

Slovakia

Population (January 2013):	5 410 836
Human development Index (2013):	0.830
HAV vaccine recommendations:	HAV vaccination is not included in the National Immunisation Schedule. It is recommended and fully covered by public health insurance for children aged 2 living in places with low social-hygienic standard, and for all older children in the case of an outbreak (contacts of cases). The vaccination is recommended and paid for by employers for the following professionals: staff of regional public health institutes and laboratories, sewage workers, professional soldiers, military of Slovakia, police officers including prison and court guards, railway police, employees of asylum centres, fire and rescue service employees. The vaccine is also recommended for travellers to endemic countries.
Seroprevalence studies by quality score:	score 0: 0 study score 1: 0 study score 2: 2 study
Seroprevalence studies timeframe:	2002–2003

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

The only study available (Kurkela 2012), complemented by unpublished data from the National Institute of Health (Figure 1), indicates a seroprevalence in Slovakia of 30% or below at the age of 30 in a random sample of the population in 2003. Based on these findings, Slovakia has been classified as a very low endemicity country since at least the early 2000s. Nevertheless caution should be applied when assessing the endemicity level, as a slightly different picture is obtained from the reported incidence data (Figure 2).

Slovakia_Table 1. Hepatitis A seroprevalence level by time period

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

The HAV reported incidence has been decreasing constantly in Slovakia since the mid-1990s, from over 30/100 000 to less than 10/100 000 in 2006–2007. Nevertheless a steep rise in incidence was reported over the years 2008–2010, reaching rates over 26/100 000 in two consecutive years.

The susceptibility was estimated to be about 70% by the age of 30 and between 40% and 20% at the age of 50. Therefore the susceptibility in adults is considered moderate.

Slovakia_Figure 1 (panel a). Summary of seroprevalence in Slovakia, by age and selected time period.

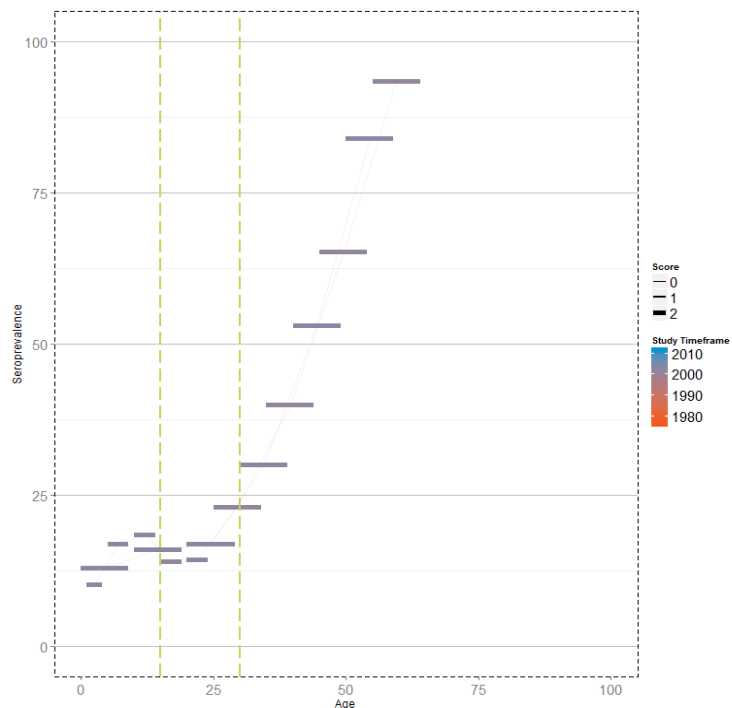
Panel a.1: 1975–1989

No data available

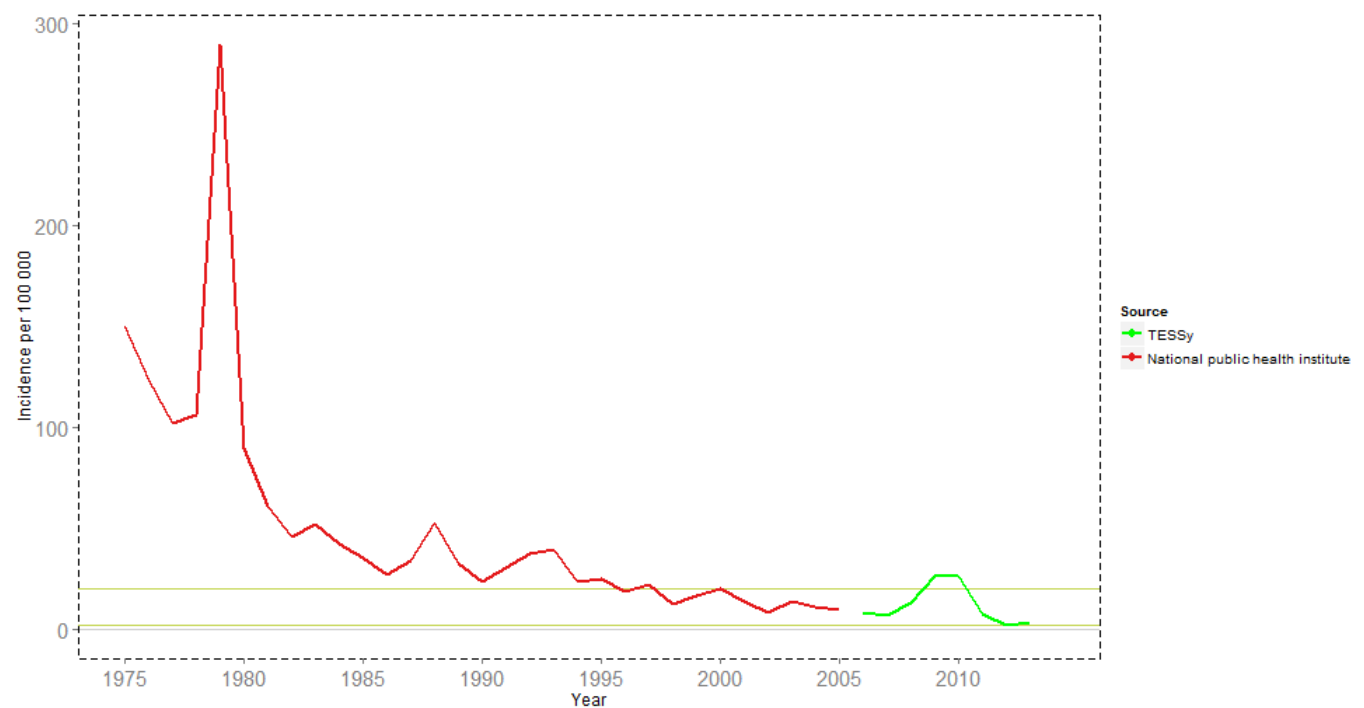
Panel a.2: 1990–1999

No data available

Panel a.3: 2000–2013



Slovakia_Figure 2. Reported incidence of hepatitis A, Slovakia, 1990–2013*



*National data source: personal communication from ECDC National Focal Point/Operational Contact Point, Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic

Bibliography

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