



WHO Regional Office for Europe

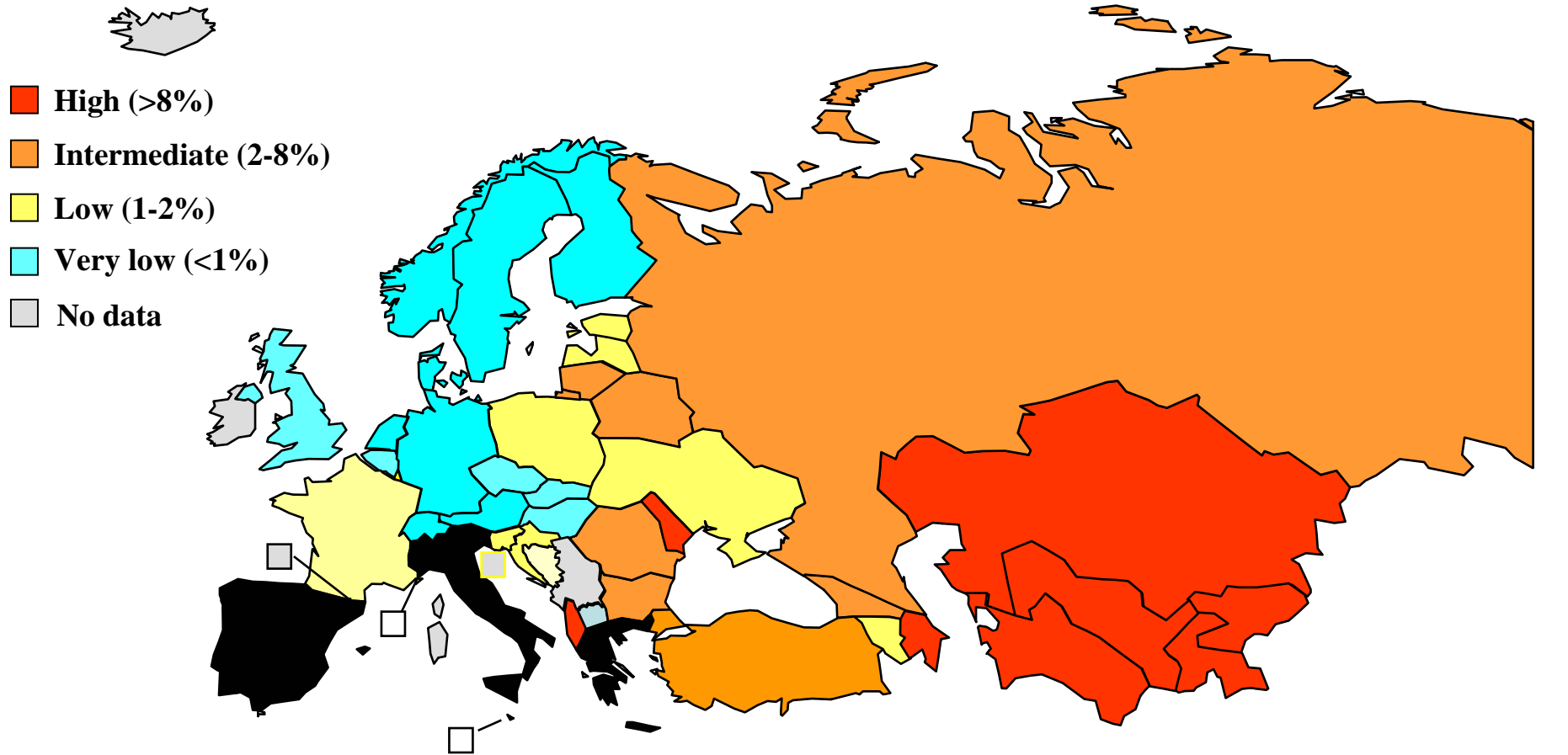
*Vaccine-preventable diseases and Immunization programme*

