

# Hepatitis B surveillance, epidemiology and prevention strategies in the Nordic countries

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# Hepatitis B surveillance in the Nordic countries

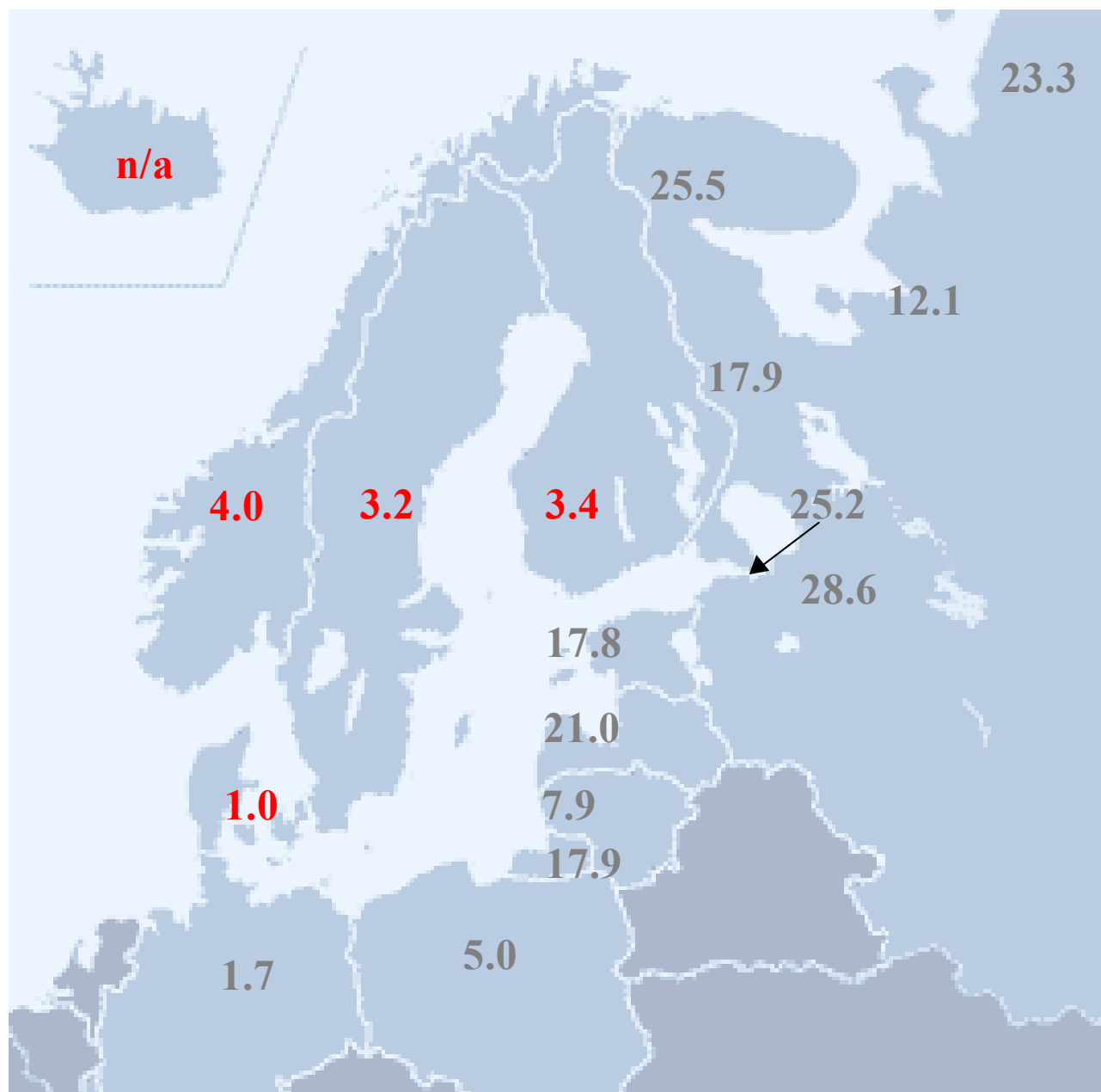
Denmark Finland Iceland Norway Sweden

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|  |                   |   |   |   |   |
|--|-------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Acute  | X                 | X |   | X | X |
| Chronic  | X<br>(since 2000) | X |   | X | X |
| No differentiation<br>between acute and<br>chronic |                   |   | X |   |   |

