

Invasive Pneumococcal Disease  
Quarterly Report

October–December 2015

Prepared as part of a Ministry of Health  
contract for scientific services

by  
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February 2016

## **Acknowledgements**

This report could not have been produced without the continued support of staff in the public health units and diagnostic microbiology laboratories throughout New Zealand who provide us with data from their regions and refer isolates to ESR.

The authors would also like to thank Julie Morgan (ESR Invasive Pathogens Laboratory) for providing serotyping data and Rebekah Roos (ESR Health Intelligence Team) for data checking.

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## Introduction

Since 17 October 2008, invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) has been notifiable to the local Medical Officer of Health under the Health Act 1956. On 1 June 2008, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) was added to the New Zealand childhood immunisation schedule. Initially the 7-valent conjugate vaccine (PCV7), Prevenar®, was used. In July 2011, Prevenar® was replaced on the schedule with the 10-valent conjugate vaccine (PCV10), Synflorix®. In July 2014, Synflorix® was replaced by the 13-valent conjugate vaccine (PCV13), Prevenar13®.

PCV10 covers the seven serotypes in PCV7 (4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F and 23F) as well as serotypes 1, 5 and 7F. PCV13 covers the 10 serotypes in PCV10 as well as serotypes 3, 6A and 19A. The recommended schedule is four doses, given at 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months and 15 months of age.

These quarterly reports are part of an enhanced surveillance programme to monitor the impact of PCV vaccination, including the changes in vaccine valency, on the epidemiology of IPD in New Zealand.

## Methods

The data presented in this report is based on the information recorded on EpiSurv, the national notifiable disease surveillance system, as at 27 January 2016. Any changes made to EpiSurv data by public health unit staff after this date will not be reflected in this report.

Denominator data used to determine all disease rates in this report was derived from the 2014 mid-year population estimates published by Statistics New Zealand. Rates have not been calculated where there are fewer than five notified cases in any category.

The Fisher's exact test was used to determine statistical significance. Results are considered statistically significant when the *P* value is  $\leq 0.05$ .

*Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates are serotyped at ESR by the capsular antigen reaction (Neufeld test) using the Danish system of nomenclature and sera obtained from the Statens Serum Institut. Methods have not been established at ESR to identify the strain type when only pneumococcal DNA, rather than an isolate, is available. Therefore, the serotype can only be determined for culture-positive IPD cases. Serotype data for invasive isolates of *S. pneumoniae* was matched with the relevant IPD case notification.

## Case definition

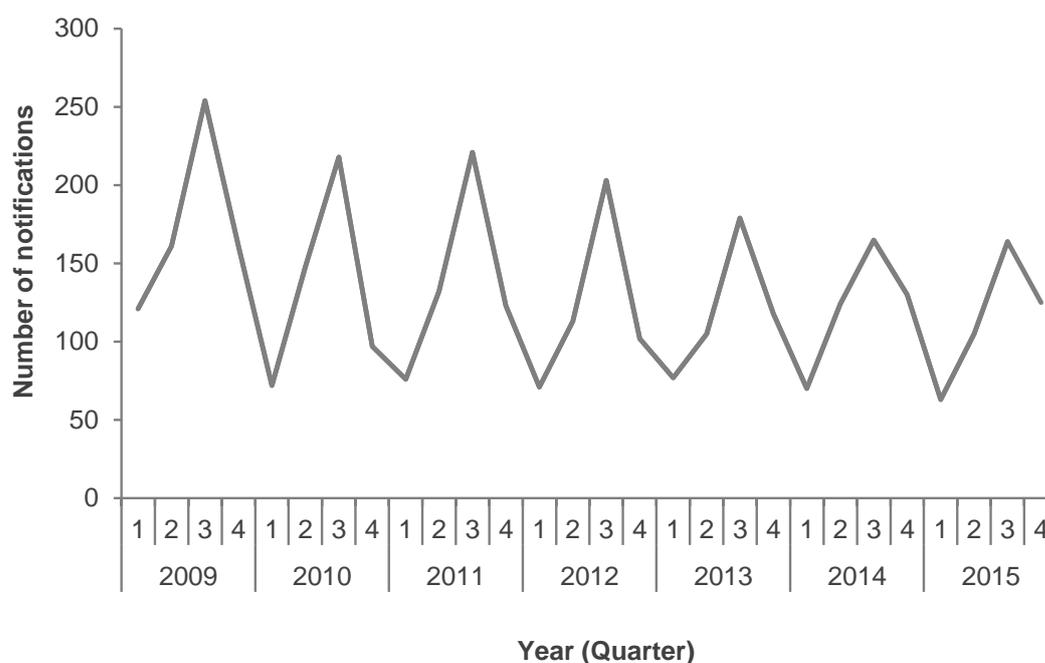
A case of invasive pneumococcal disease is defined as:

- the isolation of *S. pneumoniae* from CSF, blood or other normally sterile site; or
- the detection by nucleic acid amplification test of pneumococcal DNA in CSF, blood or other normally sterile site; or
- a positive newer-generation *S. pneumoniae* antigen test on CSF in individuals from whom samples were obtained after antibiotic treatment.

## Results

There were 125 IPD cases notified in the October–December 2015 quarter, compared with 130 cases in the same quarter in 2014. IPD displays a distinct seasonal pattern with a winter peak and summer trough (Figure 1). The notification rate for the latest 12-month period ending December 2015 (10.1 per 100,000 population, 457 cases) was less than the rate for the previous 12-month period ending December 2014 (10.8 per 100,000, 489 cases).