# Update on prevention and control of hepatitis B in the WHO European Region

L.Mosina, Technical Officer,  
CDS, WHO Office for Europe



# Viral Hepatitis B endemicity: Estimated prevalence of HBsAg carriers (\*)

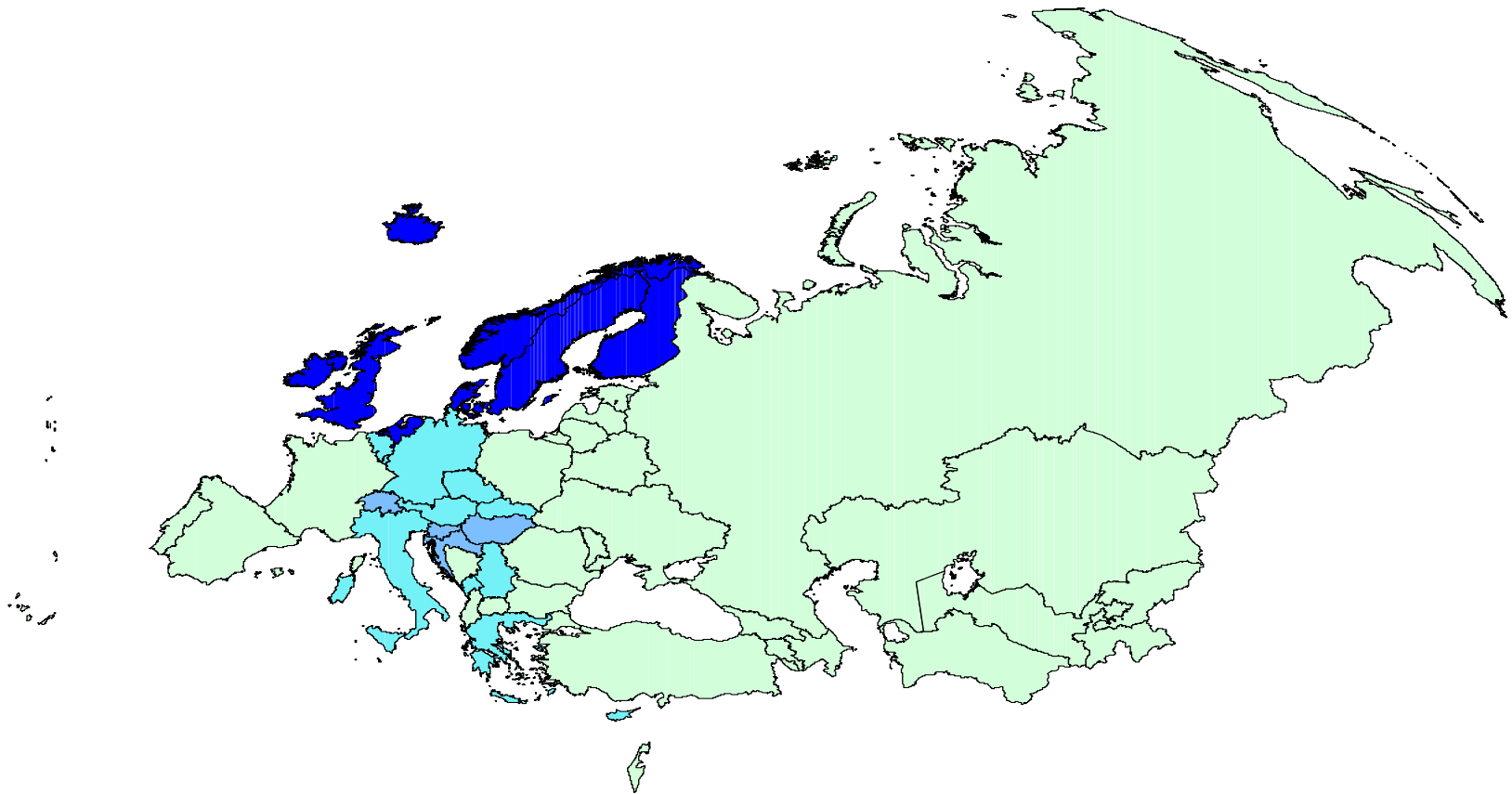


(\*) Pierre Van Damme: Antwerp WHO  
CCenter Survey + WHO data review for 1995-  
2003 + EU Eurohepnet survey 2004 (data 2002)



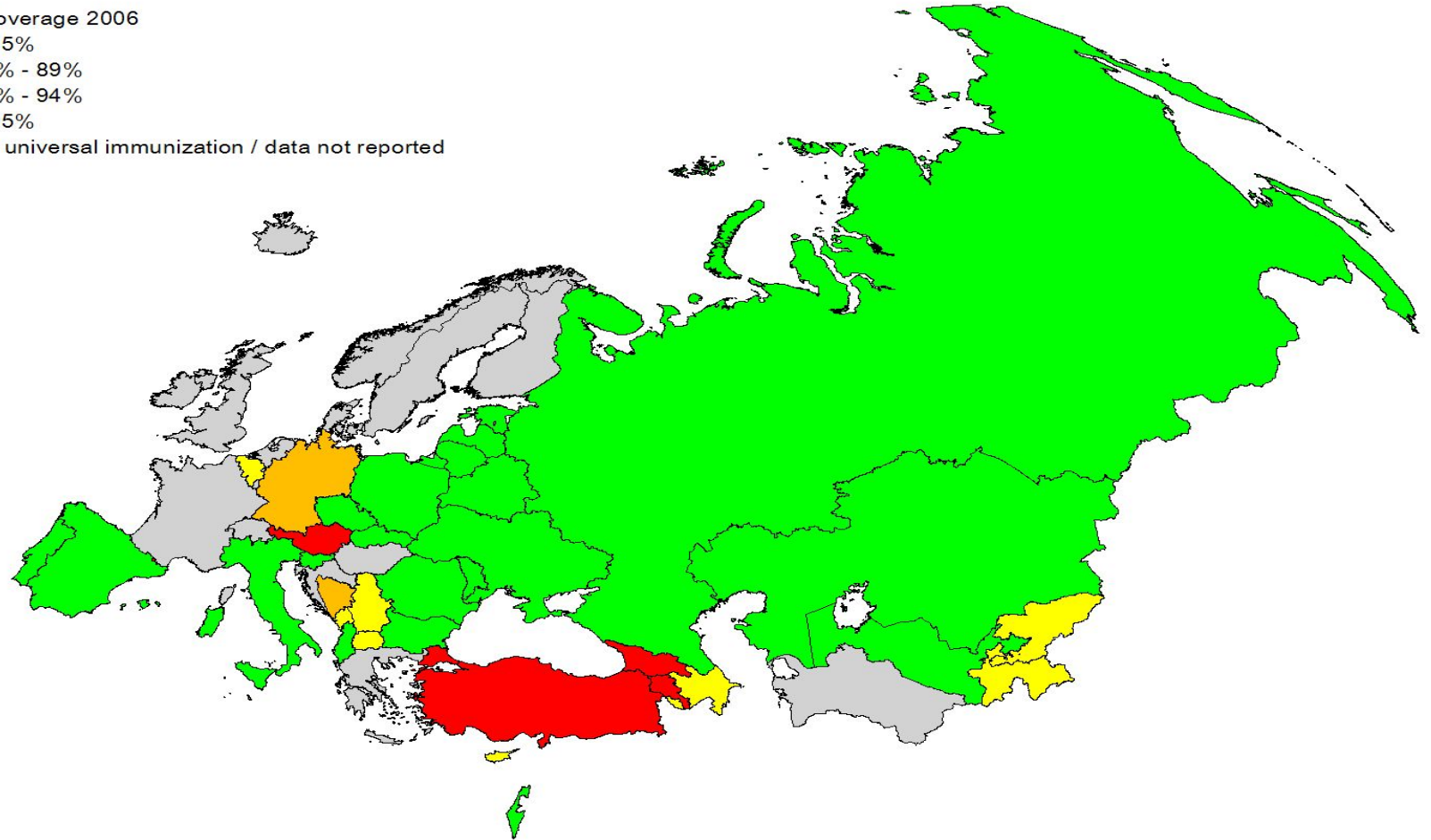
# Hepatitis B Immunization Policy, 2007

- Universal newborns
- Universal infants
- Universal children/adolescents
- Immunization of newborns at risk

