

Germany

Population (January 2013):	80 523 746
Human development Index (2013):	0.911
HAV vaccine recommendations:	HAV vaccination is not included within the National Immunization Programme. HAV vaccination is recommended for persons with specific indication or who are at higher risk for infection/disease: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MSM 2. highly transfused 3. residents of psychiatric institutions or comparable welfare facilities 4. health service workers and medical students 5. sewage workers 6. employees of children's day centres, children's homes 7. travellers to regions at high endemicity for HAV. HAV vaccine is also used as post-exposure prophylaxis.
Seroprevalence studies by quality score:	score 0: 7 studies score 1: 5 studies score 2: 4 studies
Seroprevalence studies timeframe:	1975–2010

Seroprevalence assessment: **very low**
 Incidence assessment: **very low**
 Susceptibility in adults: **high**

Several studies estimating HAV seroprevalence were conducted in Germany before 1990, mostly during the 1970s. Ten studies provided estimates of seroprevalence at 15 and 30 years of age; all estimated prevalence below 35% by the age of 15 years, however seroprevalence ranged from 40% to 62% by the age of 30, depending on the studies (Germany_Figure 1). The six studies conducted during the 1990s provided comparable estimates, with an HAV seroprevalence of 30% or below by the age of 30 years, rising above 50% in those aged 50 and older (Germany_Figure 1). Two studies were published after 2000, of which one is the report of the German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Adults (DEGS1) (Poethko 2013). The studies provide HAV seroprevalence in the youth and adult population with estimates below 40% by the age of 30, a slight increase as compared to the previous decade.

Germany may be considered a very low endemicity country since the 1990s.

Germany_Table 1. Hepatitis A seroprevalence level by time period

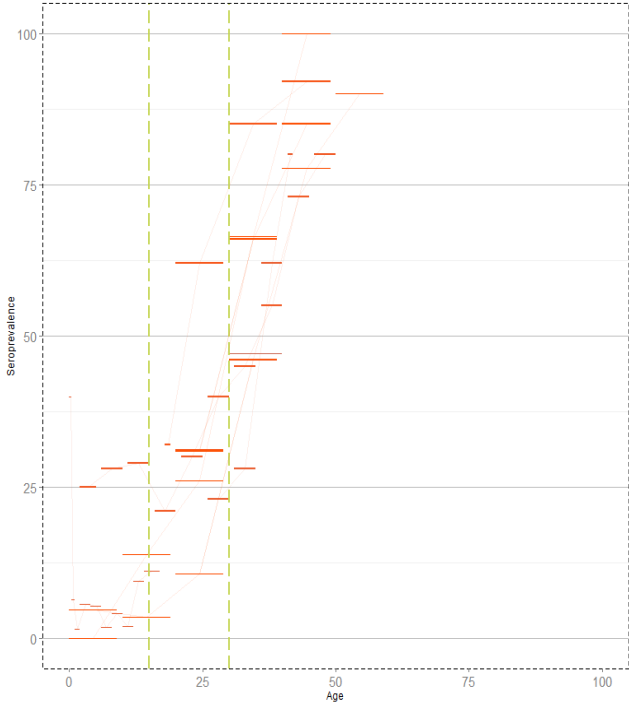
	Very low endemicity	Low endemicity	Intermediate endemicity
1975–1989			
1990–1999			
2000–2013			

Incidence data are available from 1990 (Germany_Figure 2) and show a marked decreasing trend from a reported rate of around 7/100 000 in mid 1990s to a reported rate consistently below 2/100 000 since 2006.