**Figure 1. Number of cases of invasive pneumococcal disease by quarter reported, January 2009–December 2015**



The distribution of IPD cases and rates by age group is presented in Table 1. During the latest 12-month period the highest rates were in the  $\geq 65$  years (33.5 per 100,000 population, 218 cases) and  $< 2$  years (15.1 per 100,000, 18 cases) age groups. Comparing the latest 12-month period with the previous 12-month period, there was a significant decrease in the  $< 2$  years age group (34 to 18 cases).

**Table 1. Number of cases and rates of invasive pneumococcal disease by age group**

Age group	Oct-Dec 2015	12 months ending Dec 2015		12 months ending Dec 2014	
	Cases	Cases	Rate <sup>a</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>a</sup>
<2 years	5	18	15.1	34	28.5
2–4 years	3	12	6.3	21	11.1
5–64 years	59	209	5.9	216	6.1
$\geq 65$ years	58	218	33.5	218	33.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>10.8</b>

<sup>a</sup> Rate is expressed as cases per 100,000 population.

The distribution of IPD cases and rates by region is presented in Table 2. The highest rate for the latest 12-month period was in the Midland region (12.2 per 100,000 population, 106 cases). Comparing the latest 12-month period to the previous 12-month period, there were no significant changes in any region or DHB.

**Table 2. Number of cases and rates of invasive pneumococcal disease by region**

Region	Oct-Dec 2015	12 months ending Dec 2015		12 months ending Dec 2014	
	Cases	Cases	Rate <sup>a</sup>	Cases	Rate <sup>a</sup>
Northern <sup>b</sup>	46	176	10.3	196	11.5
Midland <sup>c</sup>	31	106	12.2	120	13.8
Central <sup>d</sup>	27	96	9.4	101	9.9
Southern <sup>e</sup>	21	79	8.6	72	7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>10.8</b>

<sup>a</sup> Rate is expressed as cases per 100,000 population.

<sup>b</sup> Includes Northland, Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs.

<sup>c</sup> Includes Waikato, Lakes, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti and Taranaki DHBs.

<sup>d</sup> Includes Hawke's Bay, Whanganui, MidCentral, Hutt Valley, Capital and Coast, Wairarapa and Nelson Marlborough DHBs.

<sup>e</sup> Includes West Coast, Canterbury, South Canterbury and Southern DHBs.

A culture was received at ESR for serotyping from 117 (93.6%) of the 125 cases notified in the October–December 2015 quarter. Table 3 shows the number of IPD cases due to each of the serotypes included in PCV7, PCV10 and PCV13, and due to non-PCV13 serotypes.

The number of IPD cases due to PCV10 serotypes decreased 18.6% between the last two 12-month periods (113 to 92 cases). During the last 12 months, there was just one case of IPD due to a PVC10 type in the <2 years age group.

The four most prevalent serotypes during the last 12 months were 19A, 22F, 7F and 3 (Table 3). However, between the last two 12-month periods there were notable decreases in IPD due to serotypes 19A and 3 (both PCV13 types) in the <2 years age group: 12 to 3 type 19A cases and 7 to 0 type 3 cases. These decreases are likely to be due to the direct effect of the change from PCV10 to PCV13 for routine infant immunisation in mid-late 2014.

Cases of serotype 7F IPD decreased 29.6% between the last two 12-month periods (54 to 38 cases). In recent years, most cases of serotype 7F IPD have been in the ≥5 years age group. The decrease in 7F cases in the last 12 months likely reflects that the switch from PCV7 to PCV10 for infant immunisation in late 2011 is now having an indirect (ie, herd immunity) effect on type 7F (a PCV10 type) disease in the older age groups.

**Table 3. Number of invasive pneumococcal disease cases by serotype and age group**

Serotypes	Age group											
	<2 years			2–4 years			≥5 years			Total		
	Q4 2015 <sup>a</sup>	2015 <sup>b</sup>	2014 <sup>c</sup>	Q4 2015 <sup>a</sup>	2015 <sup>b</sup>	2014 <sup>c</sup>	Q4 2015 <sup>a</sup>	2015 <sup>b</sup>	2014 <sup>c</sup>	Q4 2015 <sup>a</sup>	2015 <sup>b</sup>	2014 <sup>c</sup>
4	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	16	23	3	17	24
6B	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2
9V	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	0	4	7
14	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	3	3	4
18C	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	2	9
19F	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	19	9	6	19	10
23F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	6	2
<b>Total PCV7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7F	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	38	53	9	38	54
<b>Total PCV10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>113</b>
3	0	0	7	0	2	2	9	32	33	9	34	42
6A	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
19A	0	3	12	1	1	5	16	86	70	17	90	87
<b>Total PCV13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>243</b>
6C	0	1	3	0	1	1	10	24	22	10	26	26
8	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	17	19	2	18	21
9N	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	11	15	2	11	17
15A	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	1	3	6	1
15B	0	1	0	1	2	1	5	10	6	6	13	7
22F	1	1	0	0	1	1	10	38	38	11	40	39
23A	1	2	1	0	0	0	6	14	10	7	16	11
23B	0	1	0	0	1	0	6	11	10	6	13	10
33F	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	12	7	2	14	9
Other types <sup>d</sup>	2	3	1	1	1	6	16	56	81	19	60	88
<b>Total non-PCV13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>229</b>

<sup>a</sup> Cases reported in the fourth quarter of 2015 (October-December 2015).

<sup>b</sup> Cases reported in the 12 months ending 31 December 2015.

<sup>c</sup> Cases reported in the 12 months ending 31 December 2014.

<sup>d</sup> Any of these other serogroups/serotypes accounted for ≤5 IPD cases during the 12 months ending 31 December 2015.