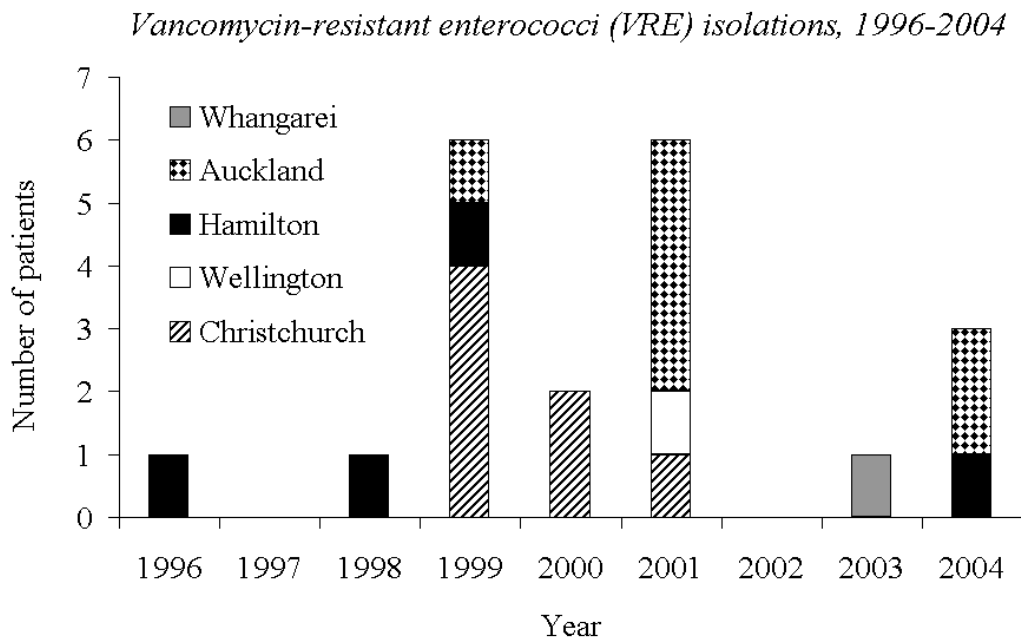


Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) confirmed in 2004

Three VRE isolates were referred to ESR in 2004:

- Two *Enterococcus faecium* with the *vanA* genotype. The first of these VRE was a urinary isolate from an overseas traveller who was hospitalised in Auckland City Hospital. The second VRE was isolated from a colonised wound and the faeces of a patient who was transferred from a United States healthcare facility to Waikato Hospital. The isolates had different DNA macrorestriction patterns after digestion with *SmaI* and pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE).
- One *E. faecalis* with the *vanA* genotype. This VRE was isolated from a perianal screening swab of a patient in Auckland City Hospital who was known to have acquired VRE in a Melbourne Hospital. Interestingly, this isolate had the PFGE pattern that has been predominant among VanA-positive *E. faecalis* isolated in New Zealand since 1996 (see table below).



Since the first reported isolation in New Zealand in 1996, VRE have been isolated from a total of 20 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 PFGE pattern (pattern A). VRE with this pattern have been isolated in four of the five centres in which VRE have been isolated and in five of the seven years in which VRE have been isolated.

Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) isolated in New Zealand, 1996-2004

Species	Van gene	PFGE pattern ¹	Number of patients ²	Years isolated	Area ³
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanA</i>	A	12 ⁴	1996,1999, 2000, 2001 and 2004	Hamilton Christchurch Auckland Wellington
		B	1 ⁴	1999	Christchurch
		E	1	2001	Christchurch
	<i>vanB</i>	Z	1	1999	Christchurch
		B	1	1999	Christchurch
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	C	1	1998	Hamilton
		D	1 ⁵	2001	Auckland
		F	1 ⁵	2001	Auckland
		H	1	2004	Auckland
		I	1	2004	Hamilton
	<i>vanB</i>	G	1	2003	Whangarei

¹ In-house PFGE pattern designations

² Repeat isolations from the same patient excluded, unless the isolates differed (see footnotes 4 and 5).

³ In chronological order of place of first isolation.

⁴ Isolates with PFGE patterns A and B were isolated from the same patient.

⁵ Isolates with PFGE patterns D and F were isolated from the same patient.