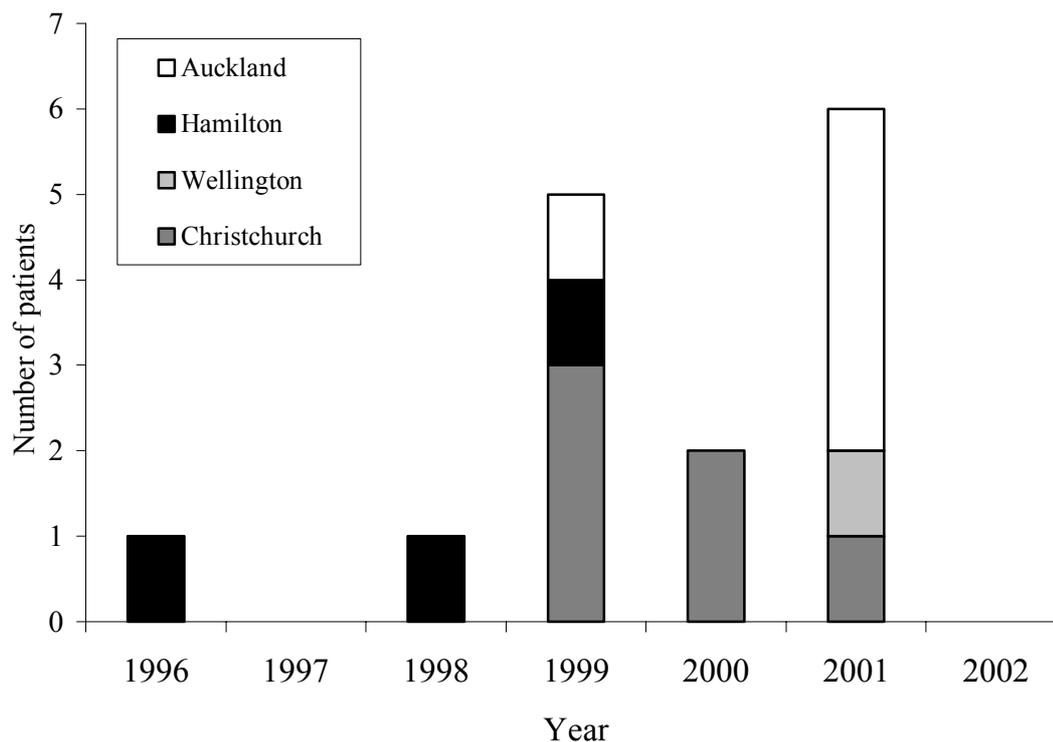


## Vancomycin-resistant enterococci confirmed in 2002

No vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecalis* or *E. faecium* (VRE) were referred to ESR in 2002. Since the first reported isolation in New Zealand in 1996, VRE have been isolated from a total of 15 people (see figure and table below). *E. faecalis* has predominated. Although the cases appear to be sporadic, the majority of isolates have demonstrated a similar DNA macrorestriction pattern (profile A) after digestion with *SmaI* and pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). VRE with this pattern have been isolated in each of the four centres in which VRE have been isolated to date and in four of the five years in which VRE have been isolated.

Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) isolations, 1996-2002



Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) isolated in New Zealand, 1996-2002

Species	Van gene	PFGE pattern	Number of patients <sup>2</sup>	Years isolated	Area <sup>1</sup>
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanA</i>	A	11 <sup>3</sup>	1996, 1999, 2000 and 2001	Hamilton Christchurch Auckland Wellington
		B	1 <sup>3</sup>	1999	Christchurch
		E	1	2001	Christchurch
	<i>vanB</i>	Z	1	1999	Christchurch
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	C	2 <sup>4</sup>	1998 and 2001	Hamilton Auckland
		D	1 <sup>4</sup>	2001	Auckland

<sup>1</sup> In chronological order of place of first isolation.

<sup>2</sup> Repeat isolations from the same patient excluded, unless the isolates differed (see footnotes 3 and 4).

<sup>3</sup> Isolates with PFGE patterns A and B were isolated from the same patient.

<sup>4</sup> Isolates with PFGE patterns C and D were isolated from the same patient.