

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 2014, 18 cases of Lyme neuroborreliosis were notified in Ireland, 10 female and eight male. Six patients were admitted to hospital, two were reported as hospital out-patients and nine were GP patients. The hospitalisation status of the remaining case was not specified. One case was reported as being acquired abroad, seven acquired the infection in Ireland and the remaining 10 cases did not report country of infection.

Cases were reported from five of the eight HSE areas, with 72.2% of the cases reported by HSE-S and -MW. Table 1 displays the regional distribution of cases by age group in years.

Dengue Fever

During 2014, 21 confirmed cases of dengue fever were notified. Three cases were reported as being admitted to hospital, 10 were GP patients, one was a hospital outpatient and one was an emergency department patient. Patient type was not reported for the remaining six 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 21 cases reported in 2014, country of infection was reported for 11 cases (47.6%). Three cases reported country of infection as Thailand, two as Malaysia and one case each as Columbia, Costa Rica, India, Philippines, Tunisia and Viet Nam. The remaining 10 cases did not have a country of infection specified but two of these cases reported recent travel in Asia. These destinations most likely reflect the frequency of travel by Irish residents to dengue endemic countries.

West Nile fever

No cases of West Nile fever was notified in Ireland in 2014.

Chikungunya fever:

One case of chikungunya was notified in Ireland in 2014. Country of infection was not reported but the case had a recent travel history to South America.

Table 1: Lyme neuroborreliosis notifications by age group (years) and HSE-area, 2014

Age group (years)	HSE-E	HSE-M	HSE-MW	HSE-NE	HSE-NW	HSE-SE	HSE-S	HSE-W	Total
15-19 yrs			1			1			2
20-24 yrs								1	1
25-34 yrs			2				1		3
35-44 yrs			1						1
45-54 yrs							3	1	4
55-64 yrs	1					1	2		4
65+ yrs			1				2		3
Total	1	0	5	0	0	2	8	2	18

Table 2: Dengue fever notifications by age group (years) and HSE-area, 2014

Age group (years)	HSE-E	HSE-M	HSE-MW	HSE-NE	HSE-NW	HSE-SE	HSE-S	HSE-W	Total
15-19 yrs						1			1
20-24 yrs	2								2
25-34 yrs	5					1		1	7
35-44 yrs	3					1	1	2	7
45-54 yrs	1								1
55-64 yrs	1					1			2
65+ yrs		1							1
Total	12	1	0	0	0	4	1	3	21