

Invasive Meningococcal Disease Monthly Report July 2024

This report summarises invasive meningococcal disease notifications and trends nationally from 1 January to 31 July 2024. Information is based on data recorded in EpiSurv and at ESR's Meningococcal Reference Laboratory as at 14 August 2024. Data presented may be further updated and should be regarded as provisional.

Summary

Between 1 January and 31 July 2024:

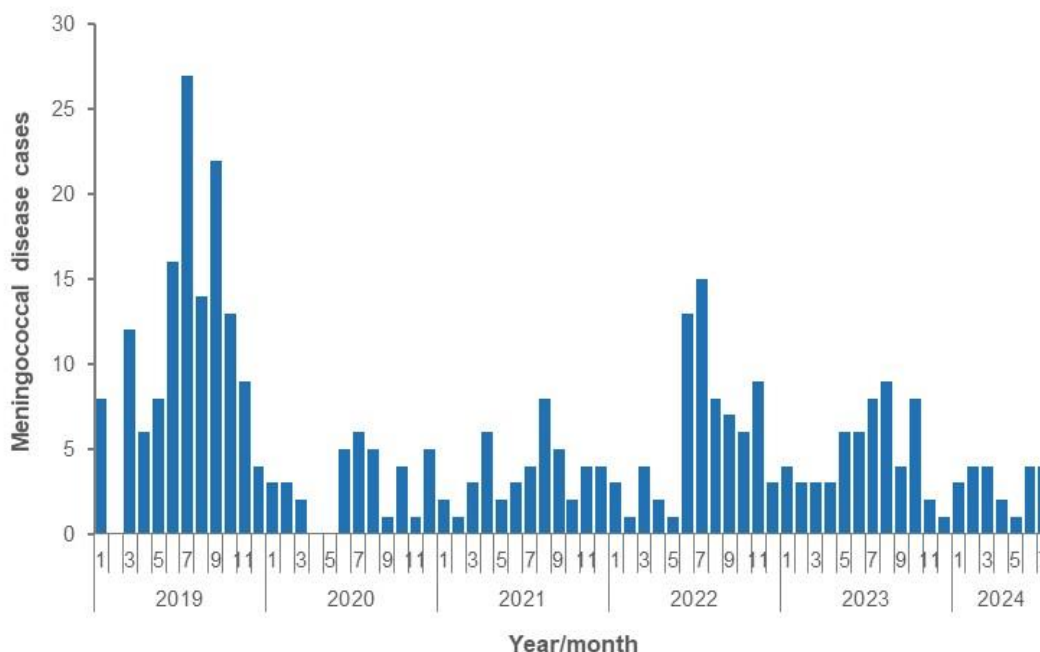
- there were 22 cases (20 confirmed and 2 probable) of invasive meningococcal disease reported. This number is similar to the same period in 2020 and 2021 and lower than in 2019, 2022 and 2023;
- there was one death in a young adult aged 15–19 years;
- group B was the dominant group type. The group was identified for 17 cases: 12 (71%) were group B, four were group Y and one was group W;
- the cases were geographically dispersed.

National trends

Between 1 January and 31 July 2024, there were 22 cases of meningococcal disease reported (20 confirmed and 2 probable). There was one death in a young adult aged 15–19 years due to group B, PorA type P1.22,14.

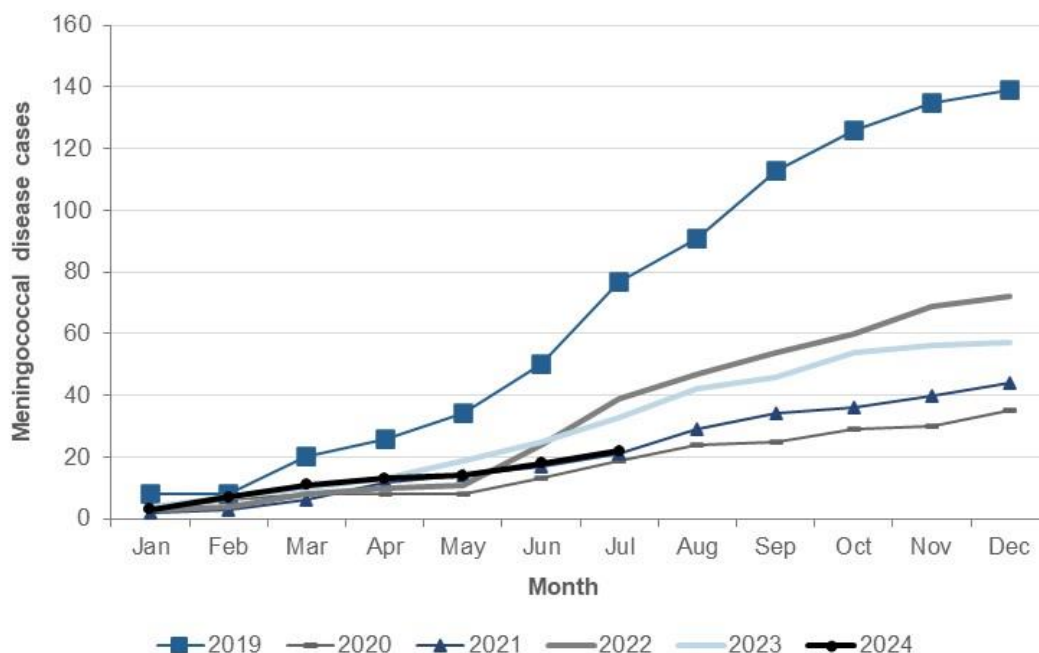
In New Zealand, meningococcal disease follows a seasonal pattern with case numbers peaking in winter and continuing into spring (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of meningococcal disease cases by month and year, 2019–2024



