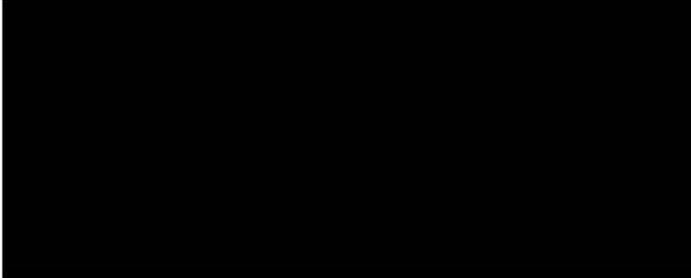


23 APR 2019



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 27 March 2019 for:

"In the attached which I downloaded of the MOH website Fig 3 has six lines in the graph but only 4 descriptors.

Can I have an up-to-date graph showing six groups with appropriate descriptors?

Also...

Can I have copies of all updates/reports/communications between the MOH and the Minister including advice regarding parliamentary questions and media briefings etc., since 1 January 2019 regarding meningococcal disease, vaccination, proposed action, and the recent <1 year old case of MenW etc.?

Can I also have details of adverse events recorded by practitioners in Northland broken down by vaccine brand, age groups, ethnicity, gender and adverse event types?

Further to this request, can I have the data, including fig 3, in excel spreadsheet format."

On 4 April, you provided the following clarification:

"In a subsequent email I asked if the raw data used in the graph could be provided in excel format. Could that be extended to include a copy of the entire spreadsheet used to produce that series of graphs in that document?"

Four documents have been identified within scope of your request. These are itemised in Appendix 1 to this letter, and copies of the documents are enclosed.

Your request for communications between the Ministry and the Minister and advice pertaining to the parliamentary questions is refused under section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the free and frank expression of opinions.

There have been no media briefings since January 2019. Therefore this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document does not exist.

Responses about parliamentary questions are published on the Parliament New Zealand website:

www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions.

This aspect of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available.

Memos, weekly report items and situation reports relating to your request can be found on the Ministry's website at:

www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/general-information-releases/meningococcal-w-information-release.

This part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available. I have attached more recent weekly report items covering the period of your request in Appendix 1.

A meeting was held in March 2019 to update the Minister on the current situation and next steps. Information tabled at this meeting is withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act as the information is a free and frank expression of opinions and under section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain confidential advice.

The Ministry was informed of two meningococcal cases in March 2019. The first is a child in Northland who is too young to have been eligible for vaccination, and was confirmed as group W. The second case is a child from Auckland. The Ministry is waiting on more information about this case.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Title	Decision on release
1	Men W Weekly Reports 2019	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
2	Data Supporting Situation Report Data – Men W	Released in full.
3	Meningococcal Northland Data – Ages & Reactions	Released in full.
4	Adverse Events Data – Northland 20190331	Released in full.

Men W OIA

Weekly Report 25-31 January 2019

Update on Meningococcal Disease in New Zealand

Contact: William Rainger, Acting Deputy Director-General, Population Health and Prevention, 9(2)(a)

Situation: In 2018, there were 120 reported meningococcal cases including 10 deaths. A similar number of cases and deaths were reported in 2017. In 2018, there were 33 cases of the meningococcal W (men W) strain including six deaths compared to 12 cases of men W including three deaths in 2017.

Similar to the experiences of the UK and Australia, men W cases are increasing in New Zealand. This is of concern as men W has a higher fatality rate than other serotypes. Although cases of men W are increasing, meningococcal B (men B) continues to be the most prevalent strain in New Zealand. Approximately 50 percent of cases are related to men B.

National cases of Men W

As at 24 January 2019, there have been five cases of confirmed meningococcal disease with a further case under investigation. The confirmed cases were due to the B and C strains. None of the cases confirmed so far in 2019, have been due to the W strain.

Results from the post mortem on a 9(2)(a) on 14 January 2018 confirmed that the death was not due to meningococcal disease, which was originally suspected. The Ministry continues to work with Institute of Environmental Science and Research and DHBs to closely monitor meningococcal disease cases nationwide.

Northland men W situation

There have been no new cases of men W in the Northland region since October 2018. The DHB considers that the community outbreak is over and this will be confirmed in February, assuming there are no new cases.

