

4.4 Other Vectorborne Diseases

Four vectorborne diseases were added to the notifiable disease list in Ireland from the beginning of 2012. This chapter summarises the information gathered on these notifications in the second year of formal surveillance. The case definitions for these diseases are outlined on the HPSC website at <http://www.hpsc.ie/NotifiableDiseases/CaseDefinitions/>.

Lyme neuroborreliosis

Lyme neuroborreliosis is an infection caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted to humans by bites from ticks, generally hard-bodied ticks (*Ixodidae*).

During 2015, 12 cases of Lyme neuroborreliosis were notified in Ireland, six female and six male. Six patients were admitted to hospital, four were GP patients and one each were reported as a hospital out-patient and a hospital day patient. One case was reported as being acquired abroad, two acquired the infection in Ireland and the remaining nine cases did not report country of infection.

Cases were reported from five of the eight HSE areas. Table 2 displays the regional distribution of cases by age group in years.

Chikungunya fever

One case of chikungunya was notified in Ireland in 2015. Country of infection was reported as the Cook Islands.

West Nile fever

No cases of West Nile fever were notified in Ireland in 2015.

Dengue Fever

During 2015, eight confirmed cases of dengue fever were notified. Four cases were reported as GP patients and one was admitted to hospital. Patient type was not reported for the remaining three cases. Table 2 displays the regional distribution of cases by age group in years.

Dengue is found commonly throughout the tropics and subtropics and is endemic in about 100 countries. Of the eight cases reported in 2015, country of infection was reported for five cases (62.5%). One case each reported country of infection as Brazil, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The remaining three cases did not have a country of infection specified.

Table 1: Lyme neuroborreliosis notifications by age group (years) and HSE-area, 2015

Age group (years)	HSE-E	HSE-M	HSE-MW	HSE-NE	HSE-NW	HSE-SE	HSE-S	HSE-W	Total
5-9 yrs	1								1
10-14 yrs		1							1
25-34 yrs	1								1
35-44 yrs							2	1	3
45-54 yrs								1	1
55-64 yrs							1	1	2
65+ yrs			3						3
Total	2	1	3	0	0	0	3	3	12

Table 2: Dengue fever notifications by age group (years) and HSE-area, 2015

Age group (years)	HSE-E	HSE-M	HSE-MW	HSE-NE	HSE-NW	HSE-SE	HSE-S	HSE-W	Total
20-24 yrs	1								1
25-34 yrs	2			1					3
35-44 yrs	2								2
45-54 yrs	1		1						2
Total	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8