The total number of cases in 2024 to date is similar to the same period in 2020 and 2021 and lower than in 2019, 2022 and 2023 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Cumulative number of meningococcal disease cases by month, January 2019 to July 2024

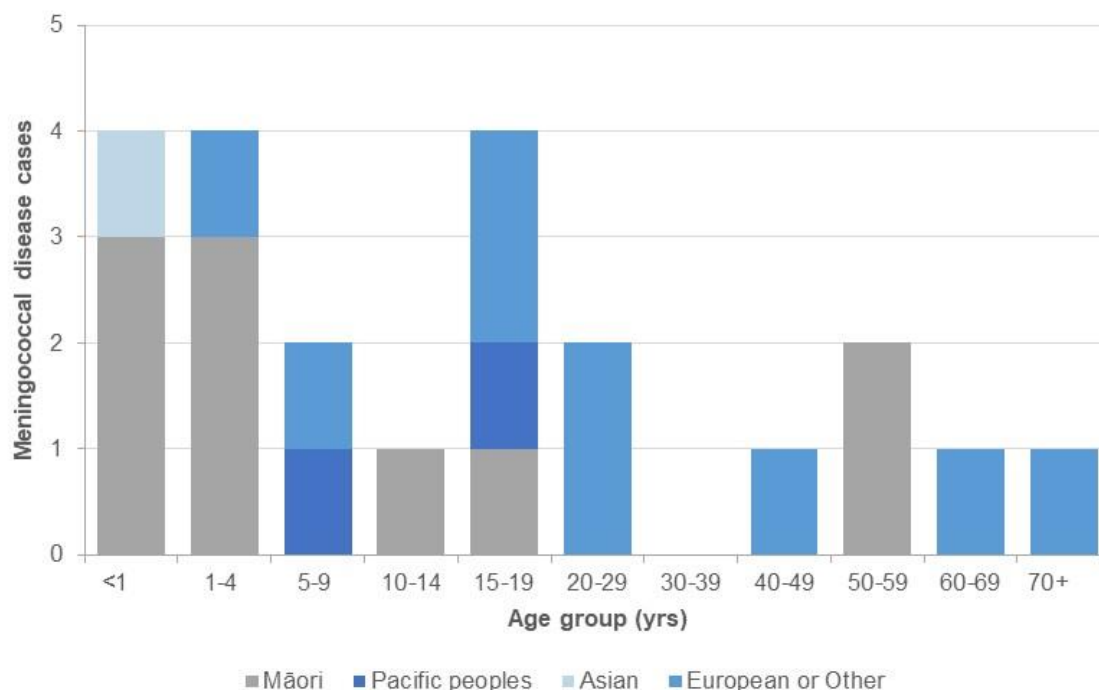


Meningococcal disease by ethnic group and age group

The majority of meningococcal disease cases in 2024 to date have been Māori (45%, 10/22) or European or Other ethnic groups (41%, 9/22).

Three quarters (6/8) of cases aged under 5 years were Māori. In comparison, two thirds (4/6) of cases aged 15–29 years were European or Other ethnicity (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Number of meningococcal disease cases by prioritised ethnicity and age group, 1 January to 31 July 2024

