

# Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP)

## National Program for Viral Hepatitis prevention and control

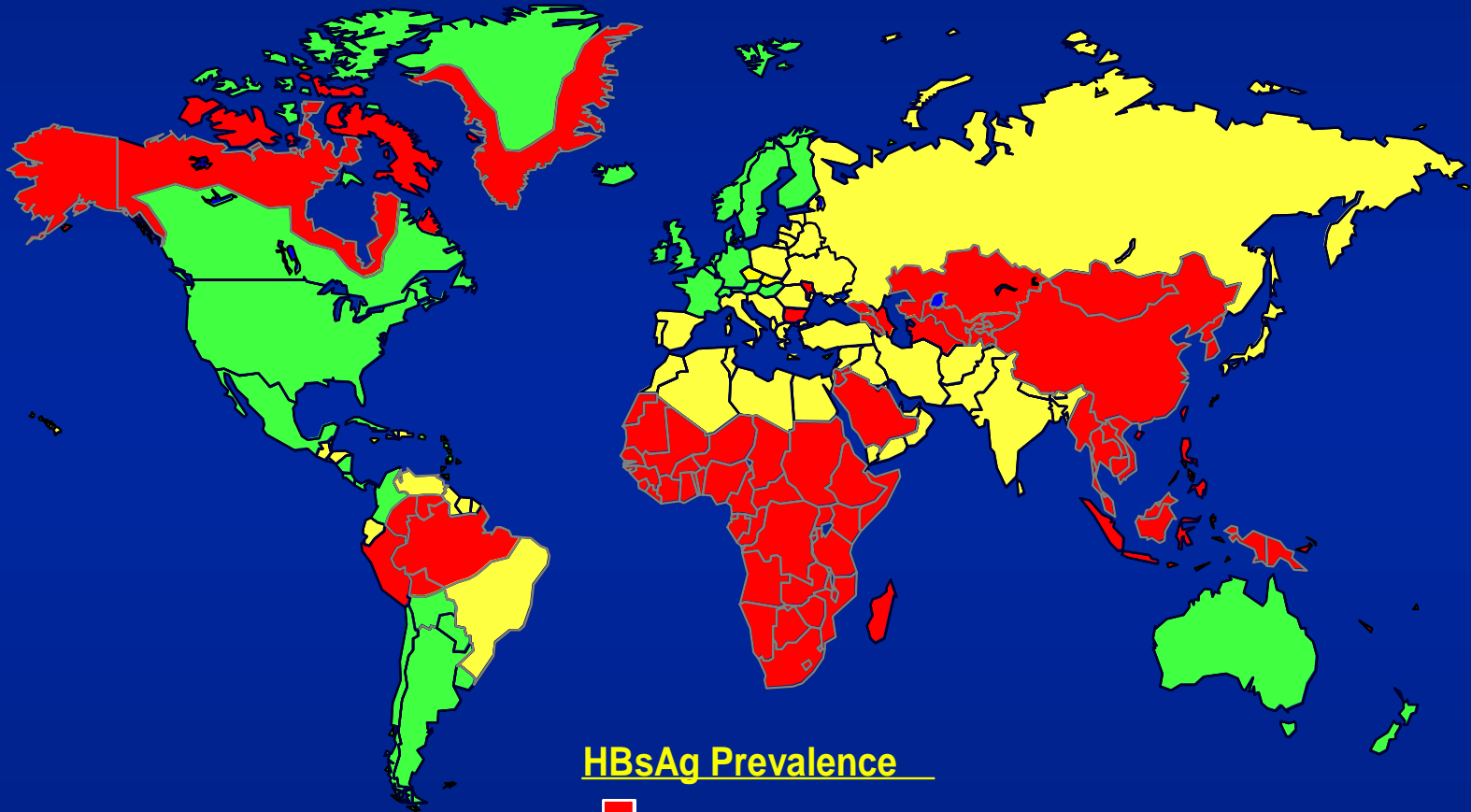
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Office for Viral Hepatitis

