

2.6 Chickenpox-hospitalised cases

Summary

Number of cases, 2013: 53
Crude incidence rate, 2013: 1.2/100,000

Chickenpox-hospitalised cases

The Health Act, 1947 entitles the Minister for Health to declare by regulation diseases that are infectious, covered by legislation and that require notification to a Medical Officer of Health. The infectious diseases notifiable in Ireland are regulated in the 1981 Infectious Diseases Regulations. The amendment S.I. No. 452 of 2011 to these regulations specified for the first time the disease chickenpox, hospitalised cases only, as notifiable. Chickenpox is caused by varicella-zoster virus. The case definition is available at www.hpsc.ie.

In 2013, 53 (1.2/100,000) hospitalised chickenpox cases were notified in Ireland compared to 80 (1.7/100,000) in 2012. The largest number of cases and largest crude incidence rate was in the HSE E (table 1). Of the 53 cases, 37 (70%) were classified as confirmed, three (6%) as probable and 13 (25%) as possible. The largest number of cases was in the age group 3-4 years followed by those <1 year (figure 1). The highest age specific incidence rate was in the age group <1 year followed by 3-4 years (figure 2). Of the 53 cases, 28 (53%) were male, 24 (45%) were female while gender was not reported for one case (2%).

Chickenpox/varicella outbreaks

The amendment S.I. No. 707 of 2003 to the infectious disease regulations specified that unusual clusters

Table 1. Number of notified hospitalised chickenpox cases and the crude incidence rate per 100,000 population (CIR) by HSE Area in 2013

HSE Area	Number	CIR
HSE E	32	2.0
HSE M	2	0.7
HSE MW	6	1.6
HSE NE	2	0.5
HSE NW	1	0.4
HSE SE	1	0.2
HSE S	7	1.1
HSE W	2	0.4
Total	53	1.2

or changing patterns of illness that may be of public health concern must be reported. Therefore, outbreaks of chickenpox must be notified regardless of hospitalisation status. One outbreak of chickenpox was notified in 2013. This outbreak occurred in a crèche with eight ill.

The figures presented in this summary are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 30th July 2014. These figures may differ slightly from those published previously due to ongoing updating of notification data on CIDR.

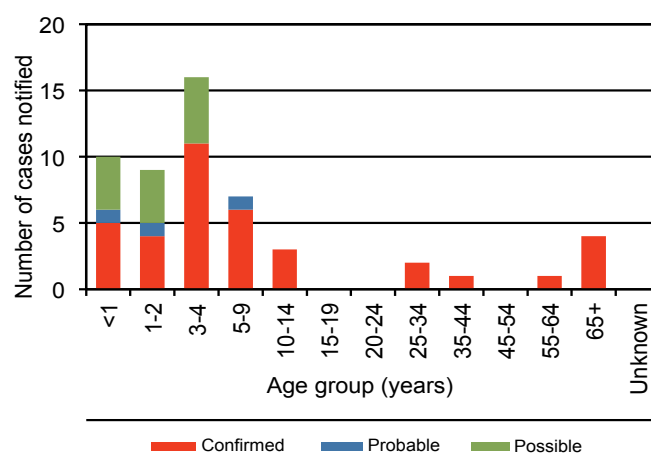


Figure 1. Number of notified hospitalised chickenpox cases in 2013 by age group and case classification

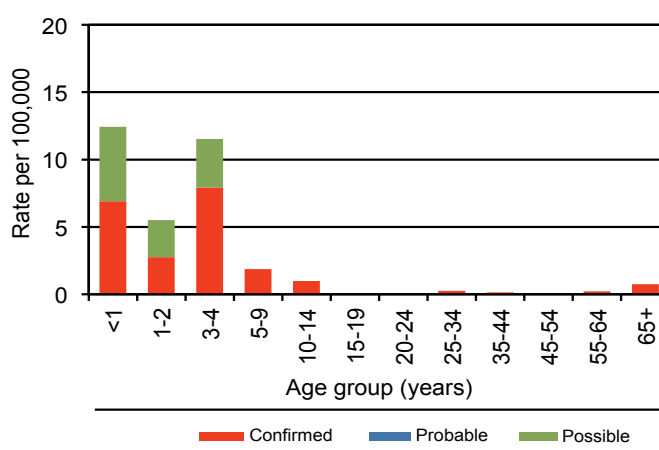


Figure 2. The age specific incidence rate (per 100,000 population) of notified hospitalised chickenpox cases in 2013 by case classification