

ALBANIA

VHPB BALKAN MEETING

*LESSONS LEARNT, BEST
PRACTICES AND
FUTURE CHALLENGES*



ALBANIA

NATIONAL PLAN

Is there a (written) national strategy or plan that focuses exclusively or primarily on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis?

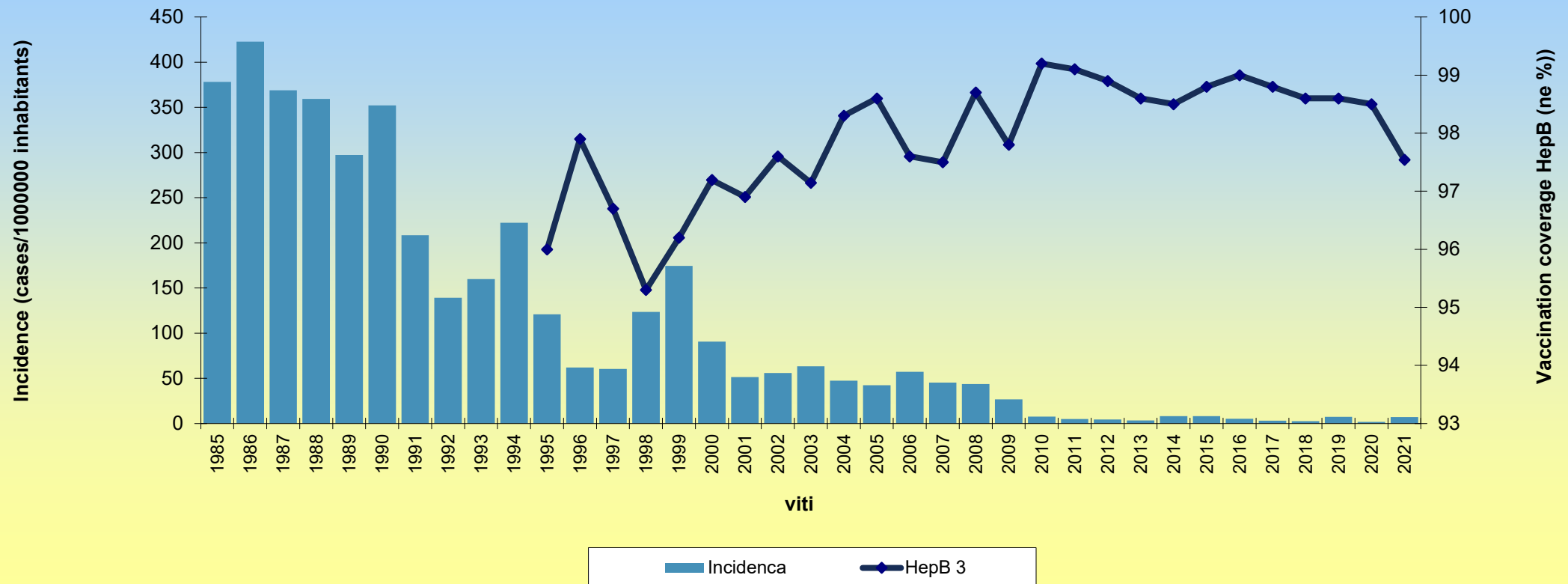
- There is a draft strategy not approved
- National guidelines for the prevention of infectious agents transmitted from mother to child-screening – 2014
- Prevention program standards of HIV infection and other infectious agents transmitted from mother to child -2019
- Guideline for prevention, diagnosis and treatment
- Hepatitis B and A vaccination plan - has to be revised
- NGO screening for risk groups - PWID, MSM, Female sex workers

