



For Immediate Release: 14 July 2011

Pull the GM Food until the Cause of Escalating Allergy is Identified

MADGE is calling for the removal of all GM food from the supermarket shelves until a definitive cause for the dramatic increase in serious allergy has been demonstrated.

The last two years of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare hospital data has just gone online, and the frightening escalation of near-death food allergy continues unabated.

“The rates of 5-9 year olds being admitted to hospital on the diagnoses of food anaphylaxis and other adverse food reactions have gone up 85% in just the last two years alone” said Madeleine Love of MADGE (Mothers are demystifying genetic engineering) [1].

“We don’t know that GM food is the cause but it is a known risk, and allergy scientists freely admit to large gaps in the knowledge of how to assess the safety of GM crops [2]. We want to eliminate the possibilities.”

“We’re told these crops are rigorously assessed. But after four years of analysis I’m understanding now that GM regulatory food approval science is no more than the lowest common denominator science that serves the interests of global trade.”

“Our food regulator engages in what I’ve now termed “trading science” - standards for science as determined by an economic trading body, the OECD. The science that assesses GM crops is neither cutting edge, state of the art, rigorous or thorough. Nor independent.”

“It seems to be the same problem that is being identified in the assessment of chemicals and pesticides. We think trade and industry is being given preference and the population is being misled, and that full hazard identification and assessment of risk is being neglected.”

“This was spelt out clearly in the new report “Roundup and Birth Defects”. The report presented evidence that Industry had known since the 1980’s, and European regulators since the 1990’s that Roundup caused birth defects in test animals [3].”

“Relying on data from a GM company that stands to profit is not an act of pure science.”

“In years of research now I’ve never read or heard our food regulator FSANZ mention the possibility of professional or financial bias in the data they receive and the conclusions the Company reaches.”

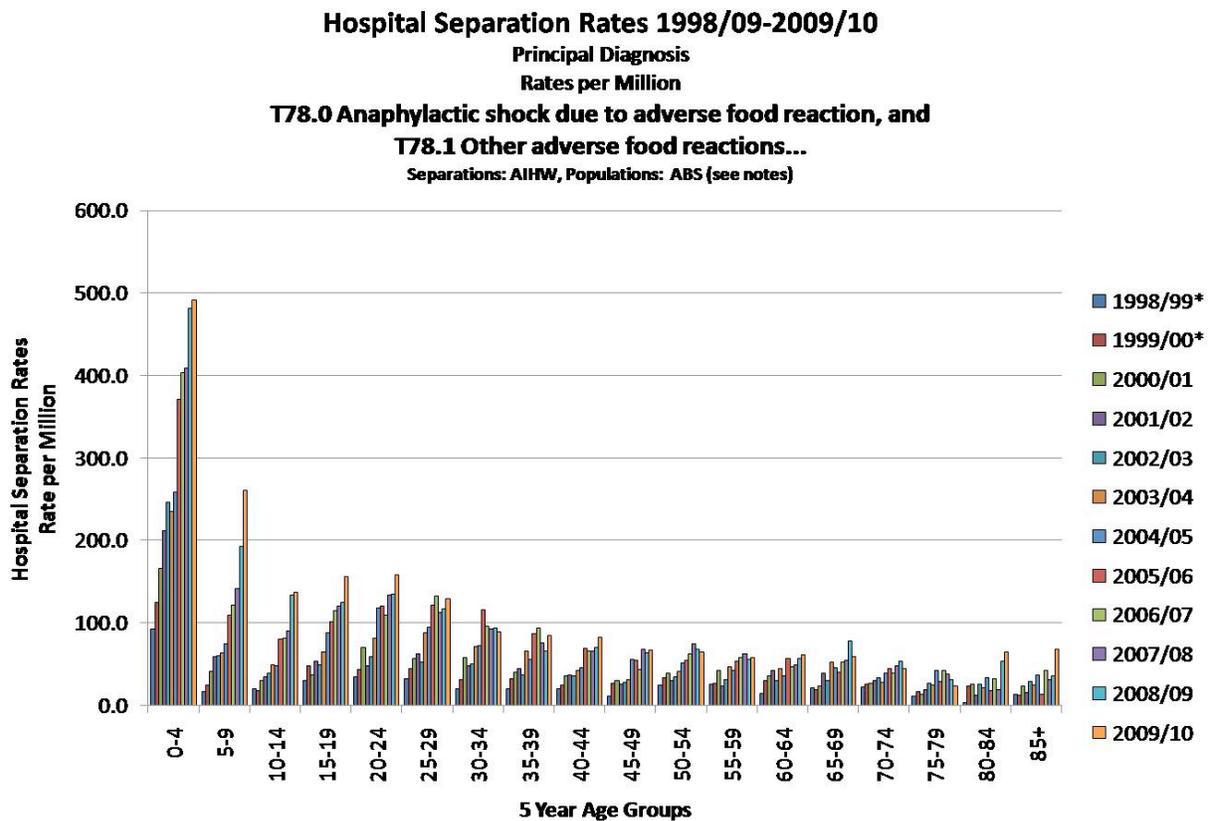
“FSANZ is legislatively required to seek out the “best available science” but I think this is being limited to what is the best available for global trade. This is not what I thought I was paying them to do.”