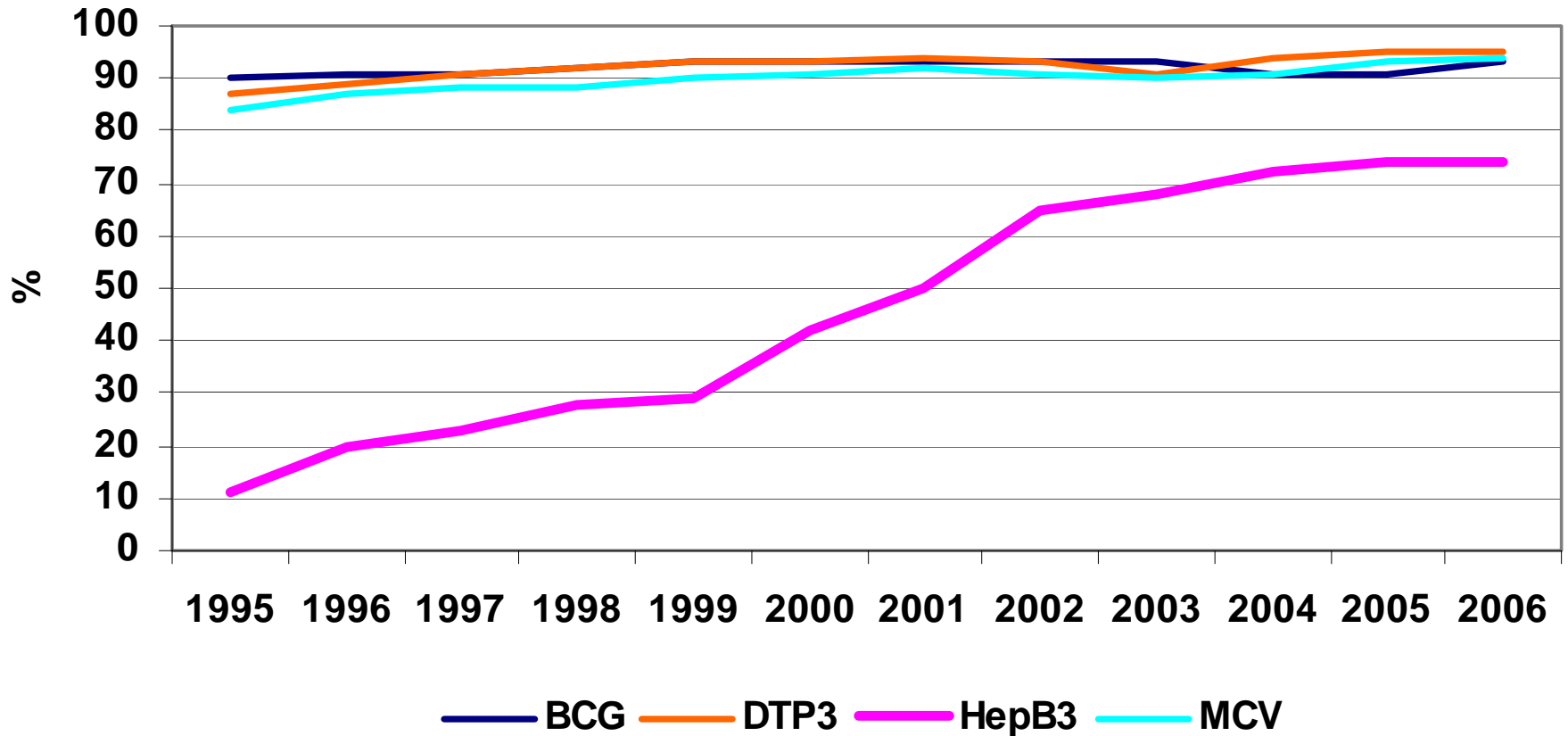


# Hep B3 immunization coverage, 2007

HepB3 Coverage 2006

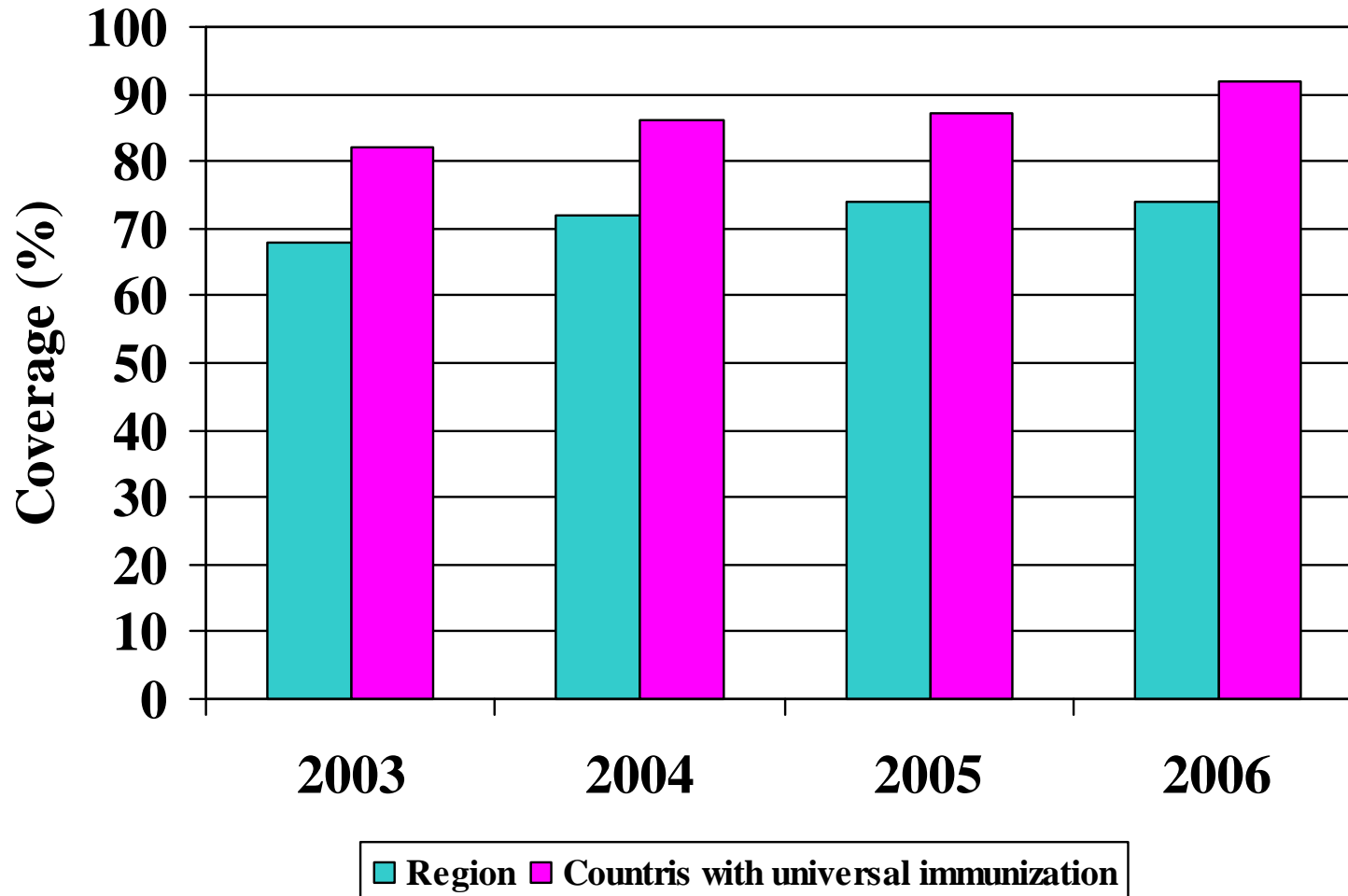


# Immunization coverage rates, WHO European Region, 1995-2006

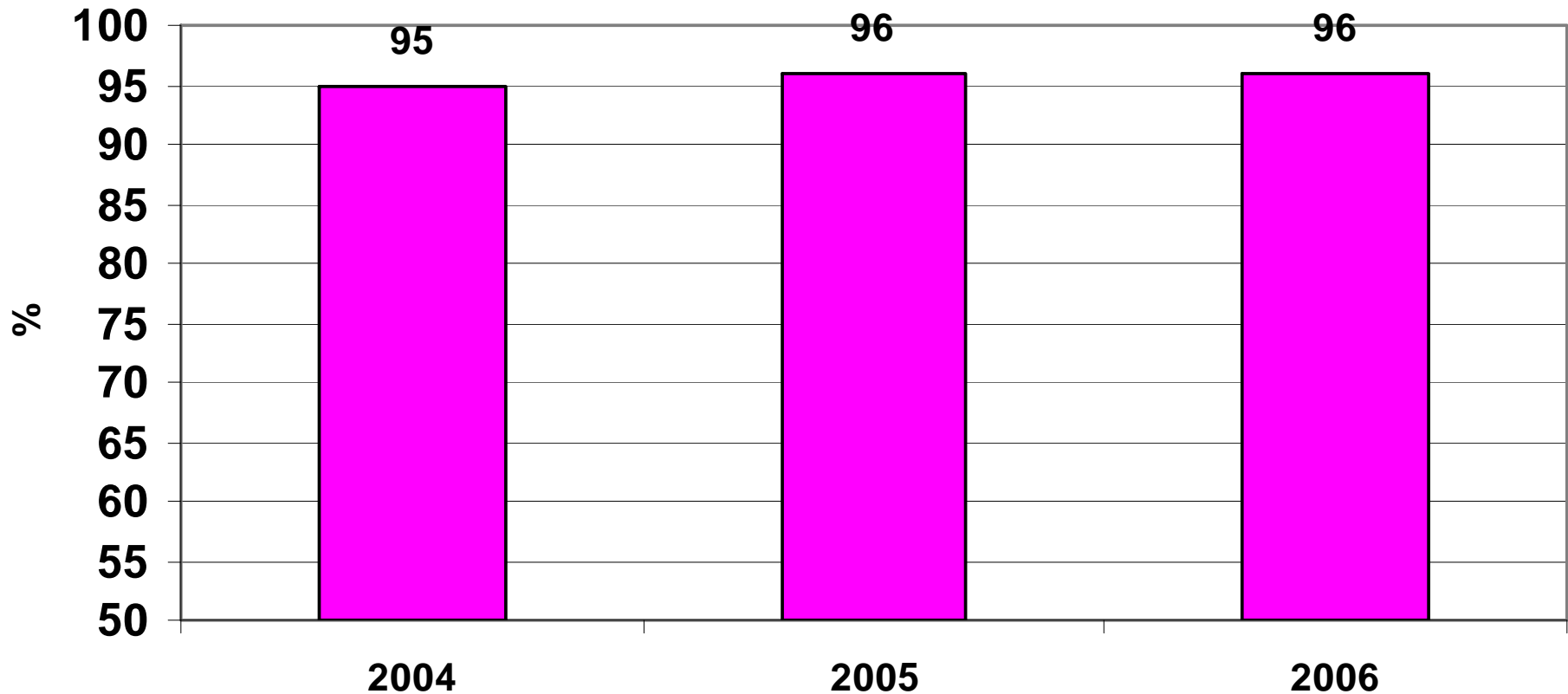