Summarize the objectives and goals of this national plan

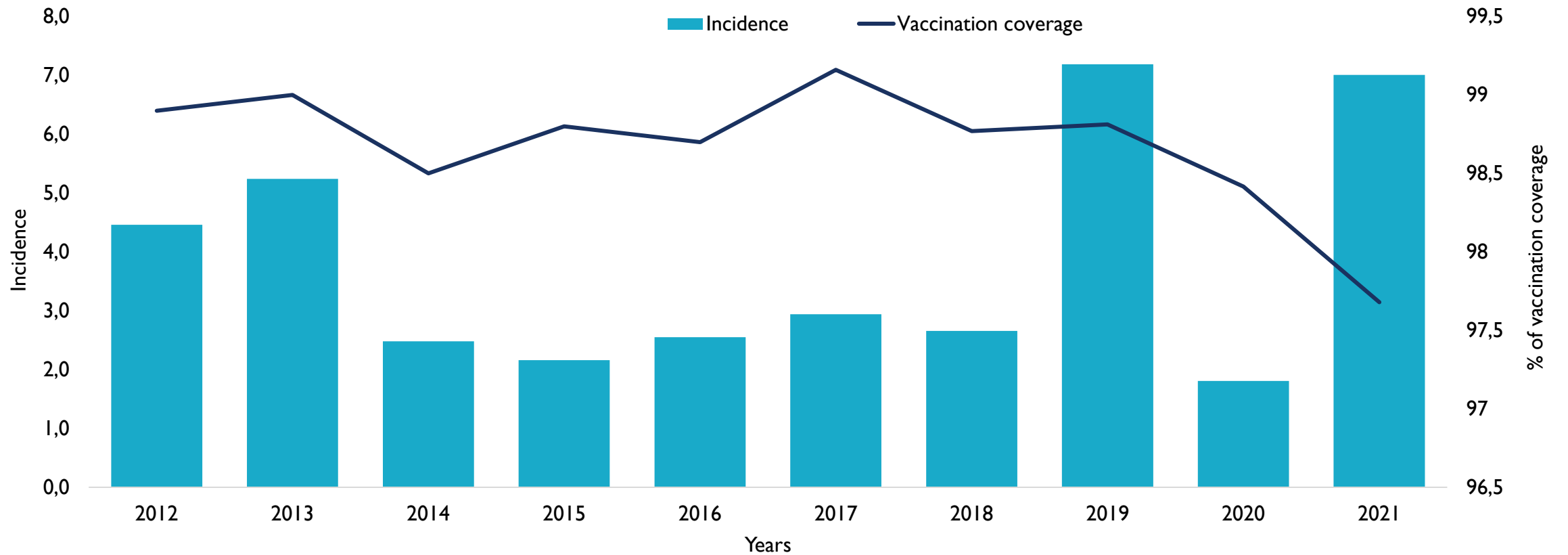
- The objectives of this screening program are to ensure:
- identification of all women positive for Hepatitis B
- providing referral of all Hepatitis B positive women for evaluation and management by an appropriate specialist within days of receipt of the screening test result
- providing vaccination for infants, where the first dose must be administered within the first 12-24 hours of birth or HBIG as appropriate
- standards are related to screening process and the referral to health care system

HEPATITIS B VACCINATION COVERAGE AND IMPACT ON HEPATITIS B INCIDENCE

Incidence of unspecified viral hepatitis (1985-2009) and HBV (2010-2021) compared to vaccination coverage (1995-2021)



INCIDENCE OF HBV AND VACCINATION COVERAGE



ALBANIA

SPECIFIC VIRAL HEPATITIS ISSUES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Country specific issues

- Strategy/national plan for control and prevention of viral hepatitis- to be revised and approved
- Chronic hepatitis surveillance system – missing
- Laboratory capacities centralized but recently improved
- Collaboration between institutions - clinicians ID and Hepatologist and /epi- missing
- Seroprevalence studies – to be conducted- lack of funds
- Private sector reporting – missing

Challenges and needs to reach the 2030 Elimination Targets

- National strategy and plan - to be revised and implemented
- Web based system for collection of data for viral hepatitis- from paper to web based surveillance system of reporting
- Cascade of treatment specified (decentralize)