

## 4.3 Other Non-IID Zoonotic Diseases

### Toxoplasmosis

During 2011, 32 cases of toxoplasmosis were notified compared to 36 in 2010 and 37 in 2009.

One congenital case was reported. The remaining 31 cases ranged in age from 1 year to 77 years (median, 33 years). As in previous years, female cases dominated (75%). The high number of cases reported among women of child-bearing age may reflect enhanced testing during pregnancy (Table 1).

### Q Fever

One probable and four confirmed cases of Q fever were notified during 2011, two of which were reported to have been hospitalized (40%). This is a decrease compared to 9 notifications in 2010 and 17 notifications in 2009.

Three cases occurred in males and two in females (Table 2). The cases ranged in age from 39 to 81 years (median age, 58 years).

Cases were reported from five different HSE-areas: M, NE, SE, S and W. This distribution may reflect a regional difference in risk or variation in diagnostic policy/practice in different parts of the country.

The disease is commonly acquired through occupational exposure to infected sheep and other small ruminants, e.g. by farmers, veterinarians, and abattoir workers.

Over the last number of years, the south of the Netherlands has been experiencing large community outbreaks of Q fever during the summer months. Some clusters have been linked with Q fever outbreaks on goat farms.<sup>1</sup>

1. Schwimmer et al, B. 2009. Sustained intensive transmission of Q fever in the South of the Netherlands, 2009. <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/images/dynamic/EE/V14N19/art19210.pdf>

Table 1: Toxoplasmosis notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2011

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<1 yr	0	1	1
1-4 yrs	0	1	1
5-14 yrs	1	0	1
15-24 yrs	1	3	4
25-44 yrs	5	15	20
45-64 yrs	0	4	4
65+ yrs	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32</b>

Table 2: Q fever notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2011

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	0	1	1
45-64 yrs	1	1	2
65+ yrs	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

## Brucellosis

During 2011, only one case of brucellosis was notified in an adult male. This compares to two notifications in total for brucellosis in 2010 and zero in 2009. The species reported for the 2011 case was *Brucella melitensis*, and infection was associated with travel to the Middle East.

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.

The case definition permits inclusion of acute and chronic cases. In previous years, many cases were reported as chronic cases with only small numbers of acute cases reported.

## Echinococcosis

In 2011, there were no notifications of echinococcosis. Prior to this there have only been four cases of echinococcosis notified in Ireland since the disease became notifiable in 2004; in 2008, two adult cases were notified, and one adult case was notified each in 2009 and 2010.

Because of the long incubation period for this disease, it is possible that these infections occurred many years ago.

## Trichinosis

No cases of trichinosis were notified in Ireland in 2011.