

Greece

Population (January 2013):	11 062 508
Human development Index (2013):	0.853
HAV vaccine recommendations:	As of January 2008, HAV vaccine is offered free of charge to all children above the age of 12 months within the National Immunization Programme. In addition HAV vaccination is recommended for adults who are at higher risk for infection/disease: 1. travellers to endemic countries with high/intermediate endemicity 2. MSM 3. PWID; 4. health service workers 5. professionals involved in handling and distribution of food In 2011 the estimated coverage of HAV vaccine was 62% in children below six, (Pavlopoulou, 2013).
Seroprevalence studies by quality score:	score 0: 4 studies score 1: 4 studies score 2: 0 studies
Seroprevalence studies timeframe:	1977–2007

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

Few studies on the prevalence of HAV in children and young adults were conducted in Greece in the period 1977–1989. The seroprevalence estimates in the studies conducted are above 50% at the age of 30. Only one study conducted in 1982 (Papavangelou 1982) provides a seroprevalence estimate below 50% at the age of 15 (Greece_Figure 1). Out of 4 studies estimating HAV seroprevalence in Greece between 1990 and 1999, two gave information on the estimates of seroprevalence by 15 years old with estimates ranging from 6% to 32%. Two studies provided estimates for young adults aged 19–20 at 17%. One study (Lionis 1997) on Crete population, provided a seroprevalence estimate of 95% in the age group 45–64 years. Two studies were conducted in the period 2006–7, providing estimates of an HAV seroprevalence below 20% by 15 and by 30 years (Greece_Figure 1). Given the intra-country seroprevalence variability in Greece, it is challenging to assign an appropriate endemicity profile, although it is likely to be very low for most of the Greek territory.

Greece_Table 1. Hepatitis A seroprevalence level by time period

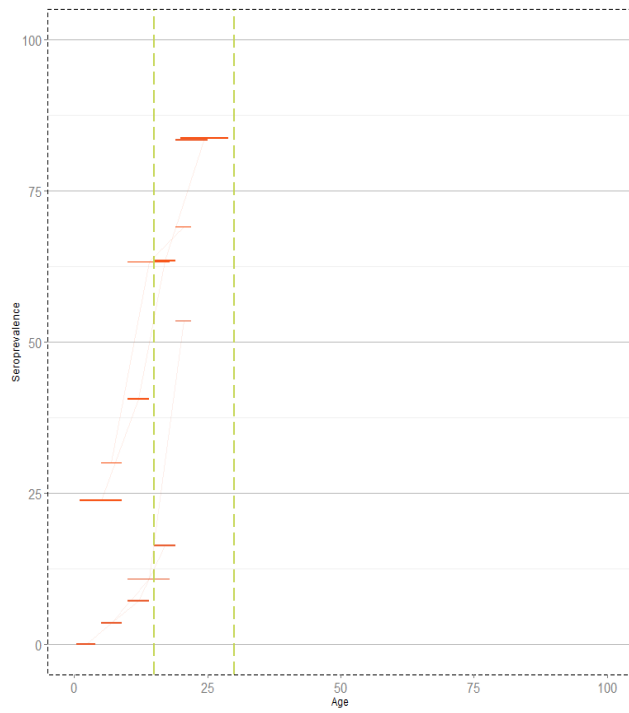
	Very low endemicity	Low endemicity	Intermediate endemicity
1975–1989			
1990–1999			
2000–2013			

The reported incidence of hepatitis A in Greece is available from 1990 and shows fluctuation around 2/100 000 with a decreasing trend since 2007 (Greece_Figure 2).

