

Measles among Healthcare Workers during the Ongoing 2017-2018 Epidemic in Greece

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Introduction

- **Measles is re-emerging in several developed countries.**
- **In EU/EEA more than 14,000 cases were notified in 2017 (x 3-times the number notified in 2016).**
- **From May 2017 Greece experiences a large epidemic, with 2,747 notified cases and three deaths as of May 3, 2018 and a notification rate of 255 / 1,000,000 persons.**

Aim

To describe the measles cases among healthcare workers (HCWs) notified in Greece during the current epidemic.

Methods

- **Notified measles cases among HCWs**
- **May 2017 - May 3, 2018**
- **We retrieved data from the National Surveillance database of notified measles cases.***

* EU definitions

Results

The first case occurred in late July 2017 (week 30/2017)

From July 2017 through May 3, 2018 a total of 117 cases among HCWs were notified.

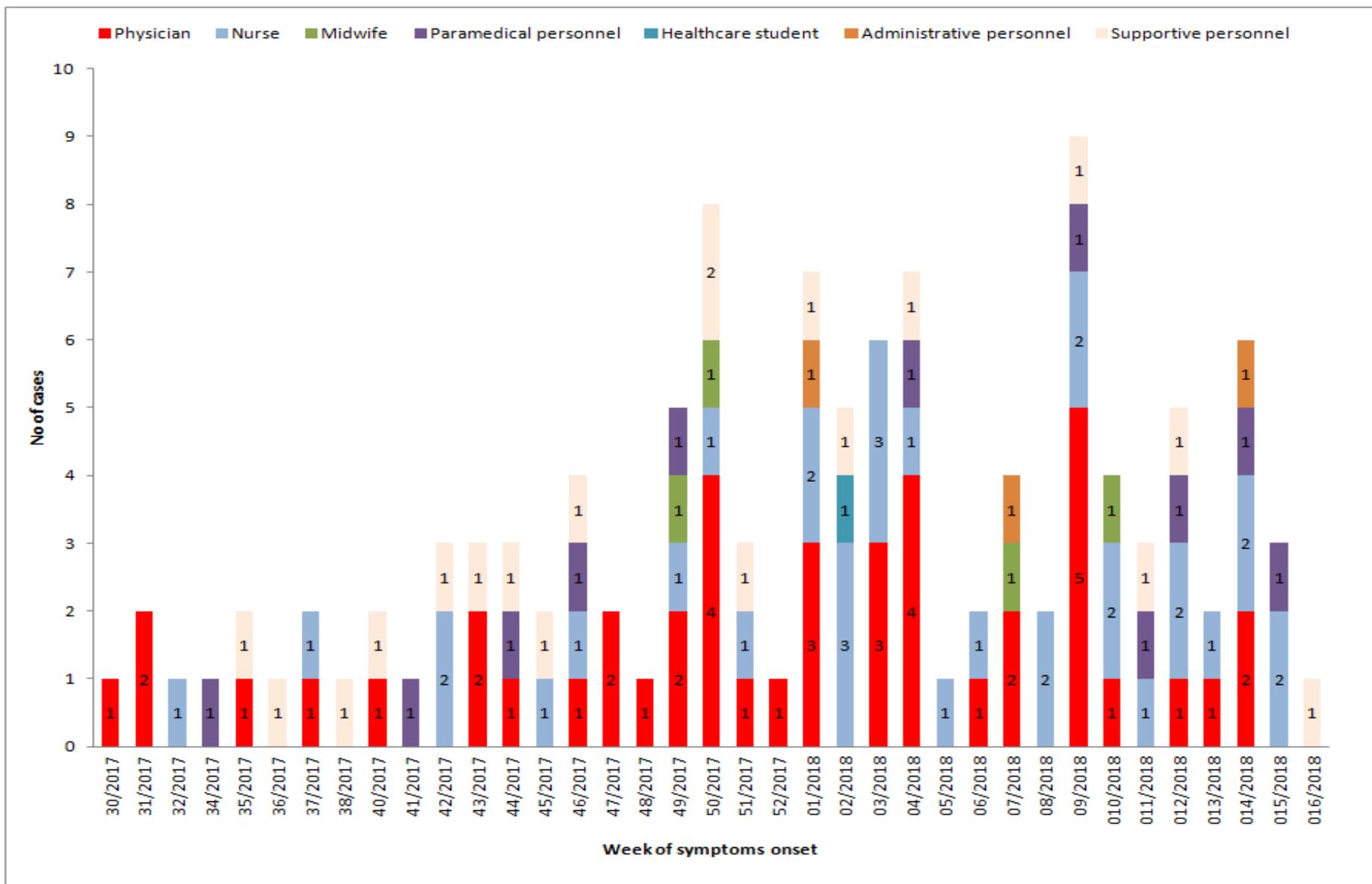
(94 laboratory-confirmed, 14 probable, 9 possible)

