

Occupational exposure for *Leptospira* in New Zealand

Summary of findings in veterinarians and farm workers

J Sanhueza; C Heuer; P Wilson; J Benschop; J Collins-Emerson



OIE Collaborating Centre for
Veterinary Epidemiology
and Public Health

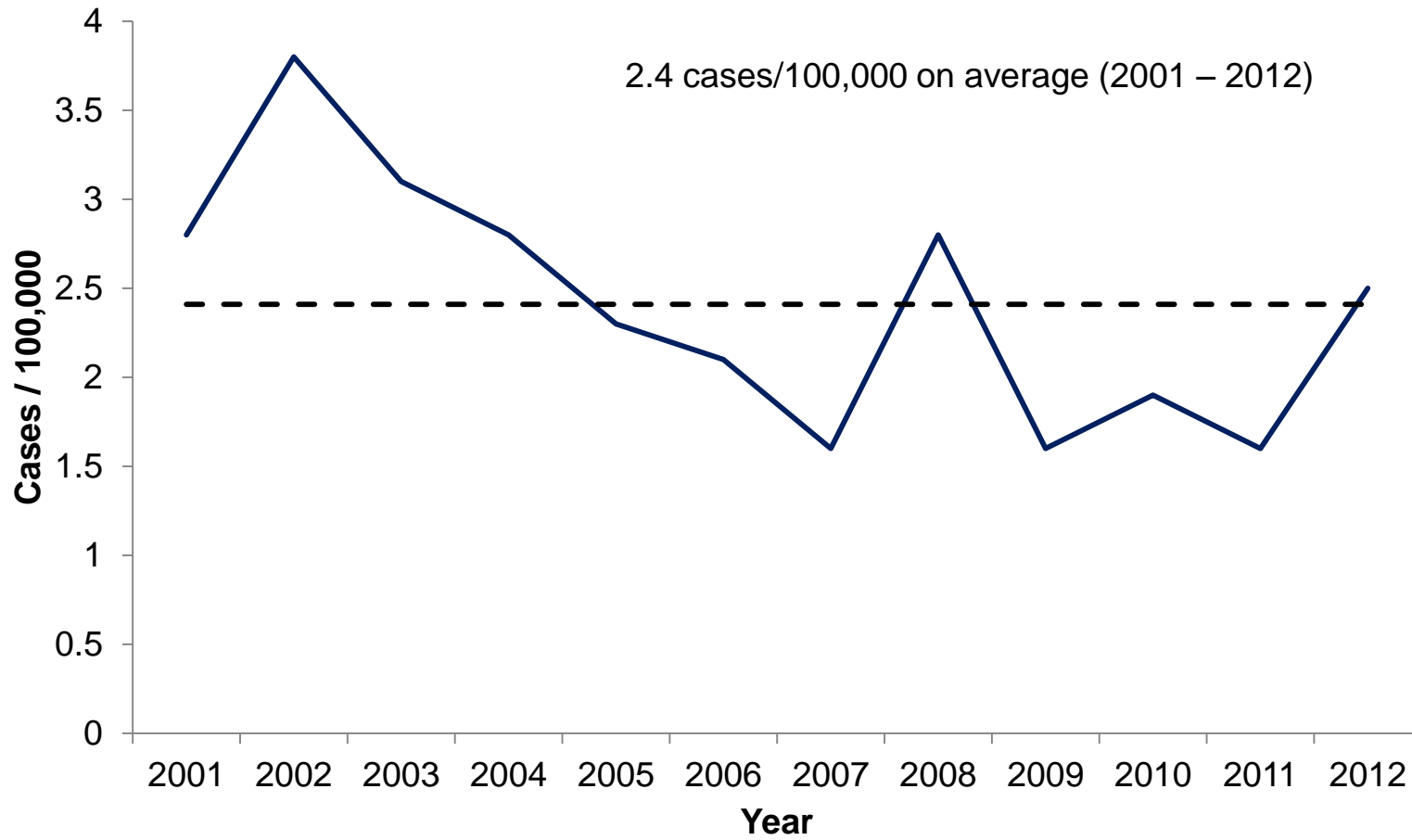
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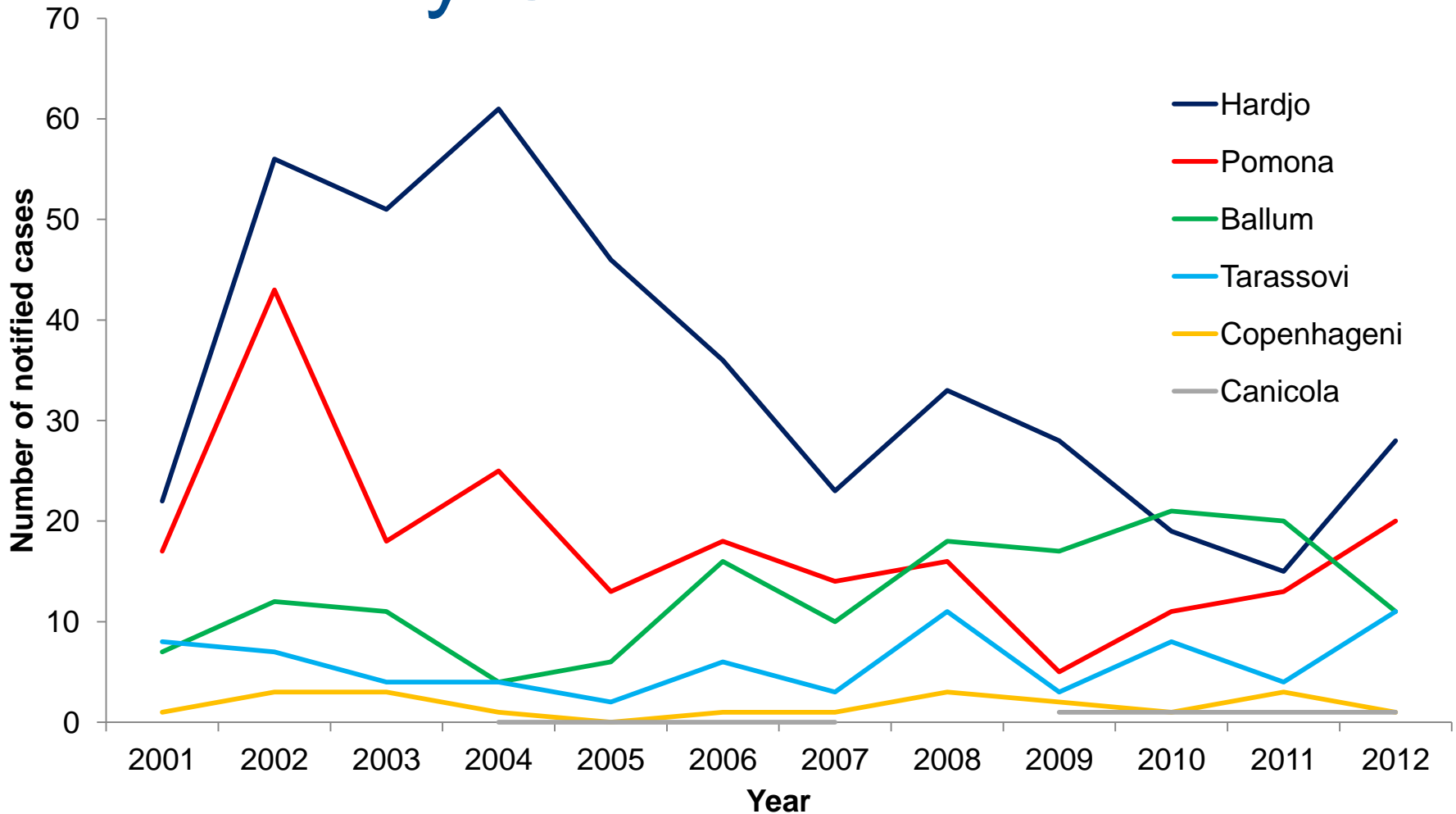