Northland DHB, in partnership with primary health care and Māori health providers launched phase three of the vaccination campaign on 21 January 2019. This phase of the campaign focusses on increasing uptake for Māori and rural children.

Community outreach clinics and primary healthcare organisations will be engaged along with a mobile clinic which can be deployed strategically. Northland DHB are arranging a school-based programme for later in February as the most effective means to target rural teenagers.

Immunisation schedule change 2020

A schedule review meeting in October 2017 recommended the addition of meningococcal vaccines to the National Immunisation Programme. PHARMAC has released a request for proposals and submissions will be analysed in February/March 2019.

The Ministry has commenced planning for a schedule change should the vaccine be procured. Further information will be provided to your office on the plans for a national meningococcal vaccination programme in February 2019.

Action: No action required. This information is for noting only.

Weekly Report 1-7 February 2019:

Update on Meningococcal Disease in New Zealand

Contact: William Rainger, Acting Deputy Director-General Population Health and Prevention, 9(2)(a)

Situation: National cases of Meningococcal W

As at 29 January 2019, there have been seven cases of confirmed meningococcal disease. The confirmed cases were due to the B and C strains. There still have not been any cases due to the W strain so far in 2019.

The Ministry continues to work with ESR and DHBs to closely monitor meningococcal disease cases nationwide.

Northland Meningococcal W situation

Northland DHB, in partnership with primary health care and Māori health providers launched phase 3 of the vaccination campaign on 21 January 2019. This phase of the campaign focusses on increasing uptake for Māori and rural children aged under 5 years and 13 to 19 years.

Meetings with primary care and Māori health providers were hosted by Northland DHB on 21 January 2019. Data was presented on the uptake of the vaccine during phase 1 and the areas of focus in phase 3. Meetings were positive and the way forward was agreed.

To date Northland DHB reports a steady uptake of the vaccine across all of the target groups.

Action: No action required. This information is for noting only.

Weekly Report 8-14 February 2019:

Update on Meningococcal Disease in New Zealand

Contact: Deborah Woodley, Deputy Director-General Population Health and Prevention, 9(2)(a)

Situation: Meningococcal disease is seasonal in New Zealand. Sporadic cases appear all year with an increase in cases occurring in winter and spring. In 2018, there were 120 reported meningococcal cases including 10 deaths. A similar number of cases and deaths were reported in 2017.

In 2018 there were 33 cases of the meningococcal W (Men W) strain, including six deaths, compared to 12 cases of Men W including three deaths in 2017.

National cases of Meningococcal W

As at 7 February 2019, there have been seven cases of confirmed meningococcal disease and no deaths. The confirmed cases have been due to the B and C strains. There have not been any cases due to the Men W strain.

The Ministry continues to work with ESR and DHBs to closely monitor meningococcal disease cases nationwide.

Northland Men W situation

Northland DHB reports a steady uptake of the vaccine across all of the target groups. There have been no new cases of Men W in the Northland region since October 2018.

The DHB considers that the community outbreak has not continued and this will be confirmed in February 2019, assuming there are no new cases.

Northland DHB, in partnership with primary health care and Māori health providers, launched phase 3 of the vaccination campaign on 21 January 2019. This phase of the campaign focusses on increasing uptake for Māori and rural children in the target groups. Phase 3 includes a school-based vaccination programme for children 13 – 17 years, which will be implemented between 11 and 28 February 2019.

As at 30 January 2019, 11,481 doses of vaccine has been delivered for the Northland campaign, approximating 50 percent coverage of the population groups. The DHB is aiming for 80 percent coverage of the target groups.

A table outlining MenW cases in Northland between 2017 and 2018 is attached as Appendix A.

Action: No action required. This information is for noting only.

[Weekly Report 15-21 February 2019:](#)

Meningococcal Disease

Contact: Deborah Woodley, Deputy Director-General Population Health and Prevention, 9(2)(a)

Situation: There have been no new cases of meningococcal disease this week. For 2019, cases remain as seven confirmed, all due to the B and C strains.

This is not unusual as meningococcal disease is seasonal and appears mainly in winter and spring.