# HepB3 coverage

## WHO European Region, 2003-2006



# Hep B birth dose coverage European Region/WHO 2004-6\*



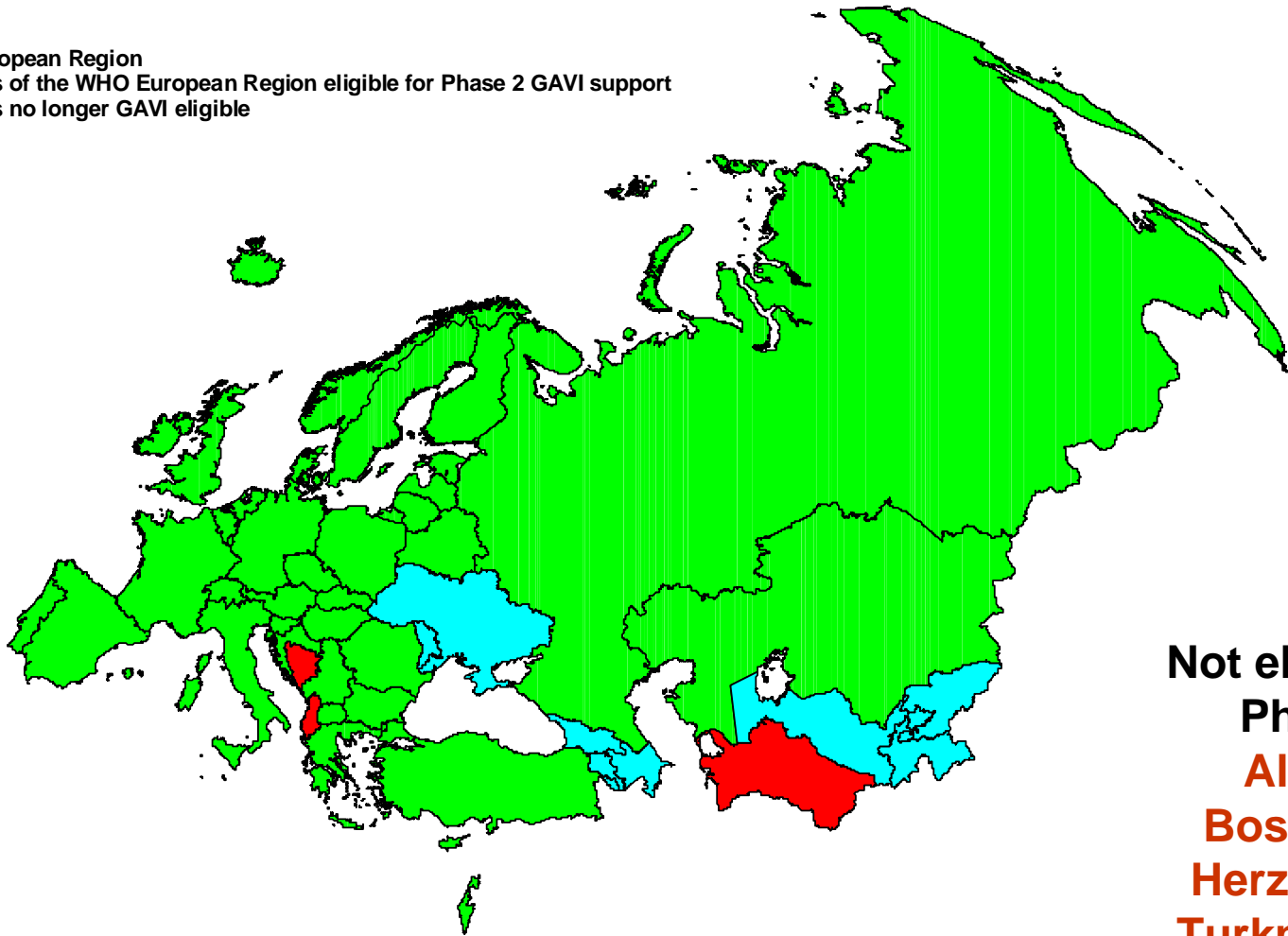
20 countries with universal immunization of infants  
reported to WHO/EURO



