

Toxoplasmosis

During 2006, 44 cases of toxoplasmosis were notified compared to 47 in 2005 and 33 in 2004.

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

The remaining 37 cases ranged in age from four years to 78 years (mean age, 34 years; median, 32 years) (table 1). Of the 44 cases, 34 were female and 10 were male. The high number of cases reported among women of child-bearing age may reflect enhanced testing during pregnancy.

Table 1. Toxoplasmosis notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2006

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<1 yr	3	4	7
1-4 yrs	0	1	1
5-14 yrs	0	0	0
15-24 yrs	2	4	6
25-44 yrs	3	19	22
45-64 yrs	2	5	7
65+ yrs	0	1	1
Total	10	34	44

Brucellosis

During 2006, 29 cases of brucellosis were notified compared to 53 in 2005 and 60 notifications in 2004.

Twenty-seven cases (93%) were male while two (7%) were female. The cases ranged in aged from 9 years to 84 years (mean age, 55 years; median age, 58 years) (table 2). 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 2006, four cases were reported as confirmed, and 25 as were classified as probable. It is important to bear in mind that notifications classified as probable may be a reflection of past infection rather than acute infection as many of the laboratory notifications were based on an isolated high titre result. Specifically in 2006, 17 of the 25 probable cases were reported as chronic cases; acute/chronic status was not specified for seven of the remaining probable cases.

Table 2. Brucellosis notifications by age and sex, Ireland 2006

Age group	Male	Female	Total
<5 yr	0	0	0
5-14 yrs	1	0	1
15-24 yrs	0	0	0
25-44 yrs	5	1	6
45-64 yrs	15	1	16
65+ yrs	6	0	6
Total	27	2	29