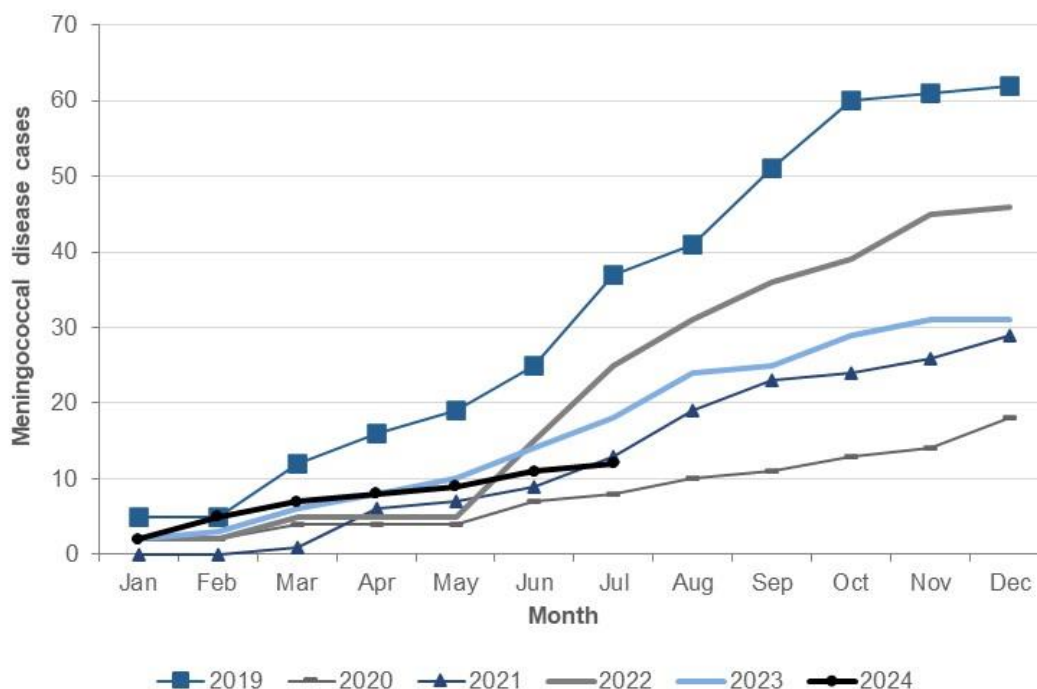


Meningococcal disease by group

The group was identified in 17 (85%) of the 20 confirmed cases notified from 1 January to 31 July 2024. Group B was the dominant group type accounting for 12 (71%) cases, four (24%) were group Y and one (6%) was group W.

For group B cases, the number of cases in 2024 to date is lower than for the same period in 2019, 2022 and 2023, higher than in 2020 and similar to 2021 (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Cumulative number of group B meningococcal disease cases by month, January 2019 to July 2024



The number of cases due to group Y in 2024 to date (4 cases) is higher than for the same period in 2020 (0 cases) and 2021 (1 case), but lower than the same period in 2019 (6 cases), and similar to the same period in 2022 (4 cases) and 2023 (3 cases).

The number of group W cases in 2024 to date (1 case) is lower than for the same period in 2019, 2020 2021 (19, 9, and 3 cases, respectively) and similar to the same period in 2022 and 2023 (2 cases each).

There have been no cases of group C in 2024 to date. The last group E was reported in 2019.

Meningococcal disease by district and group

Meningococcal cases in 2024 to date are geographically dispersed throughout the country (Table 1). The highest number of cases have been reported from the Auckland region (7 cases).

**Table 1. Number of meningococcal disease cases by group and district,
1 January to 31 July 2024**

District	Group			Group unknown ¹	Not lab-confirmed ²	Total
	B	W	Y			
Northland	2	0	0	0	0	2
Waitemata	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auckland	3	0	1	0	0	4
Counties Manukau	3	0	0	0	0	3
Waikato	2	0	0	0	0	2
Lakes	0	0	0	2	0	2
Bay of Plenty	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taranaki	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hawke's Bay	1	0	0	0	0	1
Whanganui	0	0	0	0	0	0
MidCentral	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hutt Valley	0	0	1	1	0	2
Capital & Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wairarapa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Marlborough	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Coast	0	1	0	0	0	1
Canterbury	0	0	0	0	1	1
South Canterbury	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	1	0	1	2
Total	12	1	4	3	2	22

¹ Includes non-groupable and confirmed cases where a sample was not received by ESR

² Probable cases

Group B trends

Table 2 shows the trends in selected group B PorA types since 2019. The PorA types included in the table are those detected to date in 2024 as well as those that were most common in previous years.

Six different PorA types have been identified across the 12 group B cases in 2024 to date, and these have been geographically dispersed.

The most common PorA types are B:P1.7-2,4 and B:P1.7-12,14.

The B:P1.7-12,14 strain was first detected in New Zealand in 2009 and, while rare internationally, has risen steadily to become a common group B strain.

Table 2. Number of group B meningococcal disease cases by selected PorA type, 2019 to July 2024

PorA type	Year					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 ¹
P1.7-2,4	19	9	8	14	8	4
P1.7-12,14	14	3	12	14	11	3
P1.22,14	5	0	2	2	4	2
P1.18-1,3	2	0	0	1	0	1
P1.7-2,16-53	0	0	0	0	0	1
P1.20,23-3	0	0	0	0	0	1
P1.19-1,15	0	0	0	1	2	0
P1.22,14-49	0	0	0	0	2	0
P1.7,16-26	4	0	1	2	1	0
P1.19,15	1	1	1	0	1	0
P1.7,4-46	0	0	0	0	1	0
P1.18-1,30-8	0	0	0	0	1	0
P1.7-36,14	0	2	0	2	0	0
P1.18-1,34	3	0	0	2	0	0
P1.5,2	0	0	1	1	0	0
P1.7-13,14	1	0	0	1	0	0
P1.17,16-3	0	1	1	0	0	0
P1.7,16-53	2	0	1	0	0	0
P1.5-2,10-1	1	0	1	0	0	0
P1.22,9	1	0	1	0	0	0

¹ Data to 31 July 2024