# Countries of the WHO European Region eligible for GAVI support



Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Kyrgyzstan  
Moldova  
Tajikistan  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan



Not eligible for  
Phase 2  
**Albania**  
**Bosnia and  
Herzegovina**  
**Turkmenistan**

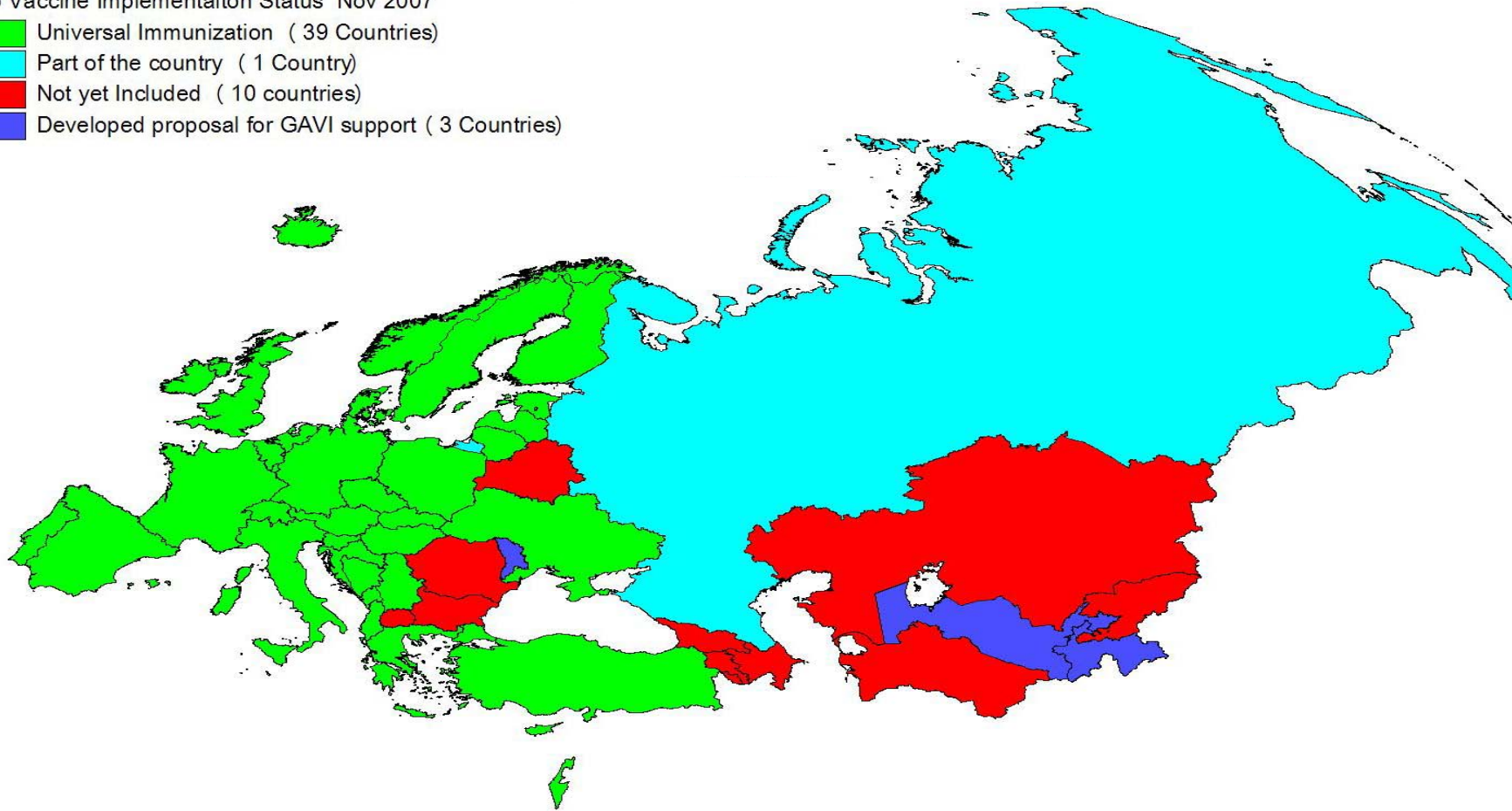




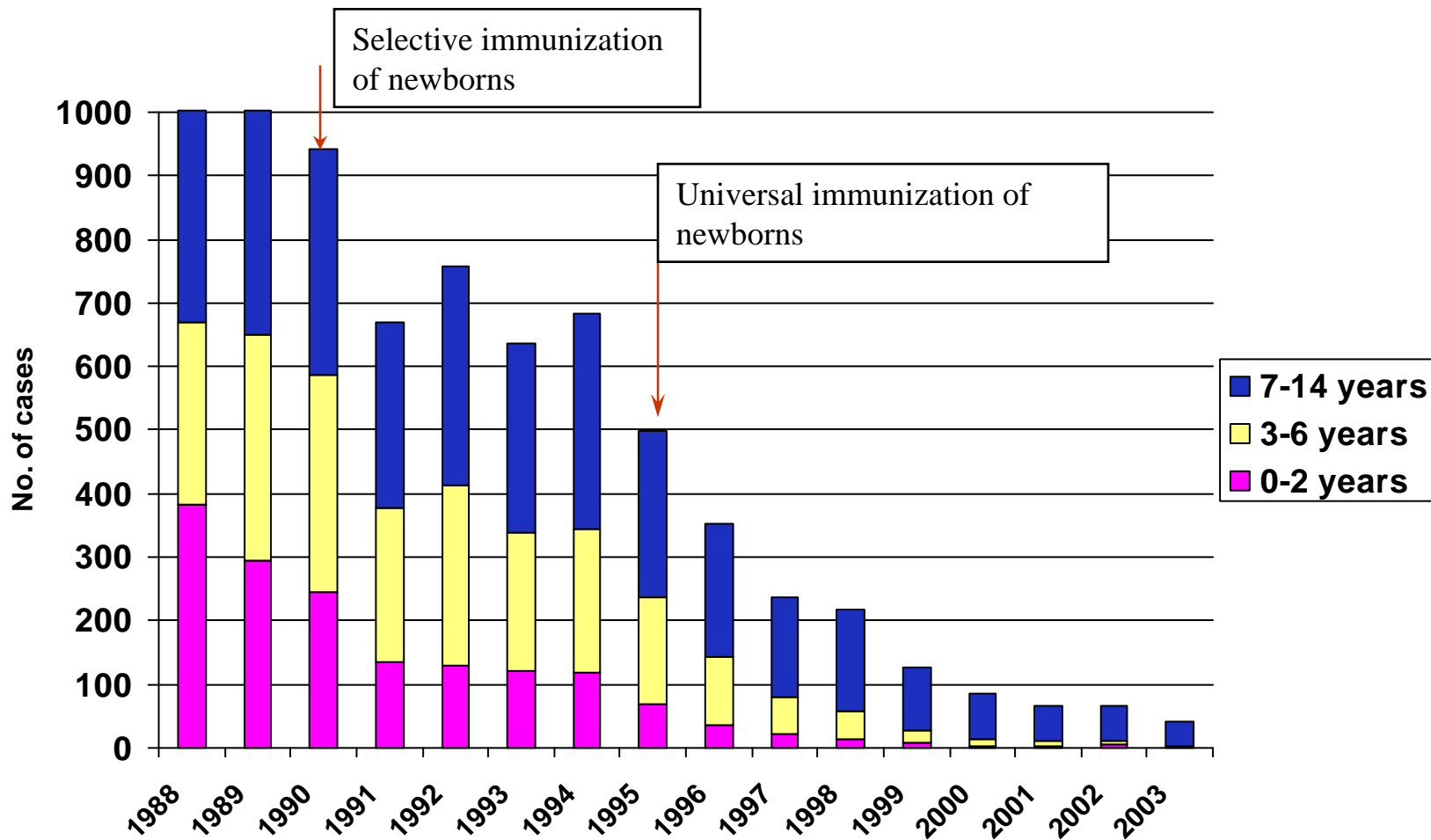
# Hib Vaccine Implementation Status, 2007