National cases of Men W

There have not been any cases of the W strain so far in 2019. The Ministry continues to work with ESR and DHBs to closely monitor meningococcal disease cases nationwide.

Northland Men W situation

There have been no new cases of Men W in the Northland region since October 2018. Northland DHB considers that the community outbreak has not continued.

Northland DHB does not wish to declare the outbreak 'over' because this could jeopardise the uptake of the vaccine. Parents may misinterpret the message to mean that there is no longer any risk from meningococcal disease.

Northland DHB, in partnership with primary health care and Māori health providers launched phase 3 of the vaccination campaign on 21 January 2019.

This phase of the campaign focusses on increasing uptake for Māori and rural children.

As of 11 February 2019, 12,500 doses of the vaccine had been administered (55 percent coverage of the target groups of under five year olds and 13 -19 year olds).

Uptake is slow with few people presenting at clinics.

Recall through PHOs has not been as successful as anticipated because some key providers do not have patient management systems that support this approach.

A school-based programme commenced week beginning 11 February 2019. It is expected to administer 2000 – 3000 doses of the vaccine (bringing the coverage up to ~70 percent).

Northland DHB is planning further communications to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated.

Last week television advertising promoting immunisation in general commenced and it is anticipated that this will raise awareness in all regions, including Northland.

The Ministry will be reviewing the success of the Northland response to include 'lessons learned' once the campaign has concluded.

National vaccination programme

Advice on a possible national Men W vaccination programme is delayed while PHARMAC undertakes discussion with suppliers to determine stock availability.

Action: No action required. This information is for noting only.

Weekly Report 22-28 February 2019:

Meningococcal disease in New Zealand

Contact: Deborah Woodley, Deputy Director-General Population Health and Prevention, 9(2)(a)

Situation: **Northland Men W situation**

There have been no new cases of Men W in the Northland region since October 2018. The DHB considers that the community outbreak has not continued, but is aware that the seasonality of meningococcal disease may have contributed to this trend and remains concerned that the disease will re-emerge in spring 2019.

Although there has not been any new cases of Men W since October 2018, efforts continue to be concentrated on obtaining high vaccination rates in children under 5 years and adolescents, as this is seen as the best way to obtain community immunity and prevent future outbreaks.

So far 12,300 doses of the vaccine have been administered which represents an uptake of approximately 55 percent.

We estimate that 80 percent uptake is required for adolescents aged 13 to 19 years to adequately protect the entire community against future outbreaks.

High coverage is necessary for this age group as these are most likely to transmit the disease to others.

The high school programme is running well and aims to provide the vaccine to around 6,500 adolescents.

Northland DHB has deployed a communications tactical plan and are in a 'countdown' phase of the programme in media to encourage cohorts to attend either their GP, pharmacy, Māori provider or school clinic and take up the vaccine.

Māori providers are undertaking community awareness to support the campaign and a range of community champions have come forward, including the mother of a child who died.

Ngāti Hine FM has produced a video calling all 13 to under 20 years olds to action and Kaumata Te Ihi has undertaken extensive live to air radio interviews. Te Hiku media (Far North) and hearing impaired advocates have produced sign language videos for social media.

Action: No action required. This information is for noting only.

Weekly Report 1-7 March 2019:

Meningococcal Disease – Serotype W

Contact: Deborah Woodley, Deputy Director-General Population Health and Prevention, 9(2)(a)

Situation: **Meningococcal disease in New Zealand**

There have been eight confirmed cases of meningococcal disease in 2019 to date, all due to the B and C strains. There have not been any cases due to the W strain so far in 2019.

There have been no new cases of meningococcal disease in the past two weeks.

Northland meningococcal W situation

There have been no new cases of meningococcal W (Men W) in the Northland region since October 2018.

The goal of the vaccination campaign was to reduce the number of new cases of Men W in Northland and to date this goal has been met. Northland DHB remains cautious because the seasonality of meningococcal disease may have contributed to the lack of new cases and the disease may re-emerge in spring. Ministry officials are working with Northland DHB to agree criteria for determining when the outbreak is over.