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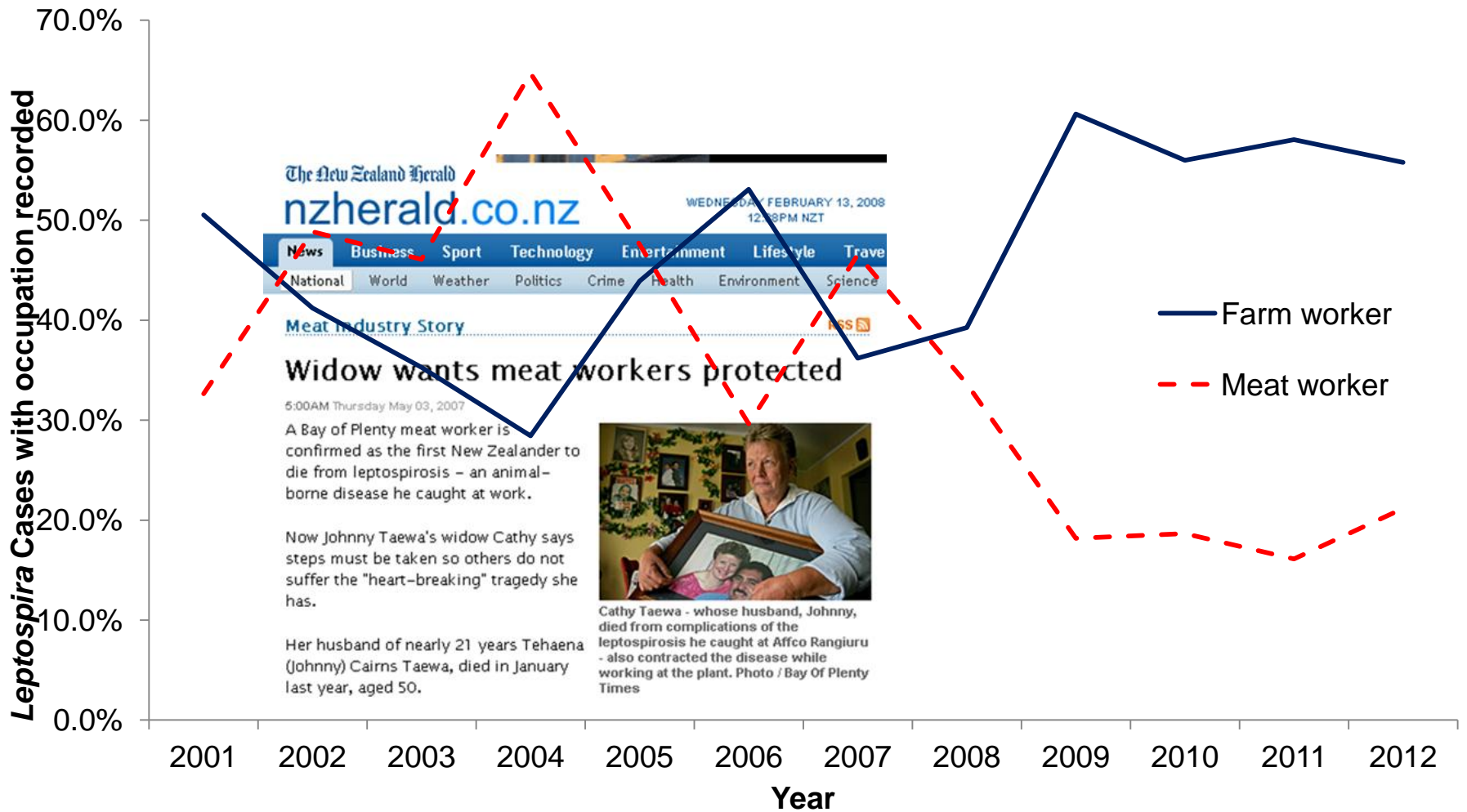
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Notified Human Cases in New Zealand



