



## **Antimicrobial resistance among *Neisseria gonorrhoeae***

**January-March 2006**

In October 2005, ESR commenced quarterly collection and analysis of data on antimicrobial resistance among *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. This more frequent surveillance is considered necessary due to the sharp increase in resistance, especially to ciprofloxacin, seen in some parts of the country in recent years.

Antimicrobial susceptibility test results are collected from the laboratories that do the majority of the local sexual health clinic and general practice gonococcal diagnostic work. All the participating laboratories use CLSI susceptibility test methods.

This is the second report from this surveillance system and covers the three months of 1 January to 31 March 2006. Data was collected from 23 laboratories. The rates of ciprofloxacin, penicillin and tetracycline resistance are shown by district health board in the table on the next page. All isolates tested were susceptible to ceftriaxone.

Ciprofloxacin resistance is clearly now more prevalent than penicillin resistance in most parts of the country. Although the number of gonococci isolated in several regions was small, there appear to be quite large geographical differences in resistance within New Zealand.

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**Ciprofloxacin, penicillin and tetracycline resistance among *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, January to March 2006**

District Health Board <sup>1,2</sup>	Ciprofloxacin		Penicillin			Tetracycline	
	Number tested	Percent resistant	Number tested	Percent resistant (intermediate)		Number tested	Percent resistant
Northland	9	0	9	11.1	(33.3)	6	0
Auckland <sup>3</sup>	282	12.1	286	6.3	(73.4)	71	32.4
Waikato	75	28.0	53	3.8	(49.1)	0	-
Lakes	42	7.1	36	0	(80.6)	0	-
Bay of Plenty	43	23.3	40	2.5	(37.5)	6	33.3
Tairāwhiti	20	15.0	9	0	(22.2)	9	11.1
Hawkes Bay	55	0	55	1.8	(29.1)	6	0
MidCentral	21	4.8	21	0	(9.5)	21	0
Capital and Coast/Hutt <sup>4</sup>	58	15.5	58	1.7	(43.1)	58	12.1
Nelson Marlborough	7	14.3	7	0	(85.7)	7	14.3
West Coast	0	-	0	-	(-)	0	-
Canterbury <sup>5</sup>	73	6.9	73	4.1	(79.5)	73	9.6
Otago	12	0	12	8.3	(75.0)	5	0
Southland	4	25.0	4	25.0	(75.0)	3	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>(60.9)</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>15.9</b>

Notes:

- 1 The patient's place of residence, if known, was used to assign cases to a DHB, otherwise the location of the laboratory was used. For laboratories that do a lot of out-of-area work, place of residence data was available and used.
- 2 No data for Taranaki, Whanganui or Wairarapa District Health Boards.
- 3 The three Auckland District Health Boards (Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau) are combined.
- 4 The two Wellington District Health Boards (Capital and Coast, and Hutt) are combined.
- 5 The two Canterbury District Health Boards (Canterbury and South Canterbury) are combined.

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