Hib Vaccine Implementaiton Status Nov 2007

-  Universal Immunization ( 39 Countries)
-  Part of the country ( 1 Country)
-  Not yet Included ( 10 countries)
-  Developed proposal for GAVI support ( 3 Countries)



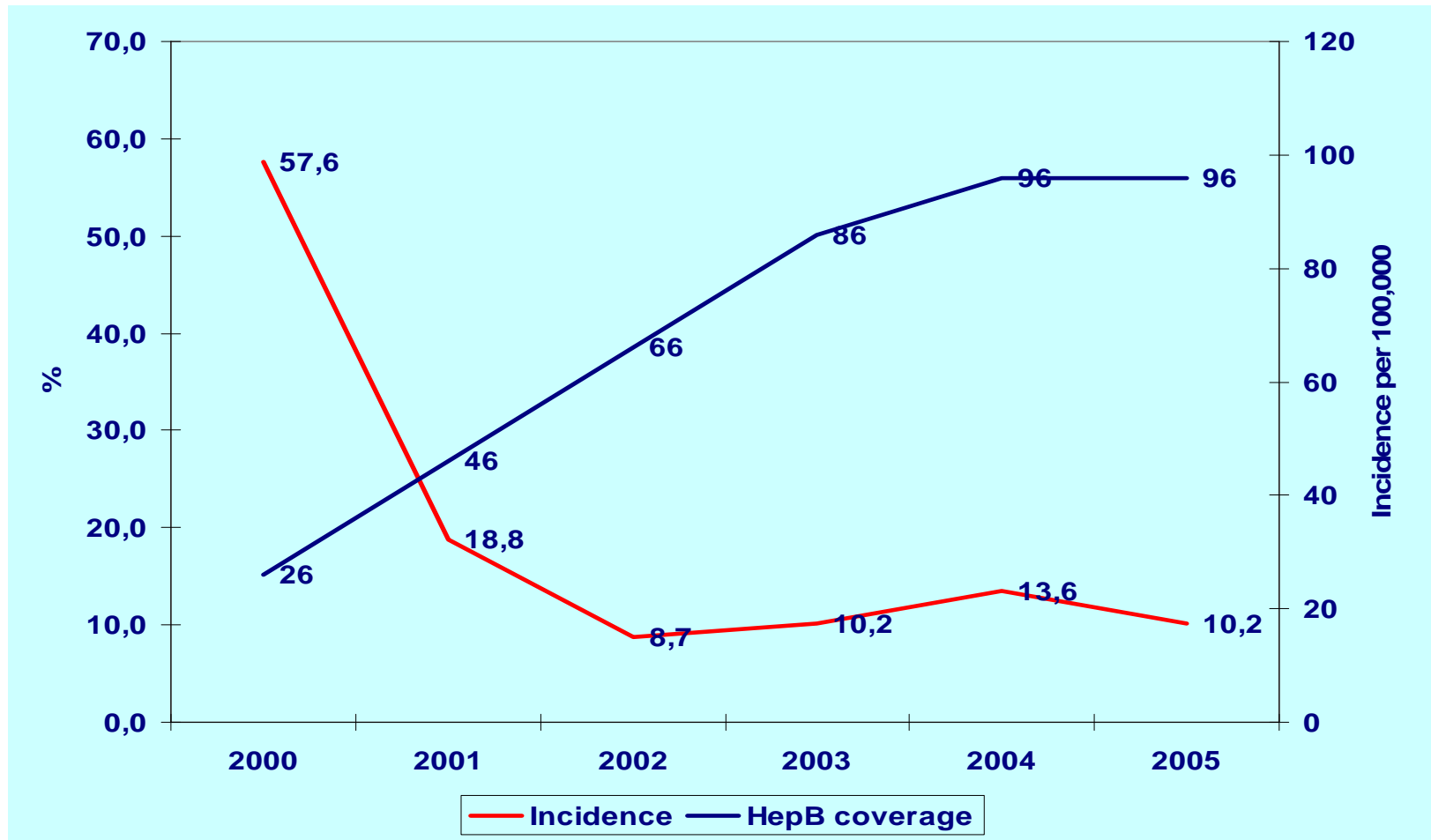
# Impact of Hepatitis B vaccination on the incidence of acute Hepatitis B infection, Moldova



