

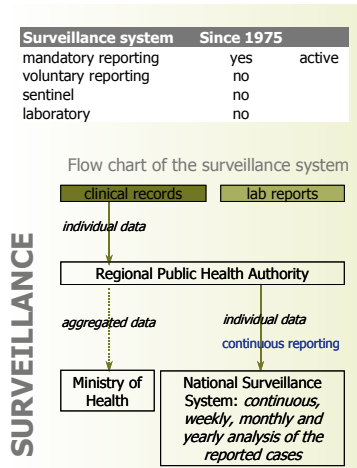
# Surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of Hepatitis B in the Slovak Republic

Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey

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## OBJECTIVES and METHODS

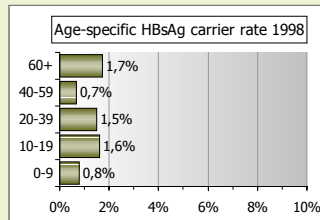
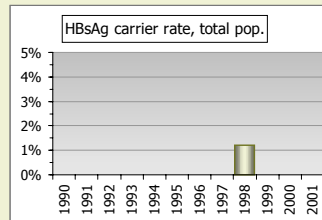
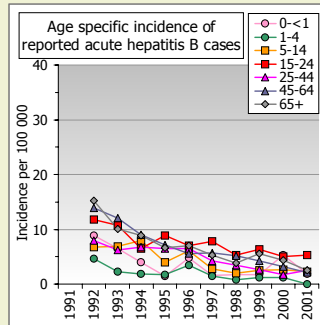
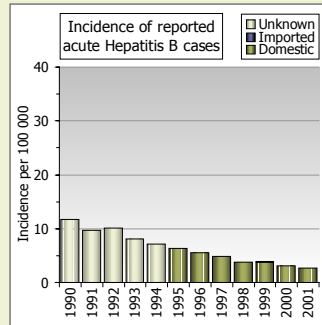
The EUROHEP.NET project is a concerted action, supported by the Quality of Life Programme of the fifth framework of the European Community for research. This project addresses issues related to surveillance and prevention of hepatitis A and B in the EU countries, Associated States and Israel. The overall goal is to study the feasibility of a future network on surveillance and prevention and to facilitate the progress of these countries towards enhanced control of hepatitis A and B.

Early 2003, EUROHEP.NET sent a feasibility survey to all participating countries to take stock of the country-specific surveillance and prevention activities for hepatitis A and B. The first achievement of this EU concerted action is to provide in a standardized/comparative way an overview of the different surveillance systems, epidemiology, burden of disease and prevention programmes for these infectious diseases.

## CASE DEFINITION

- EC Hepatitis B case definition is used:
- Probable:** clinical picture compatible with hepatitis (e.g. discrete onset of symptoms and jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels) and HBsAg positive.
- Confirmed:** clinical case definition and laboratory confirmation (IgM antibody to antiHBc or HBV nucleic acid in serum).

## EPIDEMIOLOGY<sup>1</sup>



## BURDEN OF DISEASE<sup>2,3</sup>

Hepatitis B	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Acute hepatitis B: Hospitalised cases/100000	4.83	3.69	3.80	3.05	2.75
Acute hepatitis B: Hospitalisation days per case					
Chronic hepatitis B: Hospitalised cases/100000	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.37	1.58
Chronic hepatitis B: Hospitalisation days per case					
Total: Hospitalised cases/100000	4.90	3.75	3.91	3.42	4.33
Total: Hospitalisation days per case					
Deaths	0	6	3	1	2
Mortality (total number of deaths per 100 000)	0.00	0.11	0.06	0.02	0.04
Cirrhosis cases					
Total number of patients with hepatocellular cancer					
Total number of liver transplants not hep B specific	0	0	0	0	2
Proportion of liver transplants due to hepatitis B	0	0	0	0	0

## COMMENTS

- Surveillance for hepatitis B is active.
- Hepatitis B is considered low endemic in Slovakia.
- Last conducted sero-epidemiological study was performed in 1998 on all age-specific groups of population of the Slovak Republic.
- Cost of hepatitis B vaccine: private paediatric dose: 11.88€ (Engerix B) and 7.30€ (HBvaxpro) public paediatric use: 2.79€ (Engerix B).

## PREVENTION by active immunisation

Universal programme	starting in	starting at age	schedule	coverage rate 2001
universal screening policy for pregnant women	1985			
vaccination of infants*	1998	9 weeks	0,1,6	99%
vaccination of adolescents				
* mandatory vaccination				

Risk group programmes	available (since)	booster	reimbursed
injecting drug users	1997		yes
men who have sex with men	1997		yes
attendees of STI clinics	1999		yes
dialysis patients*	1983	yes	yes
groups with occupational risk*	1985		yes
household contacts of known hepatitis B carriers*	1990		yes
hospitalised patients			no
neonates born to HBsAg positive mothers*	1985		yes
other risk groups			
* mandatory vaccination			

## FOOTNOTES

- Sources of epidemiological data are official records.
- For the hospital admission data, special report forms are sent from hospitals. Clinicians report cases on a special report form and after finishing the hospitalization they send a hospitalisation report to the District Public Health Institute. Data on hospital admission for acute and chronic cases are reported separately but data on hospitalisation days are not available.
- Mortality data come from clinical reports. Death caused by hepatitis B is mandatory notified.