Māori and infectious diseases

On the right are some findings on selected infectious diseases for Māori and non-Māori.

**Tuberculosis** and **meningococcal disease** notifications are sourced from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited (ESR), from 1997 to 2017.

**First episode rheumatic fever hospitalisation** is sourced from the Ministry of Health's National Minimum Data Set (NMDS), from 1996 to 2016.

**HIV and AIDS** diagnoses are sourced from the AIDS Epidemiology Group, Dunedin School of Medicine, from 1996 to 2017.

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**Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection that most commonly affects the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body.

Between 1997–99 and 2007–09 Māori had a higher rate of tuberculosis notifications than non-Māori.

The decrease in rate of tuberculosis notifications for Māori was faster than that for non-Māori over this period.

From 2013–15 onwards, the rate of tuberculosis notifications for Māori was lower than non-Māori.

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**Meningococcal disease**

Meningococcal disease is a bacterial infection that causes meningitis (an infection of the membranes that cover the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning).

The rate of meningococcal disease notifications decreased by nearly 90 percent for both Māori and non-Māori over time.

The rate of meningococcal disease notifications for Māori was nearly twice that of non-Māori. This did not change over time.

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**First episode rheumatic fever**

Rheumatic fever is an autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks parts of the body. It can develop after a ‘strep throat’ (throat bacteria infection).


Māori had a higher rate of first episode rheumatic fever hospitalisation than non-Māori. This did not change over time.

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**HIV/AIDS**

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) damages the immune system. When a person has HIV and one or more serious illnesses (such as pneumonia) or cancers, they are said to have AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

Males had higher rates of HIV or AIDS diagnoses than females for both Māori and non-Māori.

The majority of those diagnosed with HIV were non-Māori. This did not change over time.