

1.7 Rubella

Summary

Number of cases, 2008: 40
 Number of confirmed cases, 2008: 2
 Crude incidence rate, 2008: 1.0/100,000
 Crude confirmed incidence rate, 2008: 0.05/100,000

In 2008, 40 cases (1.0/100,000) of rubella were notified in Ireland compared to 19 cases in 2007.

Two of the cases in 2008 were classified as confirmed giving a crude confirmed incidence rate of 0.05 per 100,000 total population. Both confirmed cases were in the age group 25-34 years (figure 1). Thirty seven cases in 2008 were classified as possible; over two thirds of these were less than three years of age (figure 1). One case, in the age group 1-2 years, was classified as probable (figure 1). The age specific incidence rates by case classification are shown in figure 2.

Of the 40 rubella cases 26 (65%) were male and 14 (35%) were female. Of the two confirmed cases one was male and one was female.

Rubella vaccine in Ireland is available as part of the combined measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

In Ireland, vaccination with the first dose of MMR is routinely recommended at twelve months of age and the second dose at four to five years of age.

Vaccination status was reported for 31 (78%) of the rubella cases in 2008. Fourteen cases (n=14/31, 45%) were unvaccinated and three cases (n=3/31, 10%) were reported as incompletely vaccinated. Fourteen cases (n=14/31, 45%) were reported as completely vaccinated for their age, only three (n=3/14, 21%) of these were reported to have two doses of MMR. All 31 cases where vaccination status was reported were classified as possible cases.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 30th July 2009. These figures may differ slightly from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.

WHO European data are available at <http://data.euro.who.int/CISID/>.

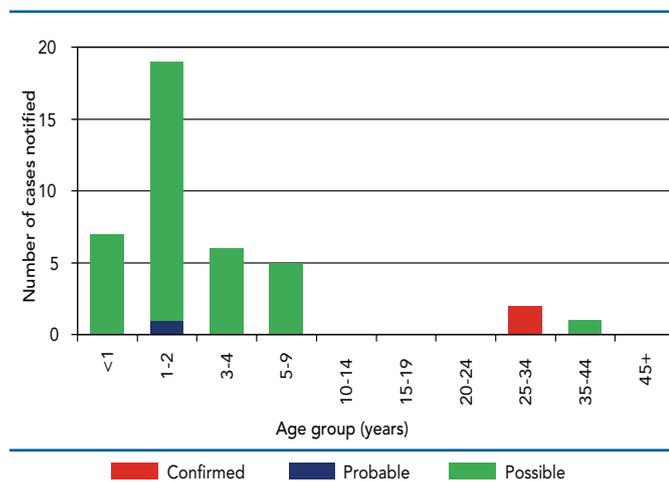


Figure 1. Number of notified rubella cases in 2008 by age group and case classification.

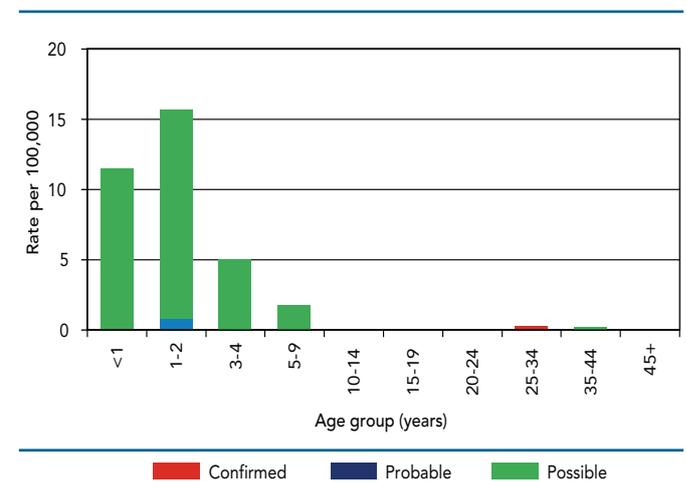


Figure 2. The age specific incidence rates (per 100,000 population) of notified rubella cases in 2008 by case classification.