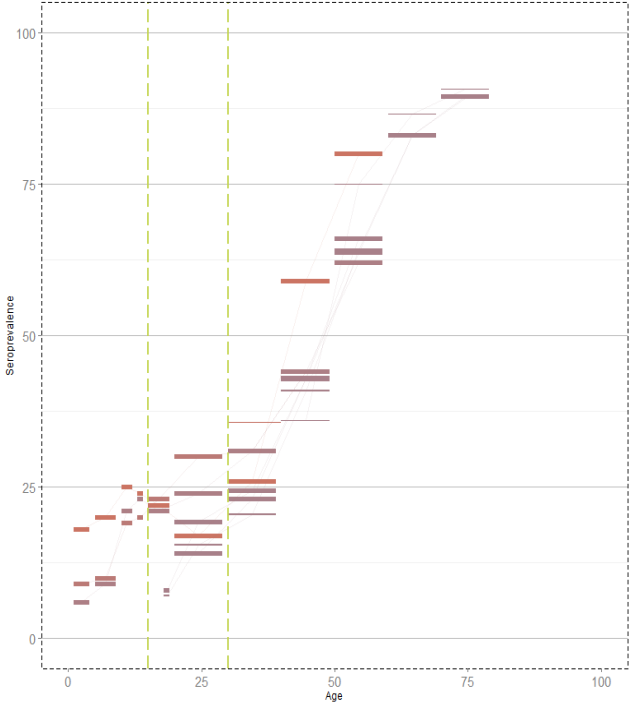
Based on the available data from the 1990s, the susceptibility was estimated to be around 75% by the age of 30, and around 50% at the age of 50. Therefore the susceptibility among adults has been and is currently likely to be high.

Germany_Figure 1 (panel a). Summary of seroprevalence in Germany, by age and time period