Source: National Center of Preventive Medicine, Moldova



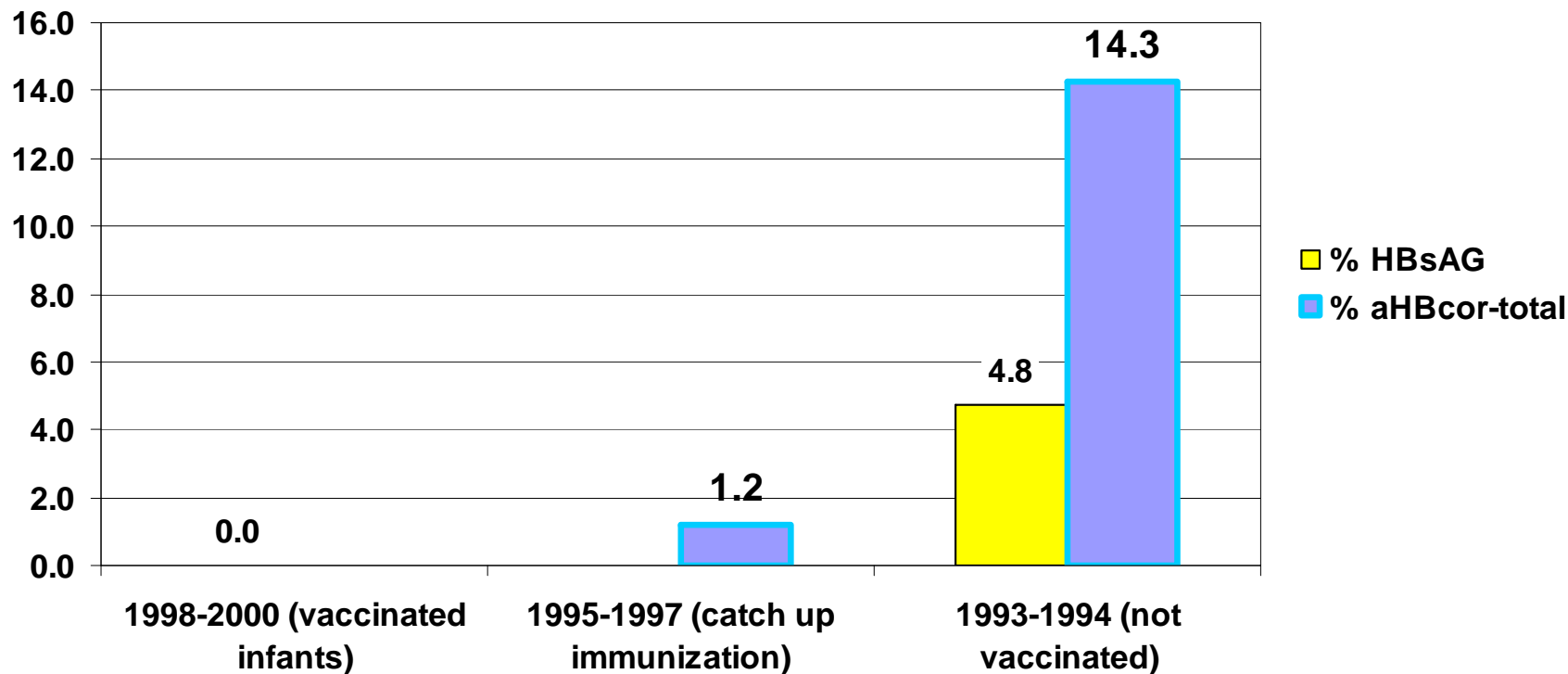
# Hepatitis B incidence in children under 5, Kyrgyzstan, 2000-2005



Source: CDC/CAR



# Prevalence of chronic hepatitis B infection in vaccinated and unvaccinated children, Almaty, 2001



**N=351**

Source: M. Favorov CDC/CAR



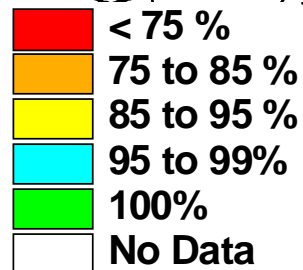
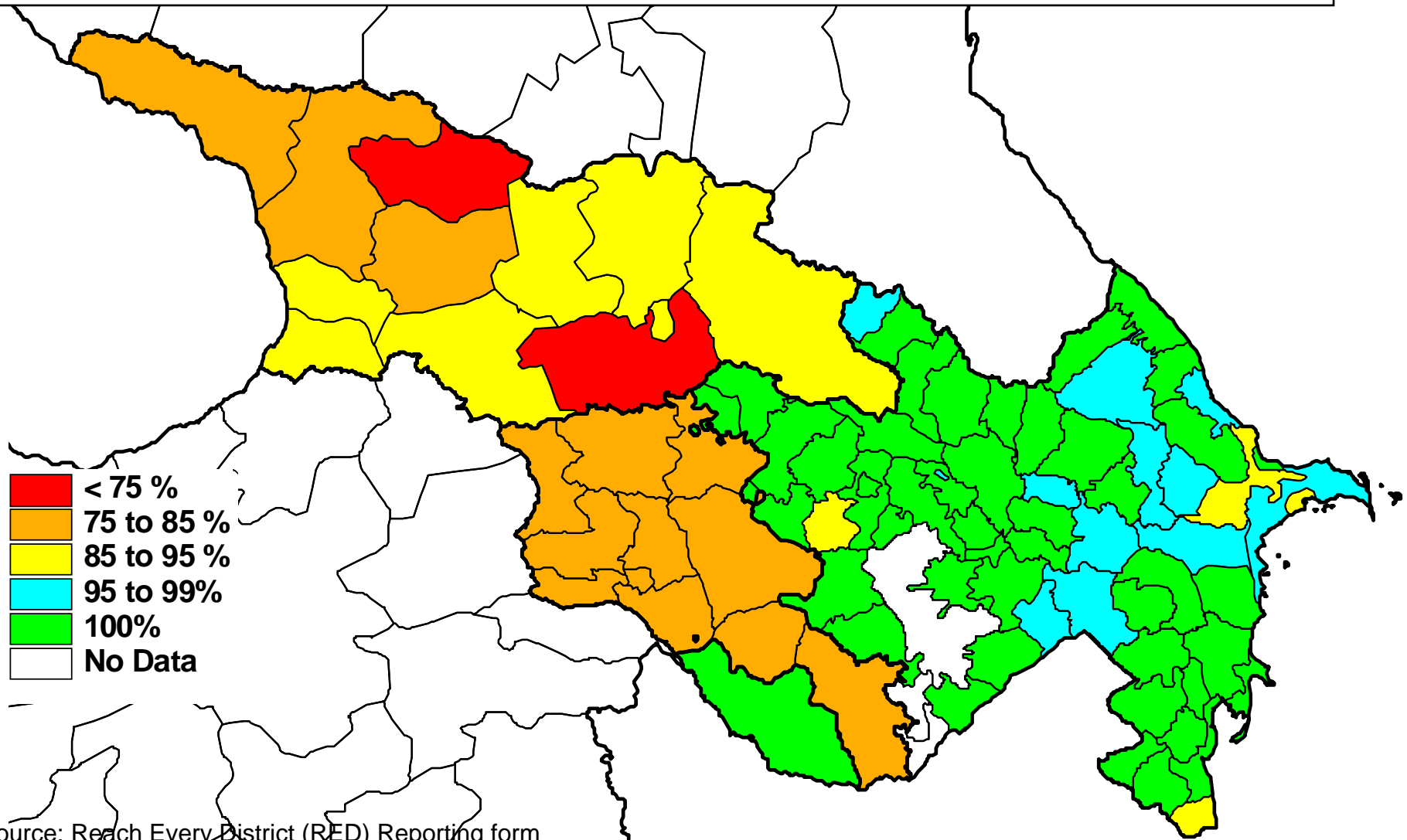
# Major achievements

- Hep B vaccine was introduced in routine immunization programmes in most countries
- The poorest countries successfully introduced HepB vaccine with GAVI support
- All high endemic countries provide birth dose
- HepB vaccine was combined with existing successful programmes
- Impact of universal childhood immunization on Hepatitis B diseases burden was demonstrated
- Hepatitis B vaccine introduction is a model for introduction of other underutilized and new vaccines