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Incidence  
of acute  
hepatitis B  
in 2002 per  
100 000  
population

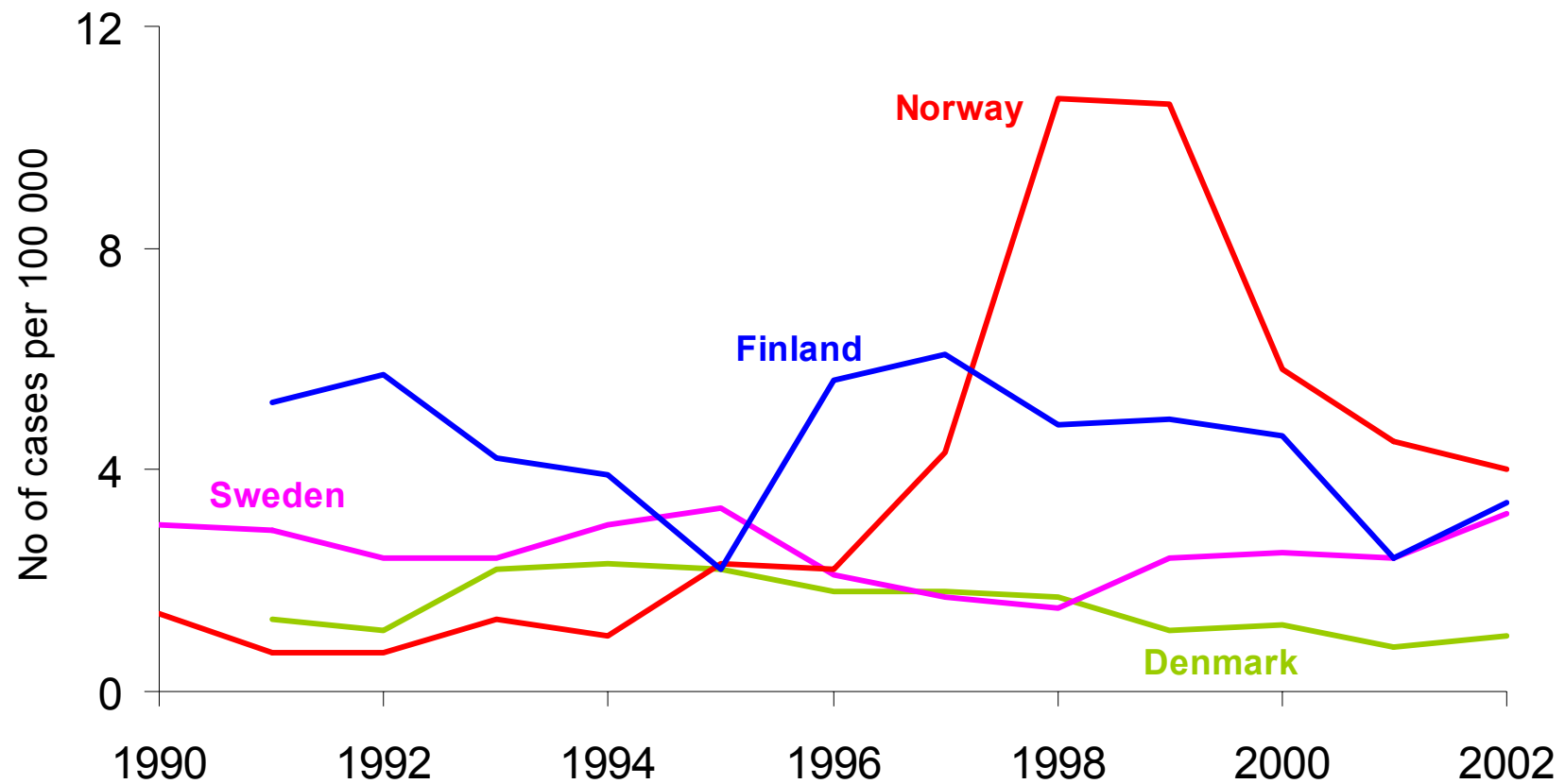


