

Q Fever

Seventeen cases of Q fever were notified during 2007 compared to 12 in 2006 and ten in 2005.

Six cases occurred in males and eleven in females. The cases ranged in age from three years to 83 years (mean age, 41 years; median age, 37 years).

Four cases were classified as confirmed and thirteen as probable.

The disease is commonly acquired through occupational exposure to infected sheep, e.g. farmers, veterinarians, and abattoir workers. In 2006, the United Kingdom reported a large outbreak of Q fever associated with a slaughterhouse in Scotland .

Donaghy M, Prempeh H, Macdonald N. Outbreak of Q fever in workers at a meat processing plant in Scotland, July 2006. *Euro Surveill.* 2006;11(34): 3031. Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=3031>

Trichinosis

Two linked cases of trichinosis were reported in Ireland in 2007. These were the first cases of trichinosis notified in Ireland since the disease became notifiable in 2004. The cases had travelled to Poland during their incubation period where they consumed lightly smoked sausages.¹ They were linked to a large outbreak which was reported in Poland at that time.²

1. **McHugh G, Low J, Healy ML, Clarke S, Kiely D, Hayes C.** 2007. Two Cases of Trichinosis in Polish Nationals living in Ireland. *Epi-insight* 8:1
2. **Golab E, Szulc M, Wnukowska N, Rozej W, Fell G, Sadkowska-Todys M.** Outbreak of trichinellosis in north-western Poland – Update and exported cases, June-July 2007. *Euro Surveill.* 2007;12(29):pii=3238. Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=3238>

Table. Q fever notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2007

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<5 yr	0	1	1
5-14 yrs	0	0	0
15-24 yrs	1	0	1
25-44 yrs	3	6	9
45-64 yrs	1	2	3
65+ yrs	1	2	3
Total	6	11	17