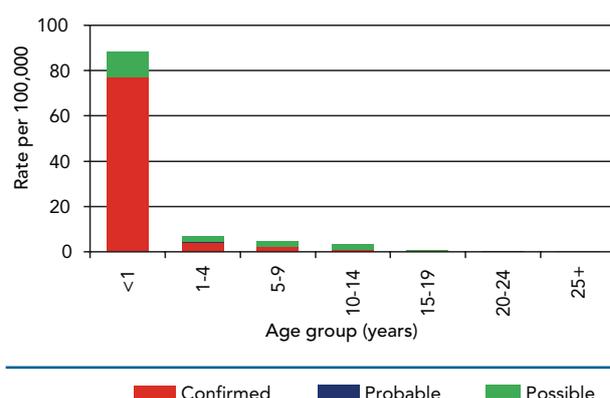


Figure 2. The age specific incidence rates (per 100,000) of notified pertussis cases in 2008 by case classification.