



Annual Epidemiological Report

October 2019

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in Ireland, 2018

Key Facts

- Nine cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob (CJD) disease were notified in 2018.
- All cases in 2018 were sporadic CJD cases.
- In total, 98 cases of CJD were notified since CJD was first specified as a notifiable disease in December 1996.

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Epidemiology

Nine cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) were notified in 2018 identical to 2017 when nine cases were also notified. All cases in 2018 were sporadic CJD cases. One case was in the age group 55-64 years and eight were in the age group ≥ 65 years. Six cases were female and three were male.

In total, 98 cases of CJD were notified since CJD was first specified as a notifiable disease in December 1996 (figure 1). Figure 2 shows the 98 CJD notifications by age group. The majority (84%, n=82) of the cases were aged greater than 54 years. Of the 98 cases, 54 were female and 44 were male. Ninety-four cases were sporadic CJD, two were familial CJD and two were iatrogenic.

Variant CJD (vCJD) is specified as a separate notifiable disease. No cases have been notified since 2006. In total, four cases of vCJD were notified since vCJD became notifiable in December 1996. A summary of these four cases was provided in the [2006 HPSC annual report](#).

Since the signing into law of the Infectious Disease (Amendment) Regulations 2018 on 18th December 2018, both suspected and confirmed cases of CJD and vCJD are notifiable; prior to this only confirmed cases were notifiable. All CJD cases notified in 2018 were classified as confirmed.

Data presented in this summary are based on notifications from HSE Areas and from the Irish National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit. Annual figures published here are based on the year the notification was entered on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system and consequently may differ from annual figures published by the Irish National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit.

Figure 1. Number of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease notifications in Ireland, by year from December 1996 to 2018

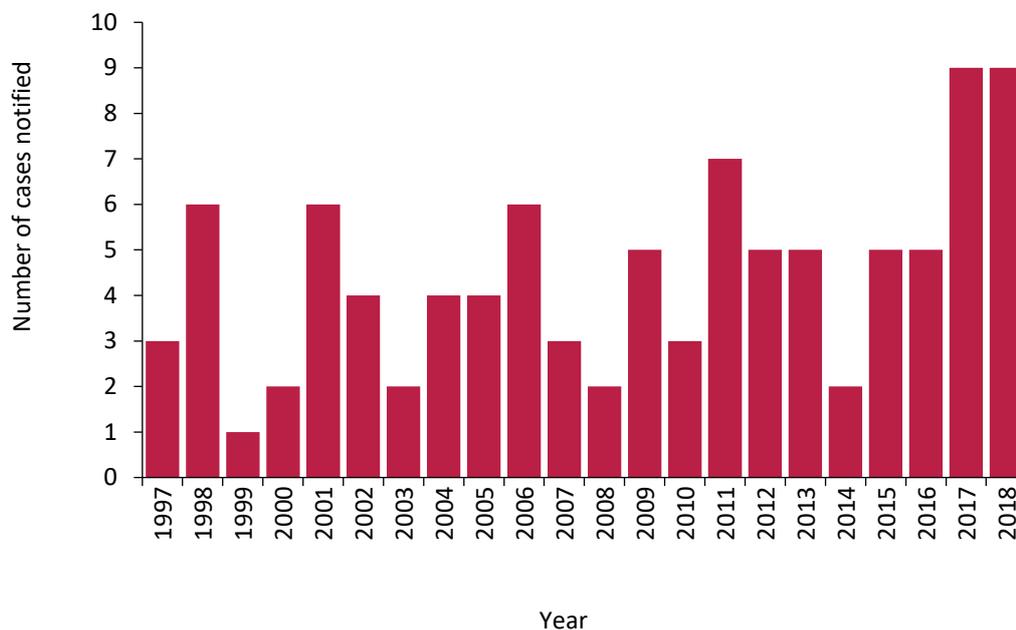
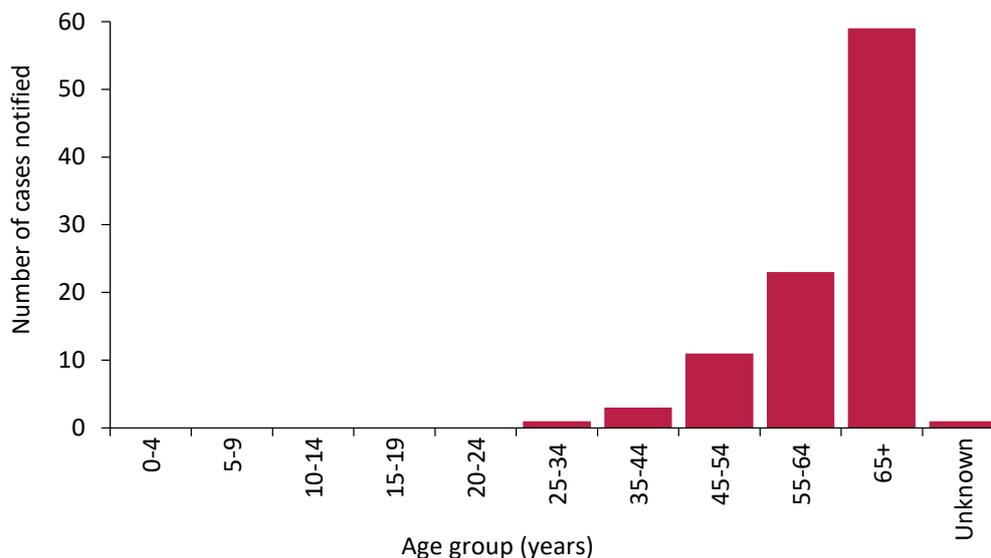


Figure 2. Number of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease notifications (n=98) in Ireland, from December 1996 to 2018 by age group



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Report prepared by:

Sarah Gee, HPSC