The intensive response to the Men W outbreak in Northland ended on 22 February 2019. Between 21 December 2018 and 22 February 2019, 13,000 doses of the vaccine were administered in community settings, 730 vaccines were provided by pharmacists and 700 vaccines were provided by local GPs. This is the first time that pharmacists have been used in an outbreak vaccination response.

Northland DHB is continuing to hold vaccination clinics in secondary schools until 8 March 2019. Some GPs and pharmacies also have some publicly

funded vaccine available and will be offering a vaccination service while stocks last.

Northland DHB has commenced a vaccine stocktake, which will determine what steps will be taken going forward. The DHB intends to return at least 5000 doses to the national stock.

The excess stock held by Northland DHB represents the additional 5000 doses that were requisitioned as a contingency in case the shipment from the USA was delayed. PHARMAC and the Ministry are considering options for this stock. It is likely that the stock will be held to allow a rapid vaccination response to any further outbreaks.

Northland DHB is now completing an analysis of the outbreak campaign, including the number of children and adolescents vaccinated and results will be available by the end of March 2019.

National vaccination programme

Advice on the Ministry's approach to addressing meningococcal disease nationally is being developed and a Health Report will be provided to your office by 31 March 2019.

Action: No action required. This information is for noting only.

[Weekly Report 22-28 March 2019:](#)

Meningococcal disease

Contact: Deborah Woodley, Deputy Director-General Population Health and Prevention, 9(2)(a)

Situation: Meningococcal W cases

The Ministry has received information that 9(2)(a) from the USA with confirmed meningococcal disease (W strain) passed away on 9(2)(a)

She was admitted to Waikato Hospital on 9(2)(a) with septicaemia and died later that day. Contact tracing was undertaken with one close contact receiving prophylaxis. Some hospital staff also received prophylaxis as a precautionary measure.

The Ministry has also been informed of a meningococcal W case in a seven month old in Northland, who is too young to have been eligible for vaccination. The patient was in Starship Hospital in Auckland, and has now been transferred back to a regional hospital in Northland. The patient is the cousin of a four year old from a similar area, who unfortunately died from meningococcal disease in October 2018.

The Ministry is liaising closely with Northland DHB and will provide you with an update when further information is available.

Auckland meningococcal case

The Ministry has been informed of a case of meningococcal disease in a 15 month old (male) from Auckland.

The Ministry is waiting for further information from Auckland. We will keep you updated with any relevant information as it becomes available.

Released Under The Official Information Act 1982

Action: No action required. This information is for noting only.

Figure 2 - Target versus Actual

	Total % vaccinated
5-Dec	4.9
6-Dec	9.3
7-Dec	13.2
8-Dec	15.5
9-Dec	16.8
10-Dec	21.9
11-Dec	26.2
12-Dec	30.4
13-Dec	34.0
14-Dec	36.9
15-Dec	38.2
16-Dec	38.8
17-Dec	40.5
18-Dec	43.1
19-Dec	44.7
20-Dec	45.8