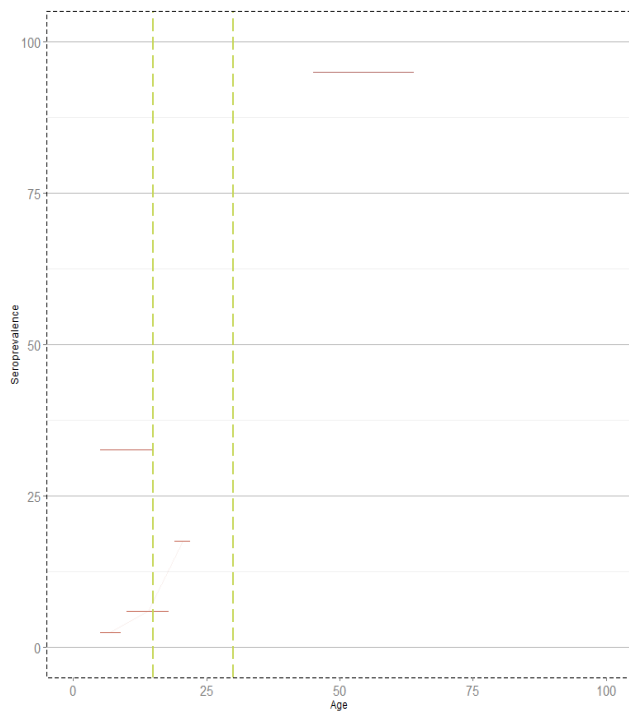
Data are too scarce to assess the susceptibility level in adults. However, considering the seroprevalence level in the past decades, and the likelihood of intra-country variability, the susceptibility in adults may today be considered moderate.