A selection of the hospitals data follows.

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[1] Separations data source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/principal-diagnosis-data-cubes/>

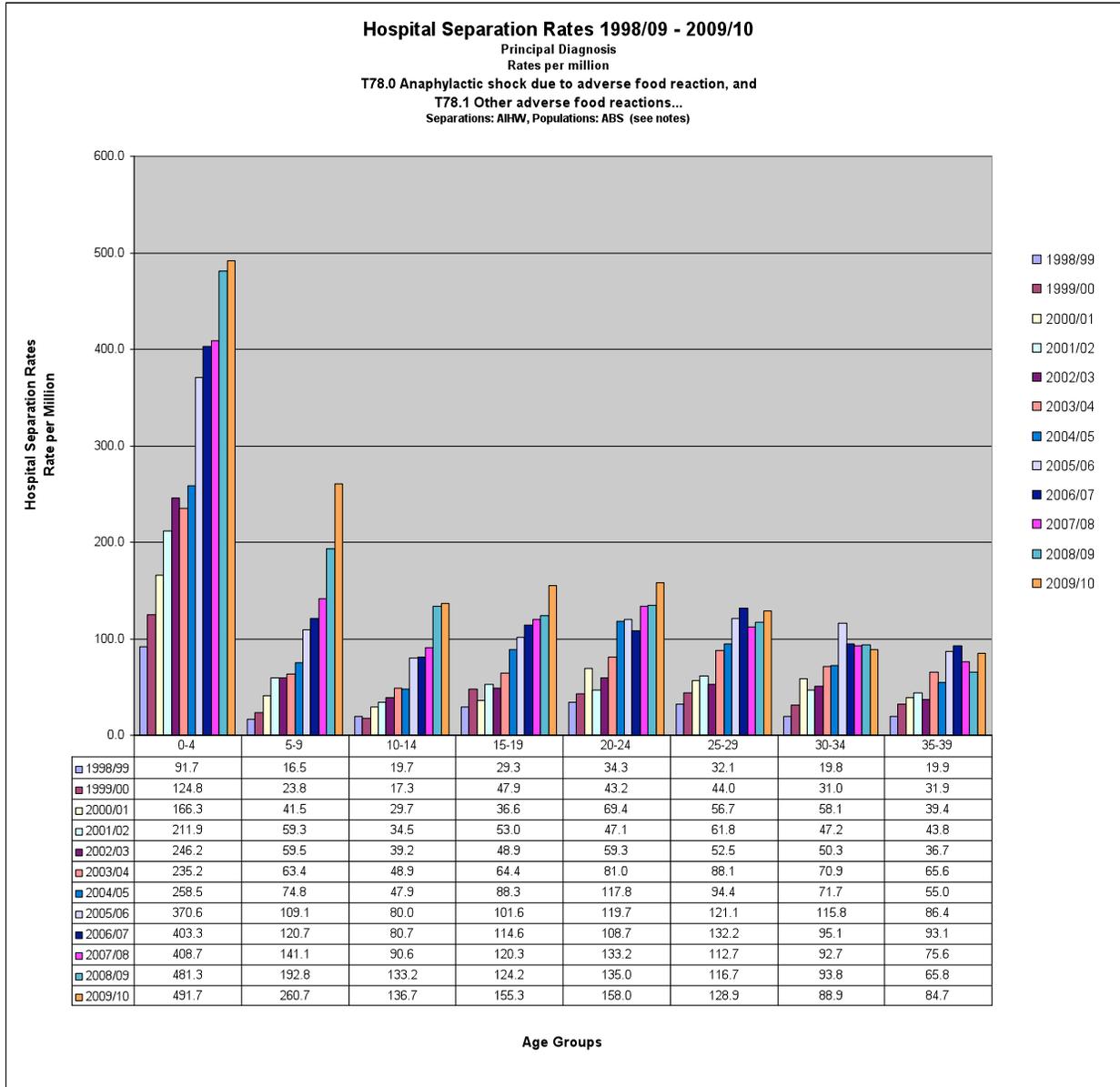
Rates were evaluated using Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population: ABS 3201.0 Table 9. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3201.0Jun%202010?OpenDocument>



Increases in hospital admissions for these two categories associated with serious adverse reaction to food have occurred across all age-groups. See below for more detail on the younger age groups.

* We understand that SA and WA data was not included in the 1998/99 and 1999/00 numbers.

Up Close:



The rates for 5-9 year olds being admitted to hospital on the diagnoses of food anaphylaxis and other adverse food reactions have gone up 85% in just the last two years alone (141.1 -> 280.7).

* We understand that SA and WA data was not included in the 1998/99 and 1999/00 numbers.

[2] Scientific Opinion on the allergenic assessment of GM plants and micro-organisms and derived food and feed <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/scdocs/doc/1700.pdf>

[3] Public kept in the dark on Roundup link with birth defects - new report <http://www.gmwatch.org/latest-listing/1-news-items/13228-public-kept-in-the-dark-on-roundup-link-with-birth-defects-new-report>