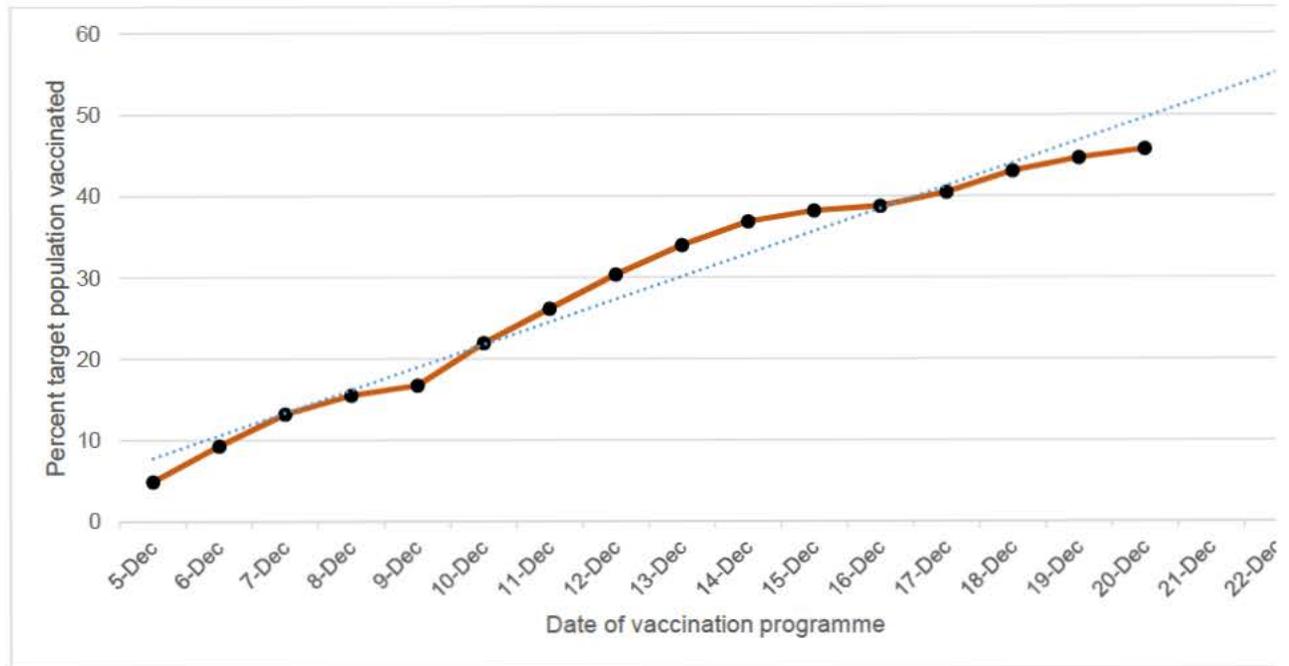
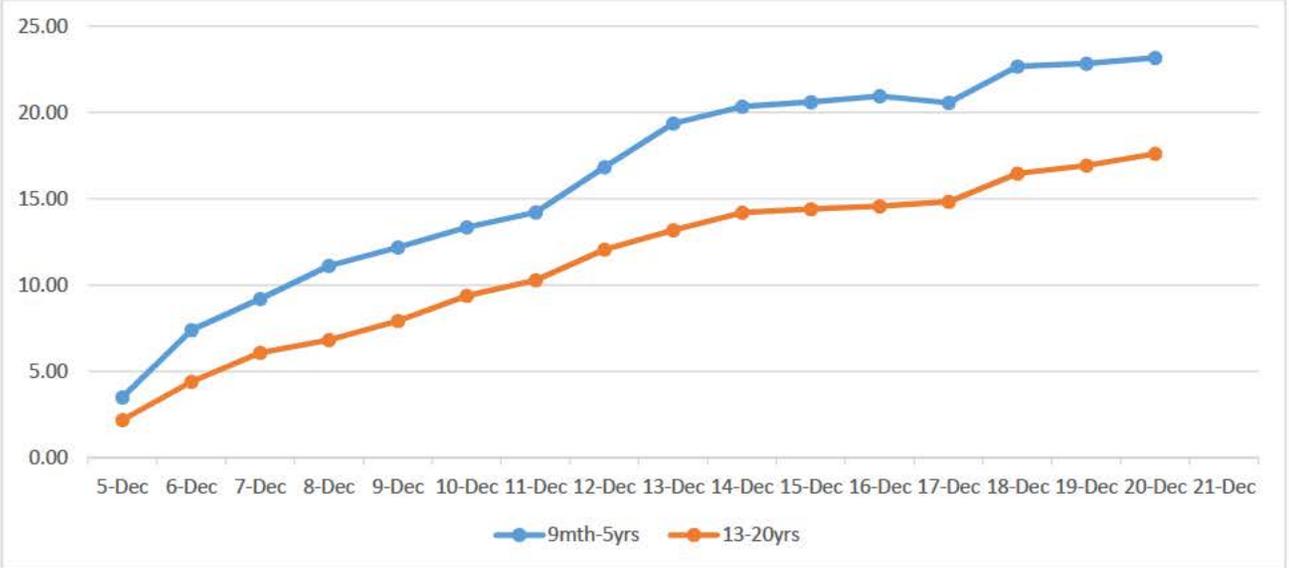
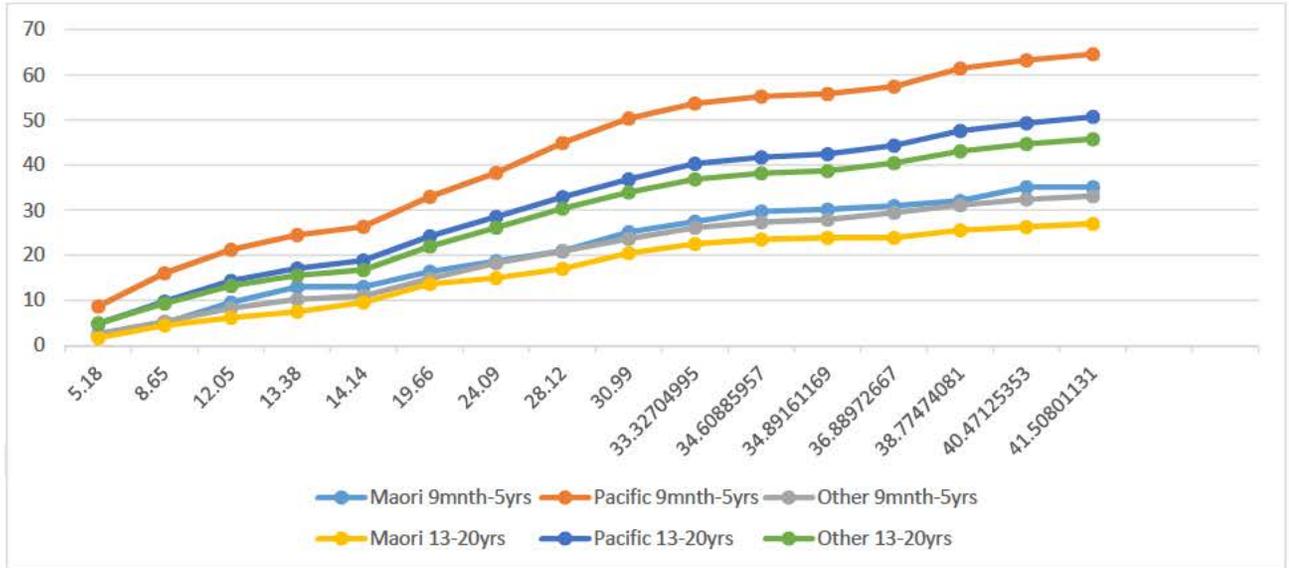