**Viral Hepatitis is a serious and common infectious disease of the liver, affecting millions of people throughout the world**

**Greece belongs into the areas where  
the prevalence of chronic HBV  
infection is intermediate (2 to 8%)**

# World distribution map of HBV

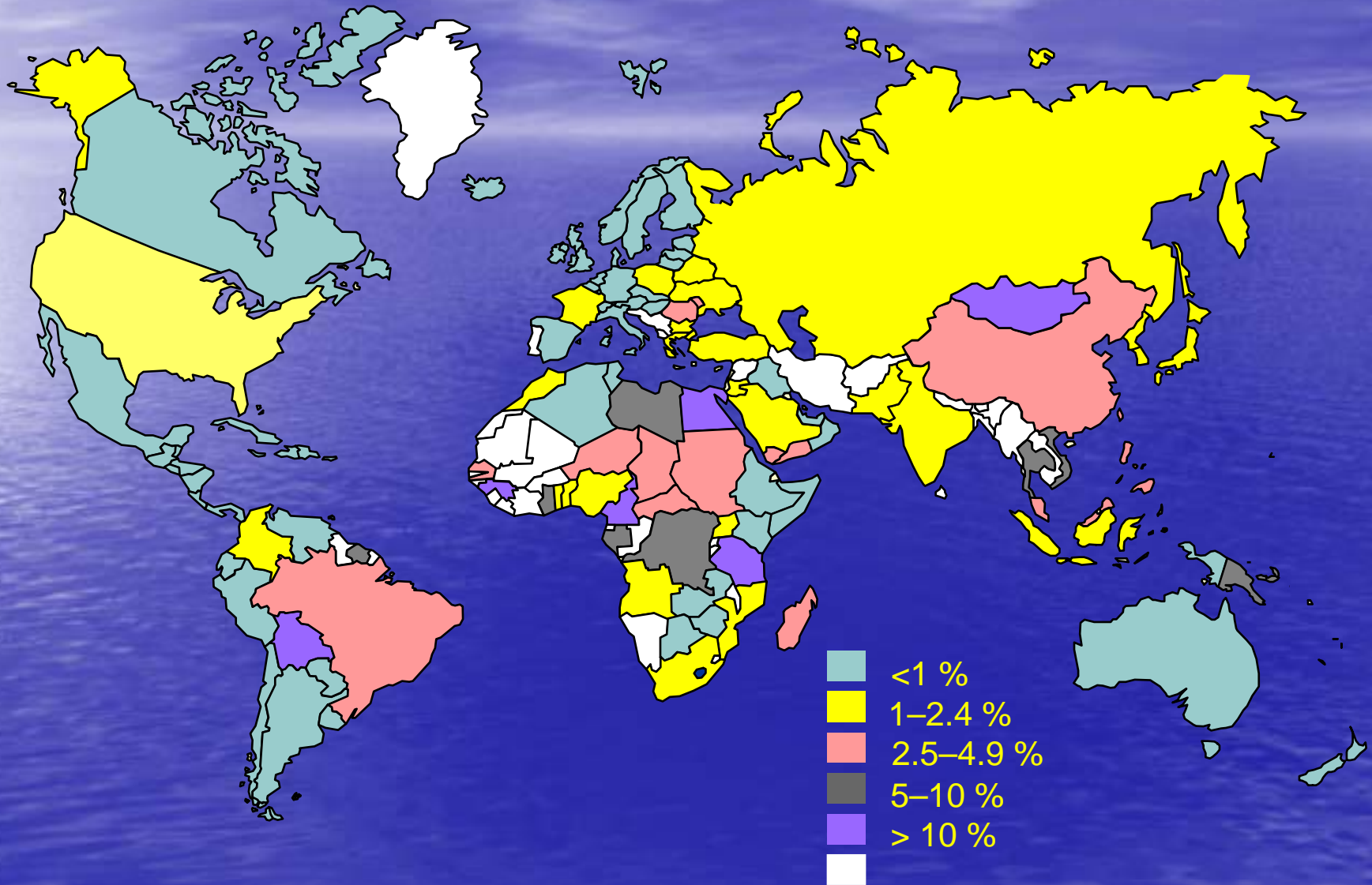


## HBsAg Prevalence

- ≥8% -high
- 2-7% intermediate
- <2% -low

**Prevalence of Hepatitis C chronic  
infection in Greece is low (1,5-2%)**

# World distribution map HCV



# **Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP)**

**Surveillance, prevention and control of  
viral hepatitis is one of the most  
important goals of our Center.**

# HCDCP

In HCDCP there is:

- Office of Viral Hepatitis that consists from 2 physicians, 1 nurse and 1 administrative employee
- Scientific commission of Viral Hepatitis is constituted of 25 members.



# The objects of Office of Viral Hepatitis and the Scientific commission

- Prevention
- Education
- Surveillance
- Improvement medical care
- Coordination of the nationwide Hepnet  
Greece study

**The high priority in our center  
is Prevention**

# Vaccination

**National Program on Immunization in Greece provide:**

The vaccination for Hepatitis B is obligatory  
for all the neonates from 1/1/1998  
(4543/10-9-97)

**Through the vaccination we can  
succeed the prevention of acute and  
chronic HBV infection and the  
elimination of HBV transmission in  
all age groups**

We Updated the Recommendations for  
Hepatitis A and B vaccination  
and

We try to apply management Programs to  
Prevent Perinatal HBV infection

- The pregnant women should be tested for HBsAg as part of routine prenatal care
- Infants born from HBsAg positive women should have medical record of hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG administration

# Strategic priorities

Education and training among:

- health care professionals
- high risk populations
- general public

# Education for viral hepatitis

- Educational material for hepatitis B, C in 6 languages (free)
- Recommendations for teachers on prevention and transmission of hepatitis B and C in schools
