

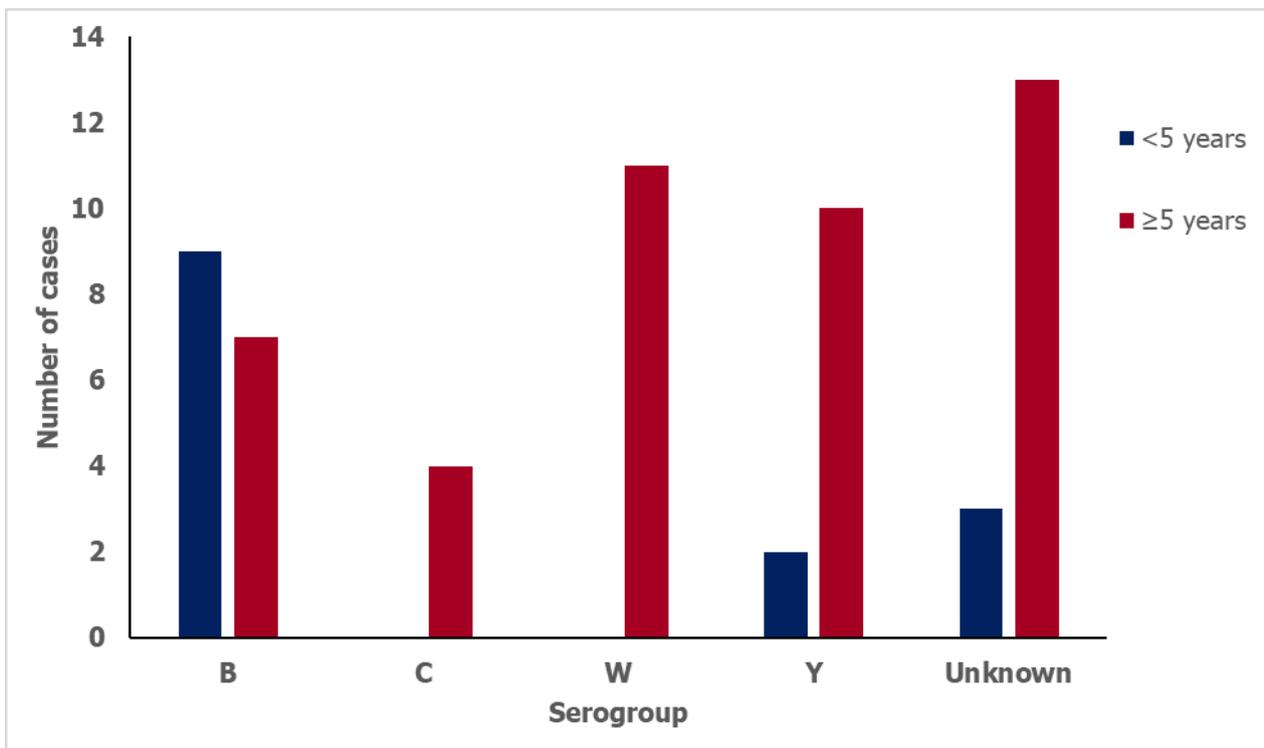
## b A wide range of serogroups cause invasive meningococcal disease in South Africa

Up until the end of July 2019, 59 cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) have been reported to the GERMS-SA national surveillance programme. IMD occurs throughout the year with an increase in episodes during the winter and spring seasons. The Western Cape (n=20) and Gauteng (n=17) provinces reported the most cases, followed by KwaZulu-Natal (n=9) and the Eastern Cape (n=8) provinces. Most cases were laboratory-confirmed meningitis, with *Neisseria meningitidis* isolated from cerebrospinal fluid (39/59, 66%), whilst the remainder were isolated from blood cultures (20/59, 34%). There were 14 (24%) cases in children <5 years of age, and 45 cases in children and adults five years and older. *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup data was determined for 73% (43/59) of cases. In children <5 years with known IMD serogroup data (n=11), serogroup B (9/11, 82%) predominated, followed by serogroup Y (2/11, 18%). In persons ≥5 years with known IMD serogroup data (n=32), serogroup W (11/32, 34%), serogroup Y (10/32, 31%), serogroup B (7/32, 22%) and serogroup C 4/32, 13%) were present (Figure 4).

All patients presenting with symptoms suggestive of meningitis or bacteraemia should urgently receive appropriate antibiotic treatment targeting meningococcal disease, whilst awaiting laboratory confirmation of aetiology. Meningococcal disease is a Category 1 notifiable medical condition (NMC). Clinicians should communicate telephonically with their provincial communicable disease control coordinators to report suspected cases, and ensure rapid mobilisation of contact tracing and responsible provision of chemoprophylaxis to close contacts.

As part of ongoing surveillance, Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis (CRDM) at the NICD offers meningococcal isolate confirmation and *N. meningitidis* detection by PCR of culture-negative/autopsy cases, free of charge. For more information, please contact the CRDM laboratory at the NICD, 011 555 0327.

**Source:** Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis, NICD-NHLS; annev@nicd.ac.za



**Figure 4.** Number of invasive meningococcal disease cases reported by age category and serogroup, South Africa, January to July 2019 (n=59)