Results

661 S. pneumoniae, 936 H. influenzae and 421 M. catarrhalis were tested. The results are shown in the tables and bar charts.

In S. pneumoniae, overall >85% of isolates are susceptible to each antibiotic. The level of susceptibility is lower in Ireland than elsewhere for penicillin, cefaclor, cefuroxime, erythromycin and tetracycline.

In H. influenzae, overall >85% of isolates are susceptible to each antibiotic except cefaclor (1%), cefuroxime (81%) and erythromycin (1%). Irish isolates are more likely than others to be β-lactamase positive and to have reduced susceptibility to ampicillin, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid and cefuroxime.

In M. catarrhalis, overall >90% of isolates are susceptible to each antibiotic except amoxicillin (10%) and cefaclor (42%). Susceptibility to cefaclor is lower in Scotland and Ireland.

Conclusion

Most community-acquired lower respiratory pathogens remain susceptible to most antimicrobial agents. However, regional differences exist and detailed surveillance is required to detect them.

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