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

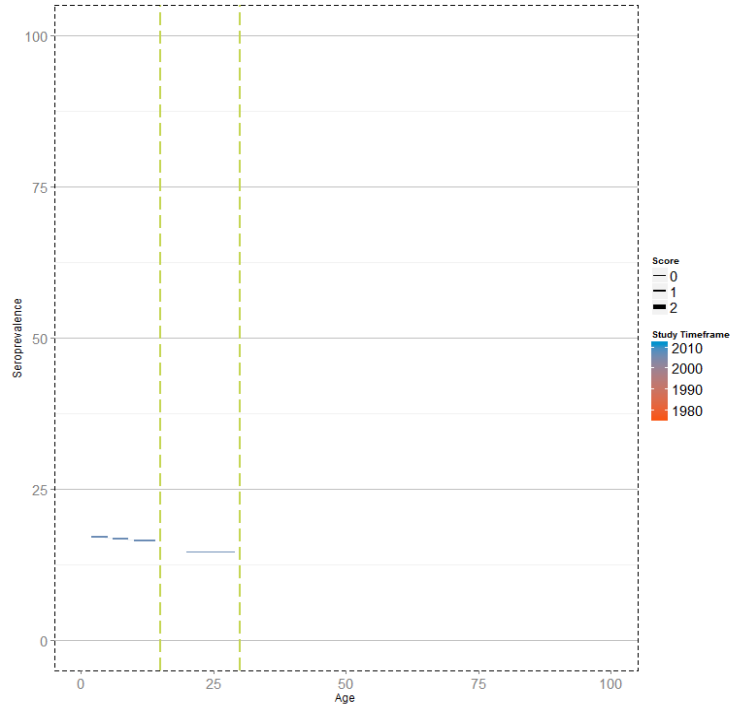
Panel a.1: 1975–1989



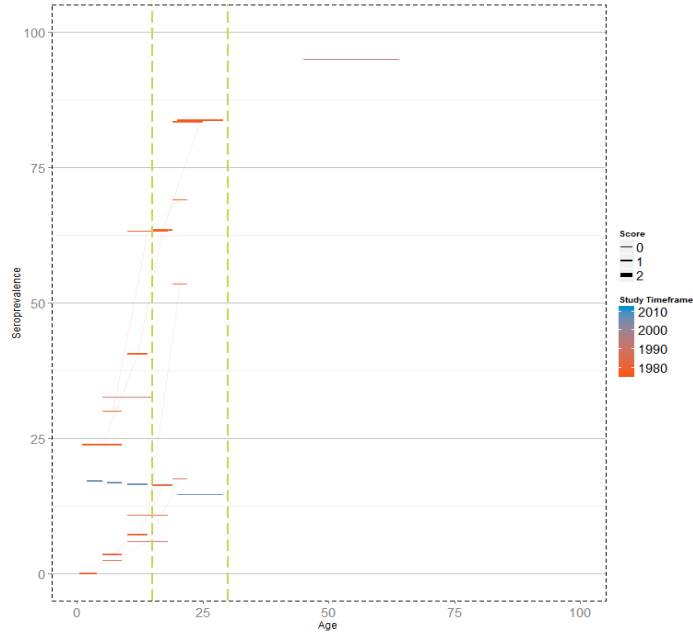
Panel a.2: 1990–1999

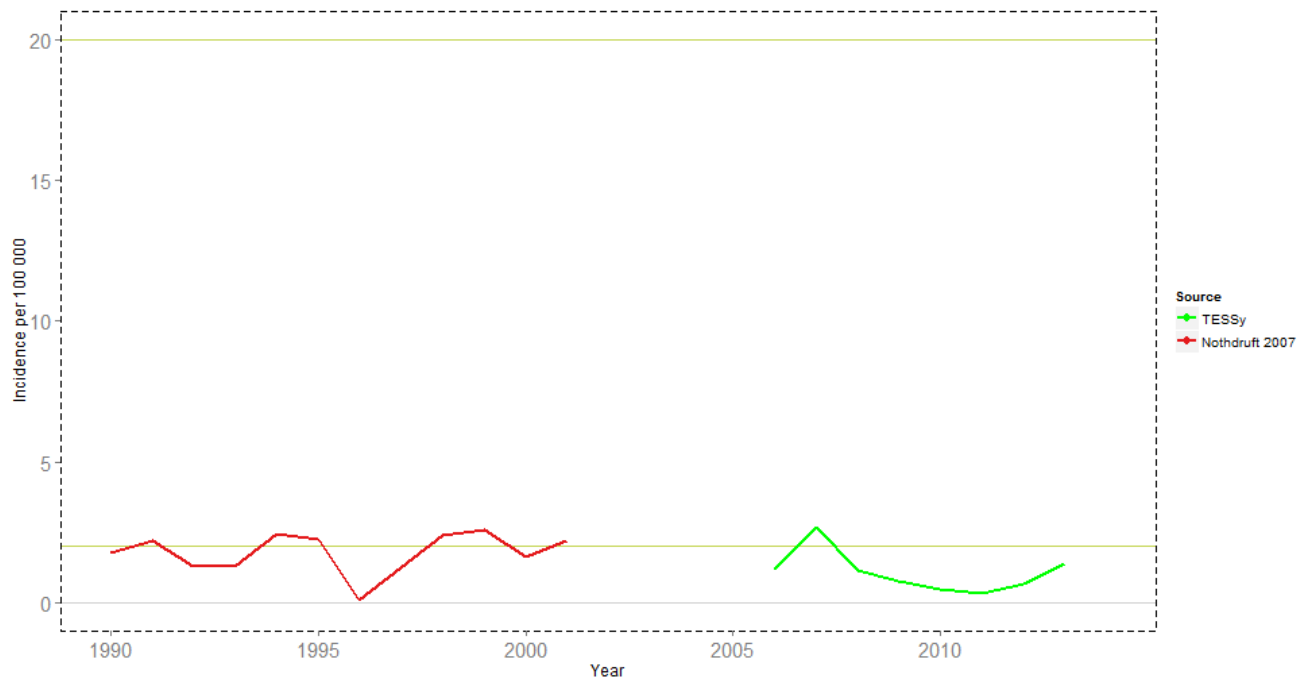


Panel a.3: 2000–2013



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



Greece_Figure 2. Reported incidence of hepatitis A, Greece, 1990–2013**Bibliography**

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