Figure 3 & 4 Vaccination Rates

	Maori 9mnth-	Pacific 9mnth-5yrs	Other 9mnth-5yrs	Maori 13-20yrs	Pacific 13-20yrs	Other 13-20yrs	Total
5-Dec	5.18	1.91	8.69	2.59	1.706484642	4.788557214	4.914783987
6-Dec	8.65	4.96	16.06	5.33	4.436860068	9.748134328	9.305500506
7-Dec	12.05	9.54	21.26	8.26	6.14334471	14.35012438	13.23380455
8-Dec	13.38	12.98	24.51	10.25	7.508532423	17.08644279	15.52384727
9-Dec	14.14	12.98	26.34	10.94	9.556313993	18.87437811	16.7569472
10-Dec	19.66	16.41	33.03	14.82	13.65187713	24.20708955	21.94477474
11-Dec	24.09	18.70	38.32	18.27	15.01706485	28.57587065	26.18135377
12-Dec	28.12	20.99	44.97	20.89	17.06484642	32.960199	30.3562778
13-Dec	30.99	25.19	50.36	23.69	20.4778157	36.87810945	33.98511472
14-Dec	33.32704995	27.48091603	53.68319692	26.14598307	22.52559727	40.34514925	36.85207205
15-Dec	34.60885957	29.77099237	55.2238806	27.32790289	23.54948805	41.74440299	38.19527018
16-Dec	34.89161169	30.15267176	55.84978334	27.90289091	23.89078498	42.47512438	38.75016515
17-Dec	36.88972667	30.91603053	57.46268657	29.50007986	23.89078498	44.34079602	40.48971683
18-Dec	38.77474081	32.0610687	61.45883486	31.16115636	25.59726962	47.63681592	43.08803453
19-Dec	40.47125353	35.11450382	63.31246991	32.40696374	26.27986348	49.34701493	44.69546836
20-Dec	41.50801131	35.11450382	64.68464131	33.12569877	26.96245734	50.74626866	45.79204651
21-Dec							