- HCDCP web site: [www.keelpno.gr](http://www.keelpno.gr)

- Day meeting and conferences for hepatitis B and C
- Brochures
- Clinical guidelines
- Training programs for Community outreach to injection Drug Users



- Recommendations for hepatitis B and C treatment
- Recommendations for the management of Health Care Workers occupationally exposed to Hepatitis B and C
- Guidelines for prevention of transmission of HBV and HCV from HCWs to patients

- Updated Recommendations for prevent Hepatitis A and B
- Updated recommendations for Hepatitis B vaccination

Because of the immigration in Greece educational materials are culturally and linguistically appropriate and available in Greece

In addition some individuals or groups may not see themselves as high risk and therefore may not identify with the messages being delivered

# Surveillance goal for HCDCP

Primary and secondary prevention

Education and

Medical management

# Medical care and case management

The overall goals of medical and case management of persons infected with viral hepatitis are:

- to reduce the incidence of new infections of hepatitis
- to limit the disease burden from chronic hepatitis and
- to improve the quality of life of those chronically infected with hepatitis B and C

# Improvement of HBV, HCV patients healthcare

- Approaches to screening, diagnosis and management of HBV and HCV infection
- Laboratory follow up protocol
- Recommendations for the treatment of chronic Hepatitis B and C

January 2007:

Treatment for the patients with chronic hepatitis B and C free of charge

Molecular biological test free of charge

- HCDCP coordinate and sponsor the nationwide Hepnet cohort study for Hepatitis B and C from 2003
- The aim of this study is to evaluate the epidemiology and the course of chronic viral hepatitis B and C infection in Greece and their longitudinal changes



In our planning is a National Seroprevalence Study

All the geographical parts of Greece will be included and so we will be able to evaluate the prevalence, the risk factors and the cost effect of medical care of the patients