

4.1 Other Non-IID Zoonotic Diseases

Toxoplasmosis

During 2010, 37 cases of toxoplasmosis were notified compared to 37 in 2009 and 49 in 2008.

One congenital case was reported. The remaining 36 cases ranged in age from 15 years to 58 years (median, 33 years). As in previous years, female cases dominated (65%). The high number of cases reported among women of child-bearing age may reflect enhanced testing during pregnancy (Table 1).

Q Fever

Nine cases of Q fever were notified during 2010, two of which were reported to have been hospitalized (22%). This is a decrease compared to 17 notifications in 2009 and 13 notifications in 2008.

Three cases occurred in males and six in females (Table 2). The cases ranged in age from 19 to 75 years (median age, 44 years). All cases were classified as confirmed.

Seven cases were reported from HSE-S and two from HSE-MW. 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.¹

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 2010

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<1 yr	1	0	1
1-4 yrs	0	0	0
5-14 yrs	0	0	0
15-24 yrs	3	3	6
25-44 yrs	6	19	25
45-64 yrs	3	2	5
65+ yrs	0	0	0
Total	13	24	37

Table 2. Q fever notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2010

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<5 yr	0	0	0
5-14 yrs	0	0	0
15-24 yrs	0	1	1
25-44 yrs	0	4	4
45-64 yrs	2	0	2
65+ yrs	1	1	2
Total	3	6	9