|difference in % vaccinated

	9mth-5yrs	13-20yrs
5-Dec	3.51	2.20
6-Dec	7.40	4.41
7-Dec	9.21	6.09
8-Dec	11.12	6.83
9-Dec	12.20	7.93
10-Dec	13.37	9.39
11-Dec	14.23	10.30
12-Dec	16.84	12.07
13-Dec	19.37	13.19
14-Dec	20.36	14.20
15-Dec	20.62	14.42
16-Dec	20.96	14.57
17-Dec	20.57	14.84
18-Dec	22.68	16.48
19-Dec	22.84	16.94
20-Dec	23.18	17.62
21-Dec		

Meningococcal Disease - Northland - Ages & reactions								
Age-group	Gender	Reaction-1	Reaction-2	Reaction-3	Reaction-4	Reaction-5	Other Meds	Brand
02 - 10	Female	Inj Site Cellulitis					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation	Arm Pain				Nil	Menactra
Under 2	Male	Fever Convulsion					Nil	Brand Unknown
Under 2	Male	Inj Site Rash					Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Male	Myalgia	Diarrhoea	Vomiting	Fever		Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation					Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Male	Inj Site Inflammation					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Cellulitis					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation	Inj Site Pruritus				Nil	Brand Unknown
19 - 64	Male	Somnolence	Appetite Decreased				Yes - multiple	Menactra
19 - 64	Male	Somnolence					Yes - multiple	Menactra
11 - 18	Female	Convulsions					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation					Nil	Menactra
Under 2	Male	Erythema	Oedema Periorbital	Coughing	Bronchospasm	Throat Irritation	Yes	Menactra
19 - 64	Female	Arthralgia					Yes	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Erythema	Pruritus				Yes	Menactra
Under 2	Female	Inj Site Inflammation	Inj Site Pain				Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Female	Headache	Nausea	Twitching			Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Female	Arm Pain	Flushing	Tiredness	Nausea		Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Male	Pain Neck/Shoulder					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Female	Inj Site Erythema					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Erythema	Inj Site Pruritus	Inj Site Pain			Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Male	Absences	Consciousness Decreased	Fuzzy Head	Twitching	Tiredness	Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation					Nil	Menactra
02 - 10	Male	Inj Site Inflammation					Nil	Menactra
Under 2	Male	Vomiting					Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Male	Vasovagal Reaction					Nil	Menactra
11 - 18	Female	Headache	Vasovagal Reaction	Inj Site Pain			Nil	Nimerix

Table : Meningococcal ACYW - 01/07/2018 to 31/03/2019 - Northland

agegroup	ethnicity	gender		
		Female	Male	Total
		N	N	N
02 - 10	European	1	5	6
	Maori	1	6	7
	*** Total for Group ***	2	11	13
	ethnicity			
11 - 18	Asiatic		1	1
	European	2	3	5
	Maori	2	1	3
	*** Total for Group ***	4	5	9
	ethnicity			
19 - 64	European		2	2
	Maori	1		1
	*** Total for Group ***	1	2	3
	ethnicity			
Under 2	Asiatic		1	1
	European		1	1
	Maori	1	2	3
	*** Total for Group ***	1	4	5
	ethnicity			
Total Cases		8	22	30

The FREQ Procedure

ethnicity	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Asiatic	2	6.67	2	6.67
European	14	46.67	16	53.33
Maori	14	46.67	30	100.00

The FREQ Procedure

Table of agegroup by gender

agegroup	gender		
Frequency			
Percent			
Row Pct			
Col Pct	Female	Male	Total
02 - 10	2	11	13
	6.67	36.67	43.33
	15.38	84.62	
	25.00	50.00	
11 - 18	4	5	9
	13.33	16.67	30.00
	44.44	55.56	
	50.00	22.73	
19 - 64	1	2	3
	3.33	6.67	10.00
	33.33	66.67	
	12.50	9.09	
Under 2	1	4	5
	3.33	13.33	16.67
	20.00	80.00	
	12.50	18.18	
Total	8	22	30
	26.67	73.33	100.00