HCWs' median age: 38.1 years (range: 20 – 55 years)

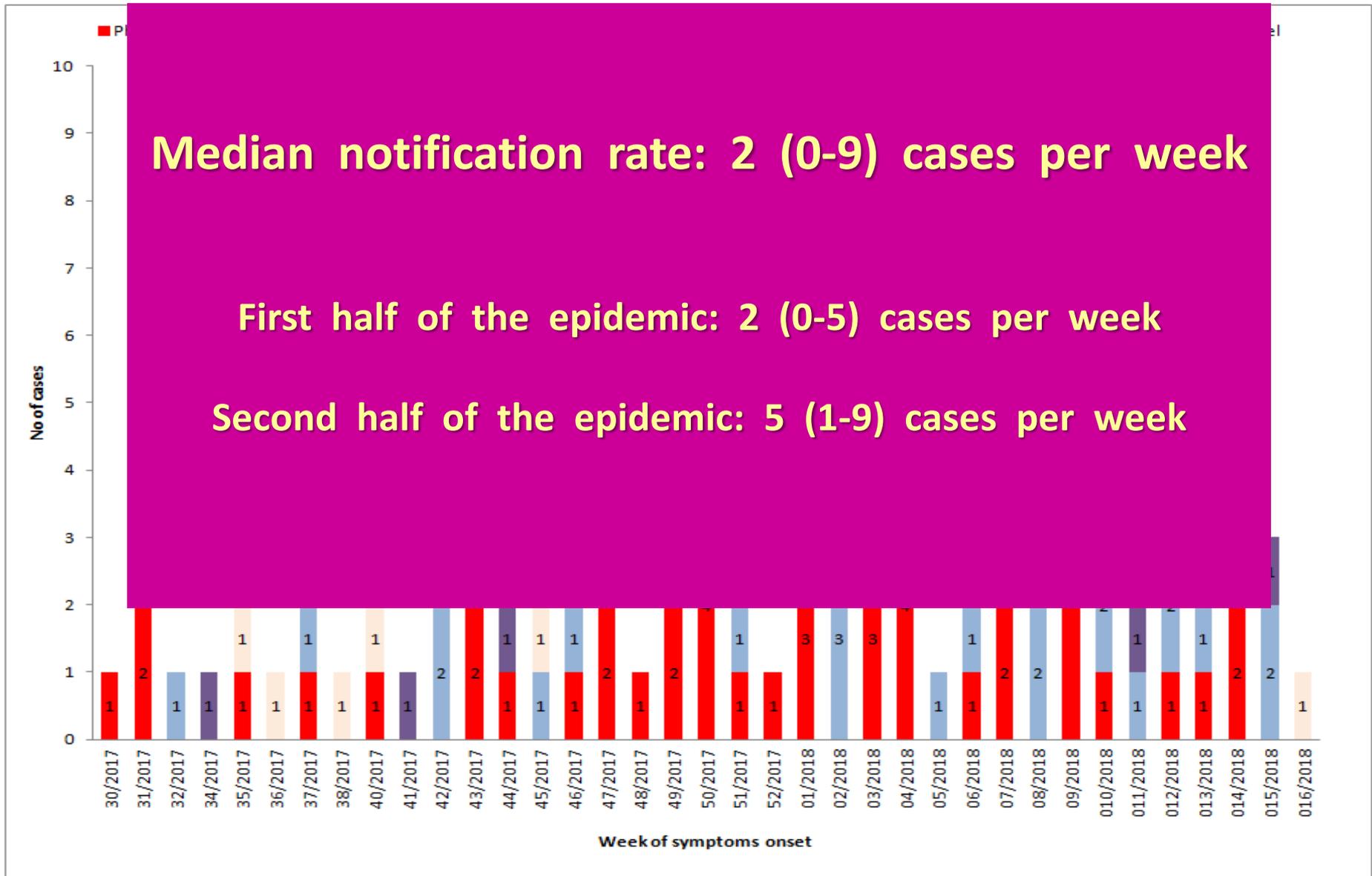
Notification rate: 1429 / 1,000,000 HCWs (x 5.5 times)

HCWs accounted for 4.2% of all cases notified in Greece

Notified measles cases in HCWs, Greece, July 2017 - May 3 2018 (n=117)