# Challenges: Immunization coverage

- **Most countries in the European region have achieved >90% immunisation coverage, BUT...**
  - Timely provision of immunisation is a problem in several countries
  - Discrepancies between reported and survey data exist
  - National data often hides under-performing districts; and collection of data at sub-national level can be poor

# Sub-national immunization coverage reporting: DTP3 in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan

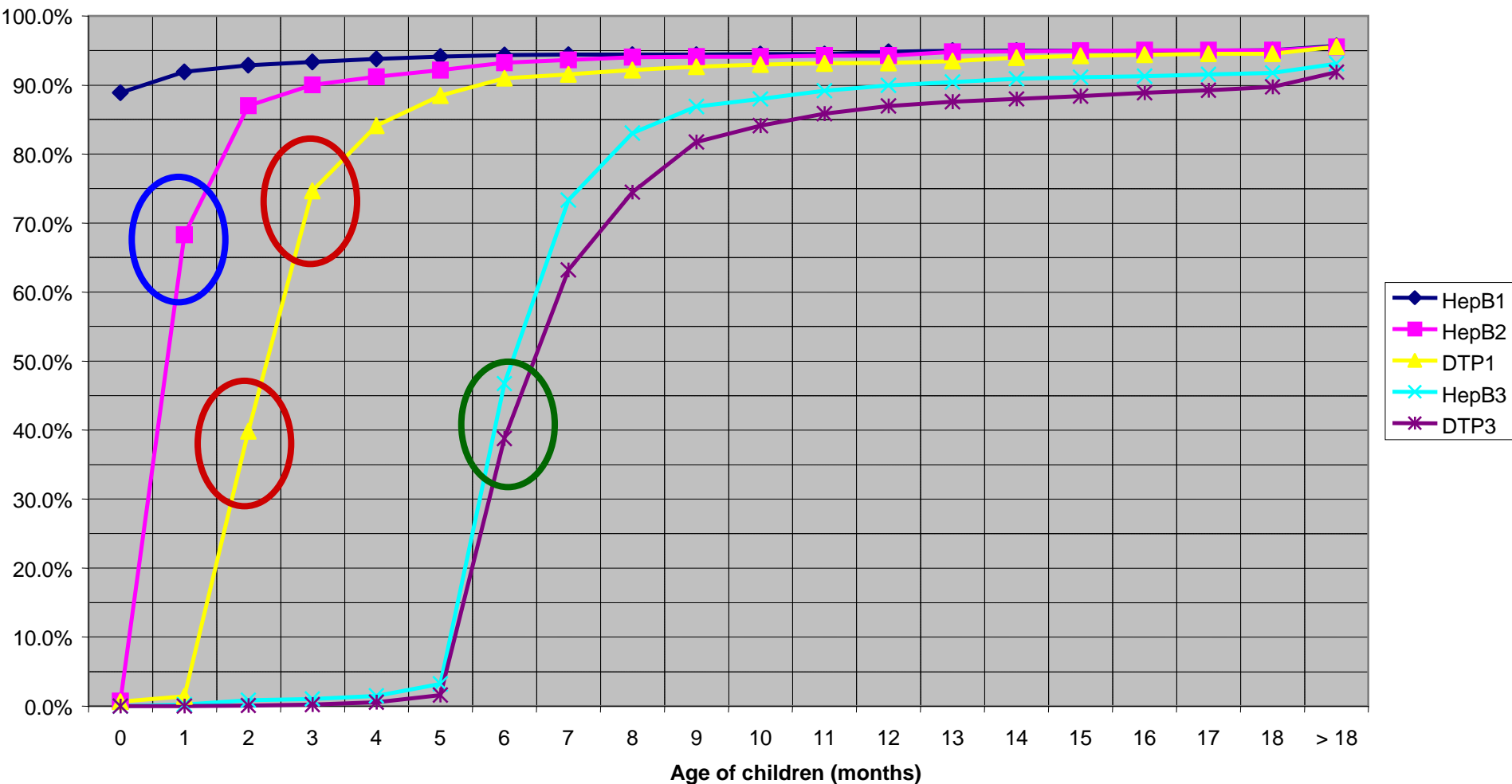


•Source; Reach Every District (RED) Reporting form

•The designations employed and the presentation of this material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



# Timeliness of immunization: coverage with hepatitis B and DTP vaccines by dose and age, Moldova, DHS, 2005



Source: National Centre of Preventive Medicine, Moldova





# Challenges: Inadequate provision of health care

Inadequate provision of health care service to vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups

- Socially isolated (race, language, religion, culture)
- Economically disadvantaged
- Physically isolated (remote populations, mobile groups)
- Deprived of reliable information

# Public confidence is being threatened

- Strong influence from groups opposed to immunisation
- Dissemination of misleading / biased information
- Influence of negative stories in the media
- Available reliable information not properly used

# Negative examples from countries

- **Germany**: measles outbreak after effective anti-vaccination propaganda
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: NGO “SOS Telephone” against hepatitis B immunisation, the local media involved, impact on immunization uptake
- **Georgia**: parents had to give their written agreement to have their newborn babies immunised against hepatitis B; some got suspicious. Negative impact of an AE following HepB immunisation: no timely information from health authorities, negative media coverage and rumours resulted in decrease in immunization coverage
- **Ukraine**: anti-vaccination campaign before SIA, the local media involved and also quoted in the BBC

# Hepatitis B Vaccination

- Eight countries do not implement universal Hep B immunization
- 27 countries introduce birth dose
- Reporting of birth dose coverage needs to be improved and validated

# Regional Strategic Plan, 2008-2013

## *Strategic Areas:*

1. Immunization Systems Strengthening
2. Targeted Disease Initiatives
3. Surveillance, Laboratory and Monitoring

## *Strategies to Achieve Regional Goals and Objectives:*

1. Effective partnerships with Member States and governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations
2. Strong and effective resource mobilization and management practices
3. Using regular and effective communication and advocacy with Member States, partner organizations and the public
4. Ongoing oversight by the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts



# EURO Regional Immunization Priorities for 2008

- Strengthening national immunization programmes in the context of overall health systems development
- Sustaining polio eradication
- Measles/Rubella elimination by 2010
- Support for introduction of new and under-utilized vaccines
- Strengthening national VPD surveillance systems – emphasis on building capacity for regional data collection, reporting and analysis and laboratory networks.



# Immunization Systems Strengthening

- Planning ongoing for strengthening monitoring and feedback systems for national programmes to improve timeliness of immunization
- Promote service delivery to difficult-to-reach population groups
- Support and conduct of training of health staff – IIP, MLM, Integrated Surveillance and other
- Increasing immunization programme visibility and public awareness via European Immunization Week
- Supporting health system assessments, development of HSS proposals, cMYP and other tools to address system-wide barriers



# ***EURO Regional Immunization Programme***

