

## Notifications of confirmed Rheumatic Fever cases in New Zealand

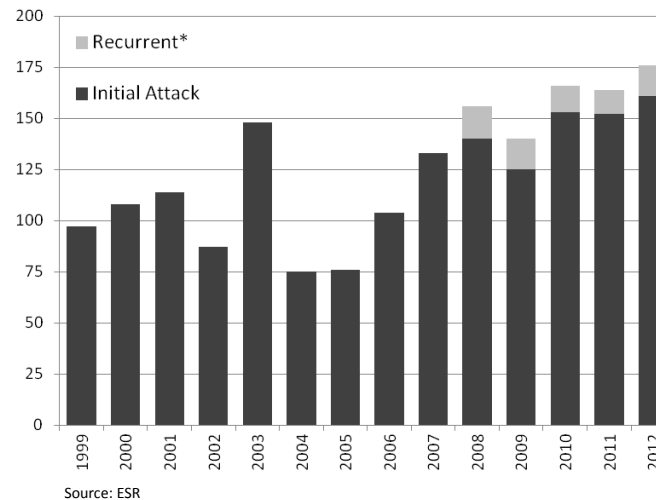
The number of notifications of rheumatic fever cases has increased markedly since 1999. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of initial attack cases has been over 150 (figure 1).

The number of recurrent cases since reporting began in 2008 has remained consistent, ranging from 12 to 16 cases per year (figure 1).

The 10-14 year old age group is the largest contributor to the number of confirmed rheumatic fever cases annually (figure 2).

As part of the 'Better Public Services' initiative the New Zealand government announced in March 2012 that as an effort to support vulnerable children they aim to reduce the incidence of rheumatic fever. Their aim is to reduce the annual incidence rate of acute rheumatic fever (initial hospitalisations) by two-thirds by June 2017 (MSD 2012)

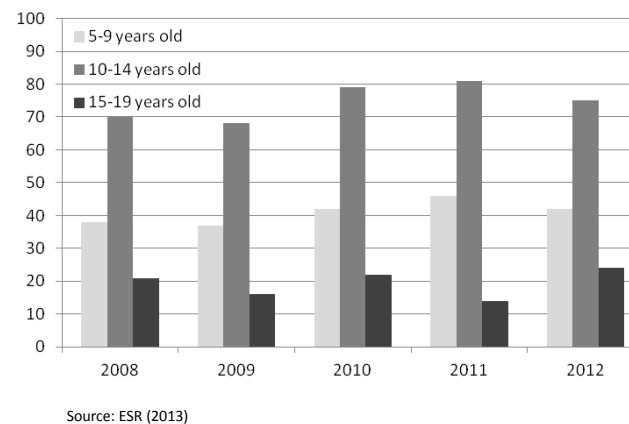
Figure 1: Notifications of Rheumatic Fever Cases in New Zealand 1999-2012



### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Notifications of confirmed cases of rheumatic fever have increased since 1999, but especially during in the last six years (figure 1).
- The highest number of cases occur in the 10-14 year old age group

Figure 2: Notifications of Rheumatic Fever Cases in New Zealand in 5-19 year olds 2008-2012



\*Data from recurrent cases from 2008

### References

Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR). 2013. Direct communication with statistics department. Wellington, New Zealand.

MSD. 2012. 'Delivering Better Public Services: Supporting Vulnerable Children—Result Action Plan'. Ministry of Social Development. August 2012. Wellington.

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