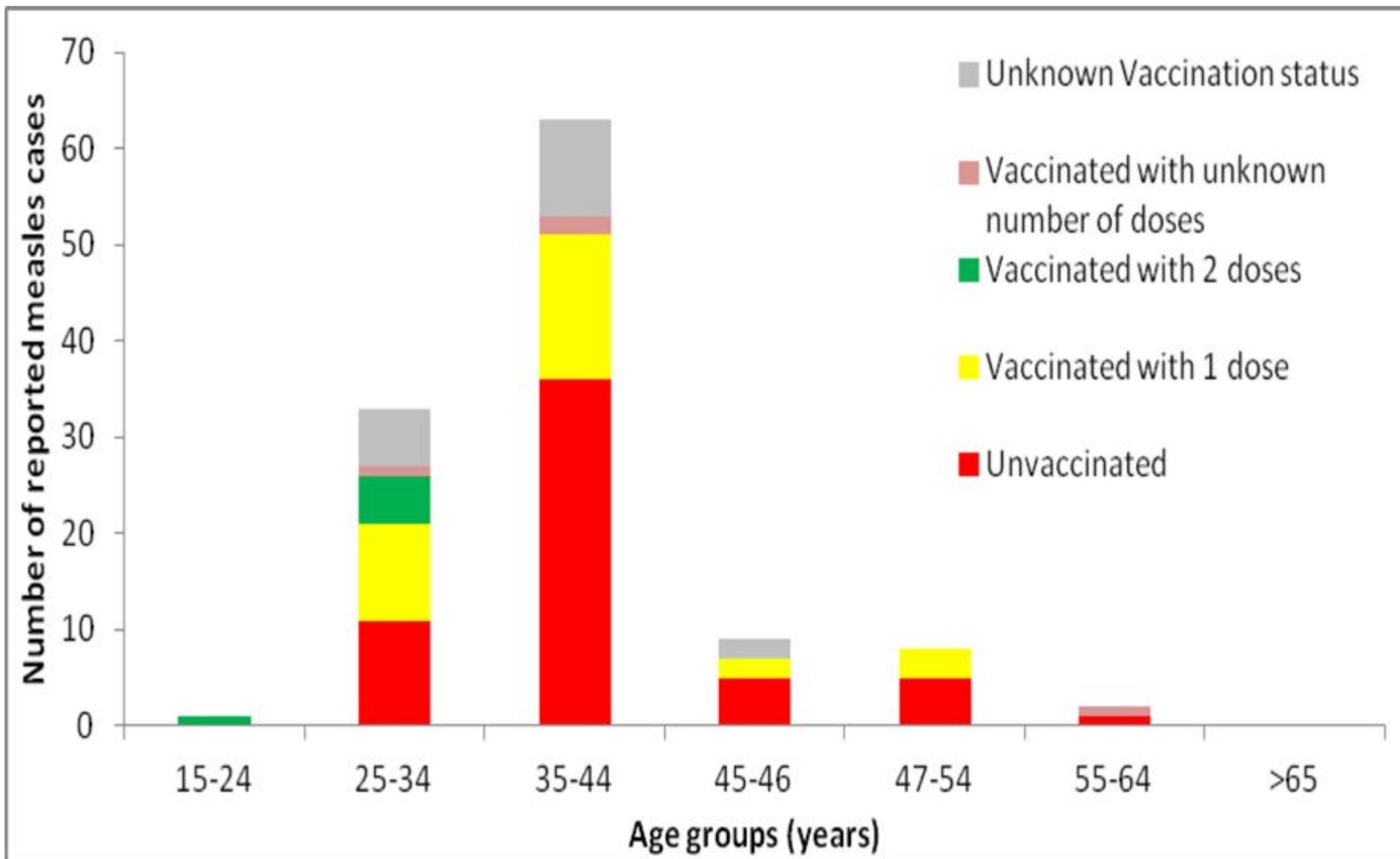


Notified measles cases in HCWs, Greece, July 2017 - May 3 2018 (n=117)



Characteristics of HCWs with measles (n=117)

Vaccination status of HCWs with measles per age group, Greece July 27, 2017- May 3, 2018 (n=117)



Clinical course and outcome of HCWs with measles

- **Sixty-seven (57.2%) HCWs were hospitalized.**
- **Measles-associated complications (mainly pneumonia/pneumonitis and/or hepatitis) occurred in 36 (30.8%) HCWs (x 2-times c/w general population)**
- **Three (2.6%) HCWs were admitted in an intensive care unit and were intubated.**
- **No HCWs with measles died.**

Conclusions

- **Our study confirms that HCWs constitute a high-risk group for acquisition of measles and manifestation of serious illness.**
- **Modifications in the routine vaccination program against measles the past two decades most probably resulted in the suboptimal vaccination coverage among young HCWs.**
- **Protection of HCWs against measles with a two-doses scheme is imperative.**
- **Mandatory vaccination of HCWs against measles should be considered, especially in the context of a community epidemic.**