

Toxoplasmosis

During 2007, 49 cases of toxoplasmosis were notified compared to 44 in 2006 and 45 in 2005.

Two cases were reported as congenital cases. Congenital cases were identified through a pilot toxoplasmosis screening program which commenced in July 2005, and was coordinated at the Rotunda Hospital in conjunction with the National Newborn Screening Laboratory. The pilot program was completed in July 2007.

The remaining 47 cases ranged in age from 4 years to 63 years (median, 32 years). Of the 47 cases, 32 were female and 15 were male. The high number of cases reported among women of child-bearing age may reflect enhanced testing during pregnancy.

Table. Toxoplasmosis notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2007

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<1 yr	2	0	2
1-4 yrs	1	0	1
5-14 yrs	2	0	2
15-24 yrs	3	2	5
25-44 yrs	5	26	31
45-64 yrs	4	4	8
65+ yrs	0	0	0
Total	17	32	49

Brucellosis

During 2007, 28 cases of brucellosis were notified compared 29 in 2006 and 53 notifications in 2005.

Twenty-five cases (89%) were male while three (11%) were female. The cases ranged in aged from 27 years to 80 years (mean age, 53 years; median age, 55 years). The age and sex distribution for brucellosis in recent years in Ireland suggests that occupational exposure is likely to be the main transmission route for this disease.

In 2007, seven cases were reported as confirmed, and 21 as were classified as probable. The case definition permits inclusion of acute and chronic cases. In 2007, 22 cases were reported as chronic cases; acute/chronic status was not reported for the remaining 6 cases.

Table. Brucellosis notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2007

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<5 yr	0	0	0
5-14 yrs	0	0	0
15-24 yrs	0	0	0
25-44 yrs	3	1	4
45-64 yrs	18	2	20
65+ yrs	4	0	4
Total	25	3	28