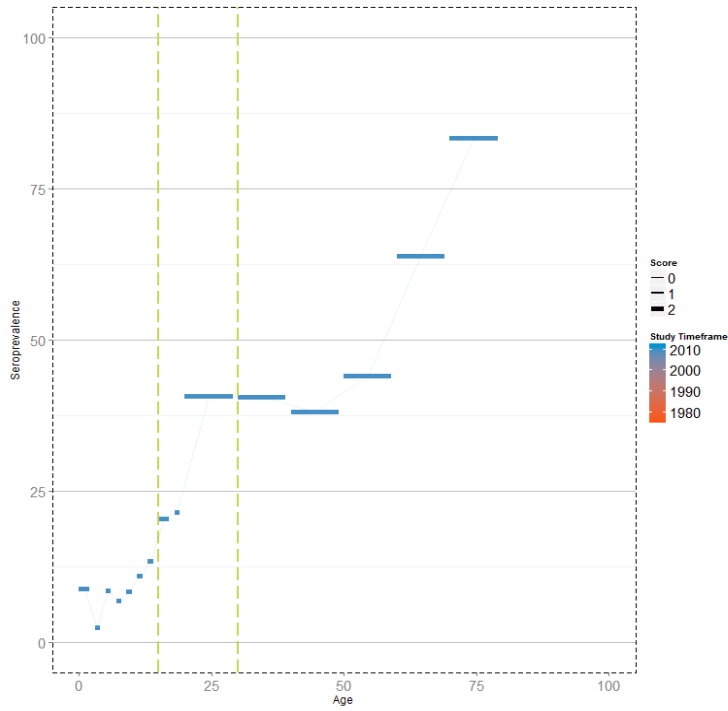
Panel a.1: 1975–1989



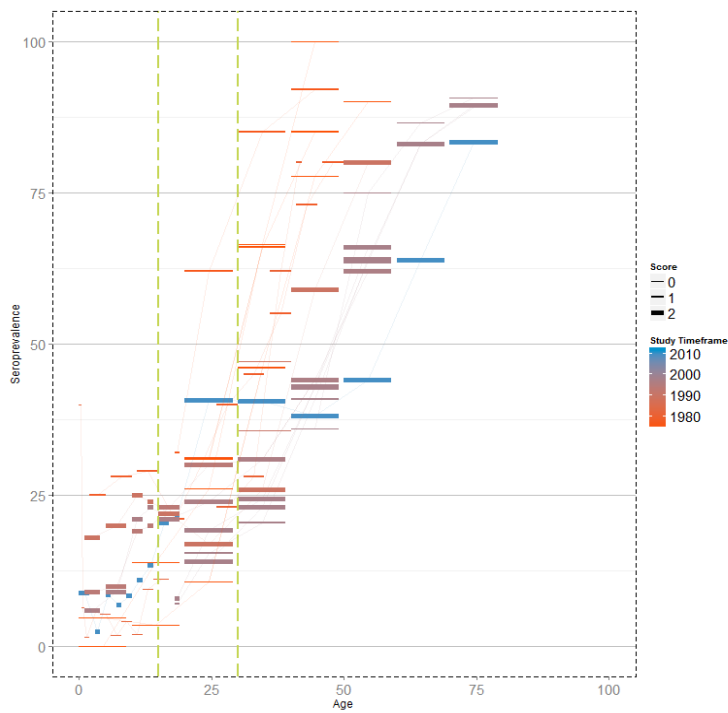
Panel a.2: 1990–1999

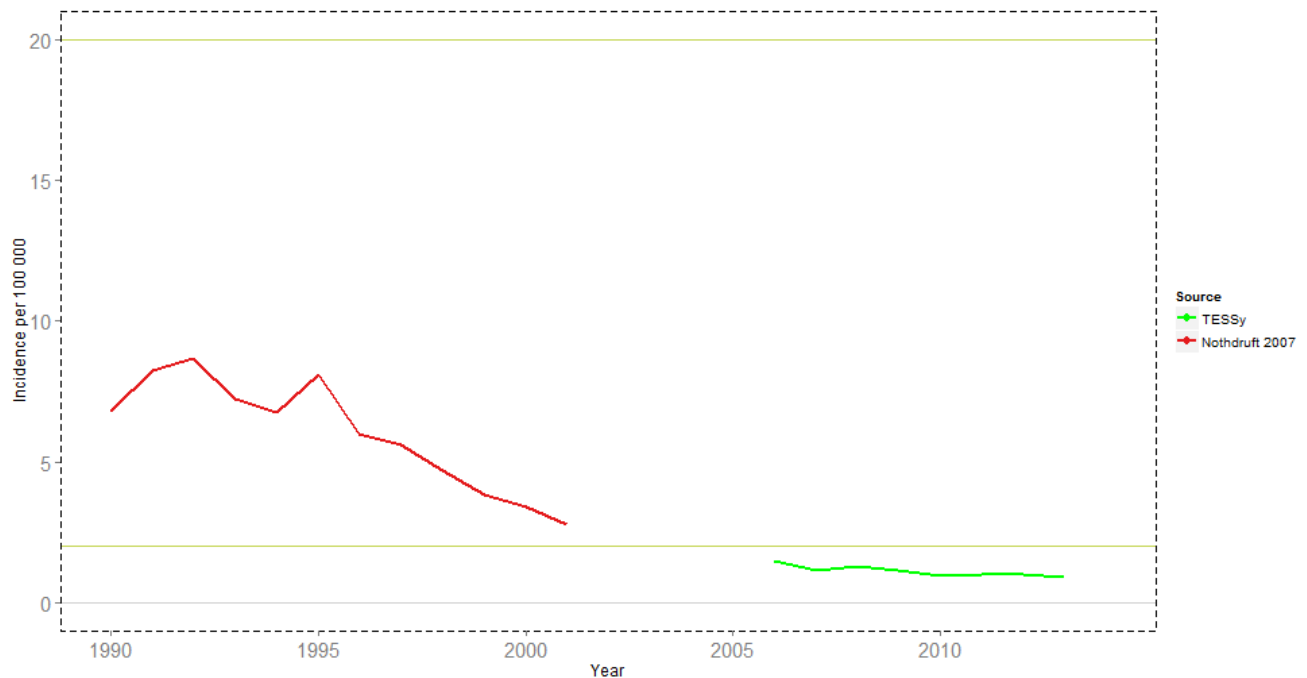


Panel a.3: 2000–2013



Germany_Figure 1 (panel b). Summary of seroprevalence in Germany, by age and time period (1975-2013)



Germany_Figure 2. Reported incidence of hepatitis A, Germany, 1990–2013

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