n/a = data not available

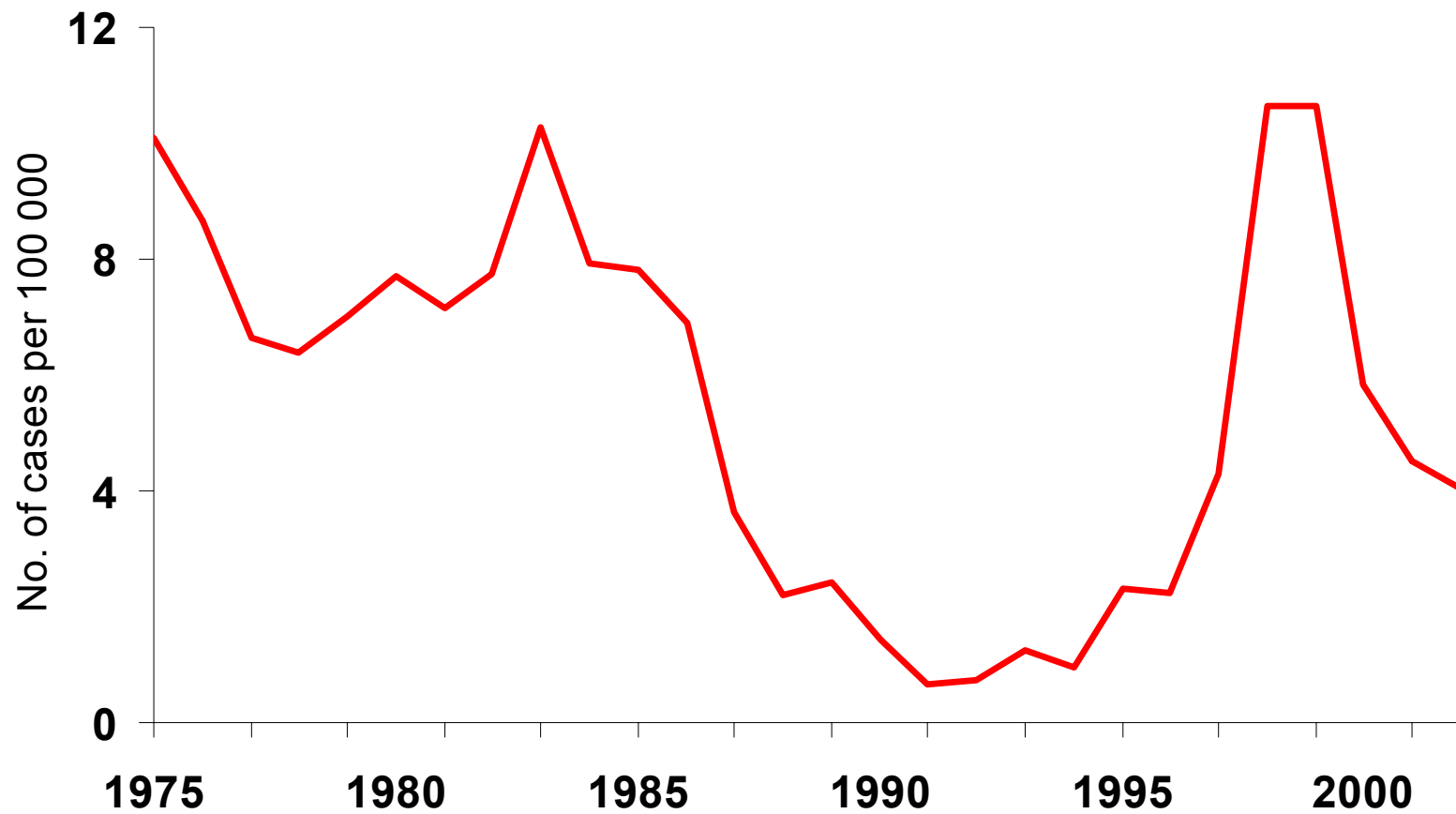
## Acute hepatitis B notifications in the Nordic countries 2002 by route of transmission