Notified Human Cases by Serovar





The New Zealand Herald
nzherald.co.nz
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Meat Industry Story

Widow wants meat workers protected

5:00AM Thursday May 03, 2007

A Bay of Plenty meat worker is confirmed as the first New Zealander to die from leptospirosis – an animal-borne disease he caught at work.

Now Johnny Taewa's widow Cathy says steps must be taken so others do not suffer the "heart-breaking" tragedy she has.

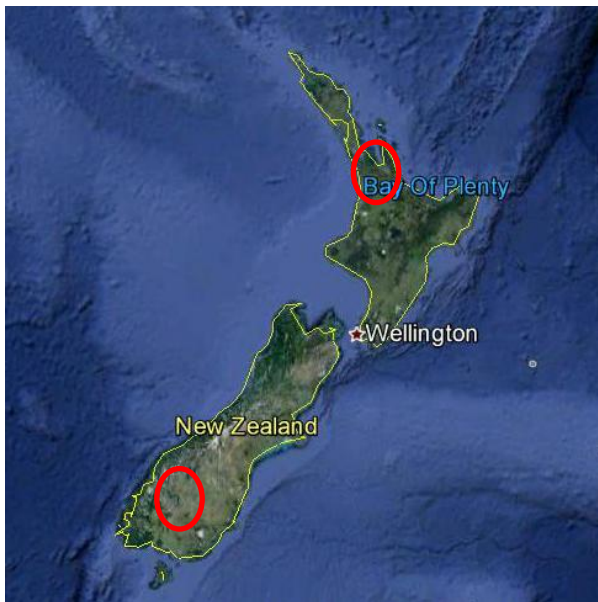
Her husband of nearly 21 years Tehaena (Johnny) Cairns Taewa, died in January last year, aged 50.



Cathy Taewa - whose husband, Johnny, died from complications of the leptospirosis he caught at Affco Rangioru - also contracted the disease while working at the plant. Photo / Bay Of Plenty Times

Leptospira in Veterinarians

- Veterinarians: 2012



We want your BLOOD!

Free test for lepto, find bleeding station at the exhibition hall (MSD-Pfizer-Virbac)



Sero-prevalence in Veterinarians

- 4.7% (2.5% - 7.9%) seropositive to Hardjo, Pomona or Ballum (13/277).
- Home slaughtering and veterinarians working in mixed practices were risk factors for *Leptospira* sero-positivity.

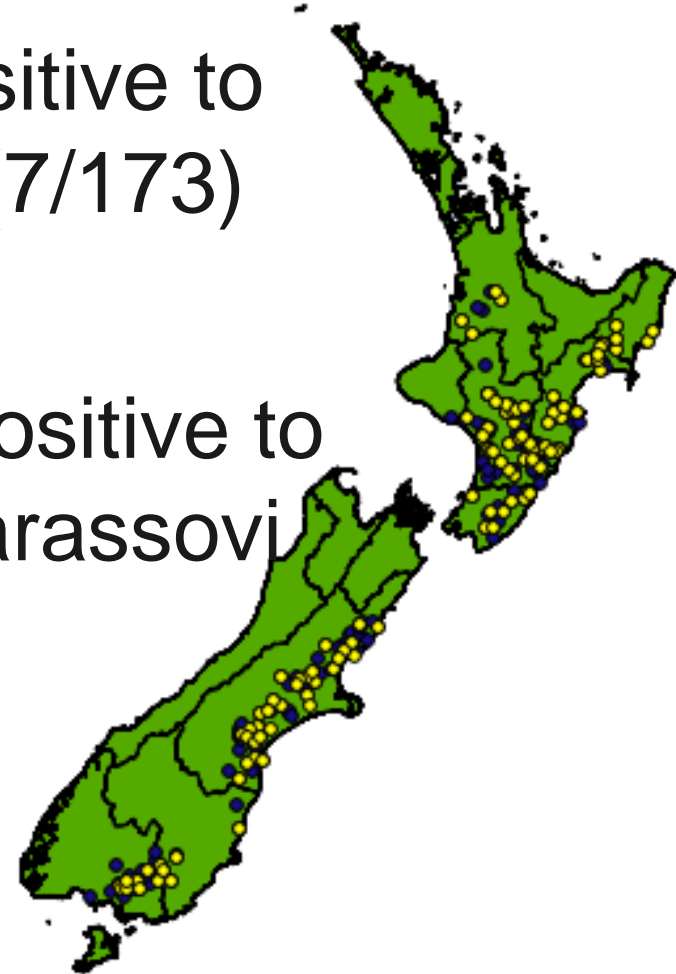
Leptospira in Farm Workers

- 131/238 farms, participated in the study.



Sero-prevalence in Farm Workers

- 4.1% (1.6% - 8.2%) seropositive to Hardjo, Pomona or Ballum (7/173)
- 6.9% (3.6% – 11.8%) seropositive to Hardjo, Pomona, Ballum, Tarassovi or Copenhageni (12/173)



Summary

- *Leptospira* sero-prevalence in a sample of 277 veterinarians was 4.7%.
- Home slaughtering and veterinarians working in mixed practices.
- *Leptospira* sero-prevalence in a sample of 173 farm workers was 4.1%.
- Analyses pending to identify risk factors.