

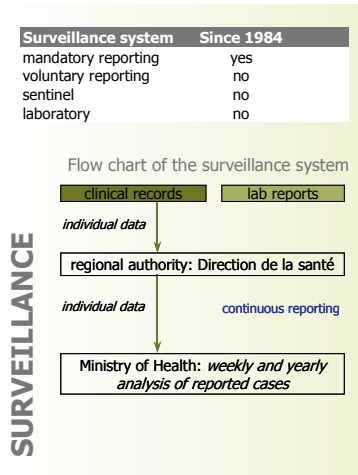


Surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of Hepatitis B in Luxembourg

Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey

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CASE DEFINITION

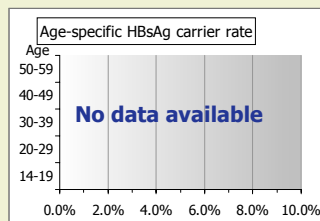
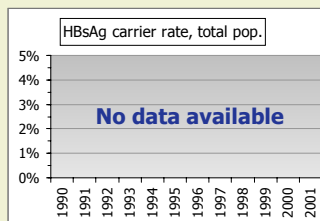
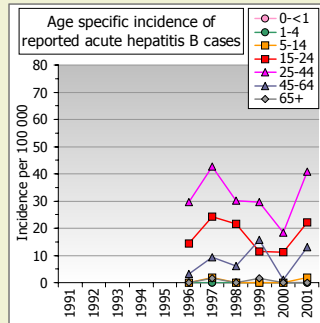
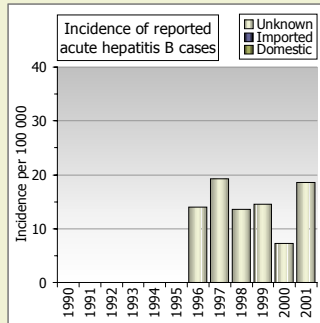
- EC Hepatitis B case definition will be used:
- Probable:** clinical picture compatible with hepatitis (e.g. discrete onset of symptoms and jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels) and HBsAg positive.
- Confirmed:** clinical case definition and laboratory confirmation (IgM antibody to antiHBc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

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.

EPIDEMIOLOGY¹



BURDEN OF DISEASE^{2,3}

Hepatitis B	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Acute hepatitis B: Hospitalised cases/100000					
Acute hepatitis B: Hospitalisation days per case					
Chronic hepatitis B: Hospitalised cases/100000					
Chronic hepatitis B: Hospitalisation days per case					
Total: Hospitalised cases/100000					
Total: Hospitalisation days per case					
Deaths					
Mortality (total number of deaths per 100 000)					
Cirrhosis cases					
Total number of patients with hepatocellular cancer					
Total number of liver transplants not hep B specific					

COMMENTS

- Surveillance for hepatitis B is mandatory.
- EC case definition will be used in the future.
- Hepatitis B is considered as a low endemic disease in Luxembourg. Carrier rate data are not available.
- There is an infant universal vaccination programme in place.

PREVENTION by active immunisation

Universal programme	starting in	starting at age	schedule	coverage rate
universal screening policy for pregnant women				
vaccination of infants	1996	1-2 m	0,1,6	
vaccination of adolescents				

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

FOOTNOTES

- Sources of epidemiological data are officially reported cases from the surveillance center.
- The hospital admission data are not available.
- Mortality data are available, but not communicated.