|                     | Denmark | Finland | Norway | Sweden |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| IV drug users       | 11      | 28      | 120    | 166    |
| Sexual transmission | 23      | 42      | 42     | 77     |
| Others/unknown      | 29      | 57      | 21     | 46     |
| Total               | 63      | 127     | 186    | 289    |

# Acute hepatitis B notifications in the Nordic countries 1990-2002



# Acute hepatitis B notifications in Norway 1975-2002



# Hepatitis B-prevention in the Nordic countries - main prevention measures

|                           | Denmark   | Finland   | Iceland   | Norway    | Sweden    |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Preexposure immunisation  | Selective | Selective | Selective | Selective | Selective |
| Testing in pregnancy      | Selective | Selective | Selective | Selective | Selective |
| Harm reduction drug users | Yes       | Yes       | Few       | Yes       | Few       |
| Postexposure immunisation | Yes       | Yes       | Yes       | Yes       | Yes       |

## Preexposure hepatitis B-vaccination in the Nordic countries - recommended groups for vaccination

|   | Denmark            | Finland | Iceland          | Norway | Sweden |
|---|--------------------|---------|------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>Contacts to carriers<br/>(incl. sex partners)</b>                              | (X)                | X       |                  | X      | X      |
| <b>IV drug users</b>  | (X) <sup>(1)</sup> | X       | X <sup>(1)</sup> | X      | (X)    |
| <b>Male homosexuals</b>   | X                  |         |                  | X      | (X)    |
| <b>Prostitutes</b>  |                    | X       |                  | X      |        |
| <b>Immigrants</b>   | X                  |         |                  | X      |        |
| <b>Underlying hepatic<br/>disease</b>   | X                  |         |                  | X      |        |
| <b>Haemophiliacs</b>  | X                  | X       |                  | X      | X      |
| <b>Down syndrome</b>  | X                  |         |                  | X      |        |
| <b>Children in day<br/>care centers with<br/>carriers &lt; 3 years<br/>of age</b> | (X)                |         |                  | X      | (X)    |
| <b>Dialysis patients</b>  |                    |         |                  | X      | X      |
| <b>Medical students</b>   |                    | X       |                  | X      |        |
| <b>Employees incl.<br/>HCW</b>  | X                  | X       | X                | X      | X      |

**Blue :**

Free, cost covered by the State

**(Blue) :**

Free , but dependant on regional authorities

**Black :**

Partial free or paid by employers

(1) - drug rehabilitation centers or prisons only

# Hepatitis B-prevention in the Nordic countries

## - harm reduction measures drug abuse

|  | Denmark | Finland | Iceland | Norway | Sweden            |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------------------|
| Clean needles and syringes readily available   | Yes     | Yes     | Yes     | Yes    | No <sup>(1)</sup> |
| Free needles and syringes or exchange programs | Yes     | Yes     | No      | Yes    | No <sup>(2)</sup> |
| Drug-assisted treatment                        | Yes     | Yes     | Yes     | Yes    | No <sup>(2)</sup> |
| Provision of disinfectants in prisons          | Yes     | Yes     |         | Yes    | No                |

*(1) doctors prescription only    (2) limited projects only*

# Hepatitis B epidemiology in the Nordic countries - summary

- Hepatitis B is universal notified in all the Nordic countries
- All the countries (except Iceland) reports both acute and chronic disease
- Increased incidence of hepatitis B in all the Nordic countris in the 1990s and early 2000s
- Increased incidence caused by increasing no. of infected IV drug users (outbreaks)
- Selective hepatitis B-vaccination in all the countries, difference in covering of costs
- Different harm reduction strategies in the countries do not reflect the incidence of hepatis B (or HIV infection) among IV drug users

# Acknowledgements

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