

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

*Viral Hepatitis Board Meeting, Berlin 13-14 October 2003*

Dr. Hans Blystad (hans.blystad@fhi.no)

Norwegian Institute of Public Health



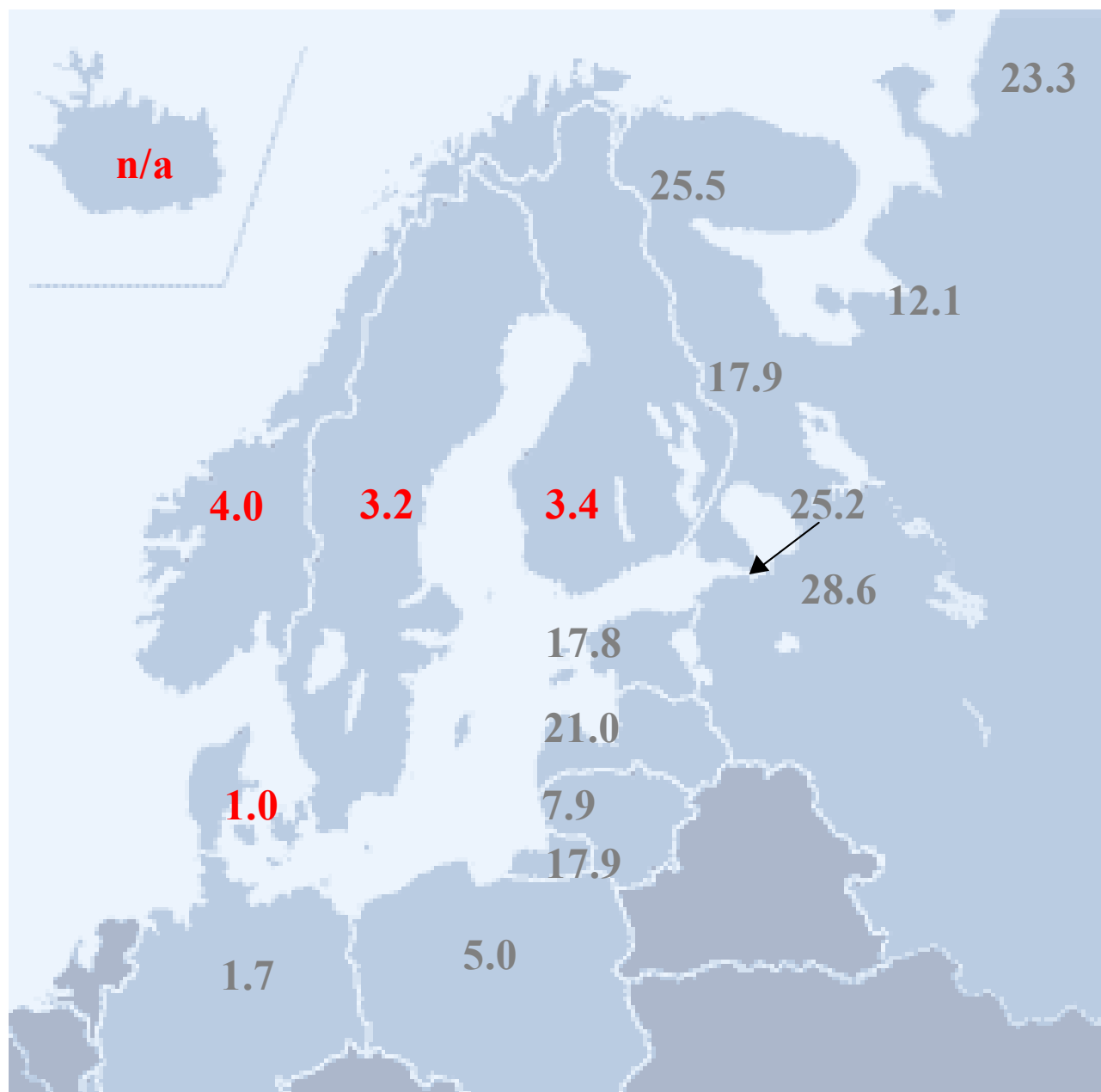
NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY

# Hepatitis B surveillance in the Nordic countries

Denmark Finland Iceland Norway Sweden

Acute	X	X		X	X
Chronic	X (since 2000)	X		X	X
No differentiation between acute and chronic			X		

Incidence  
of acute  
hepatitis B  
in 2002 per  
100 000  
population

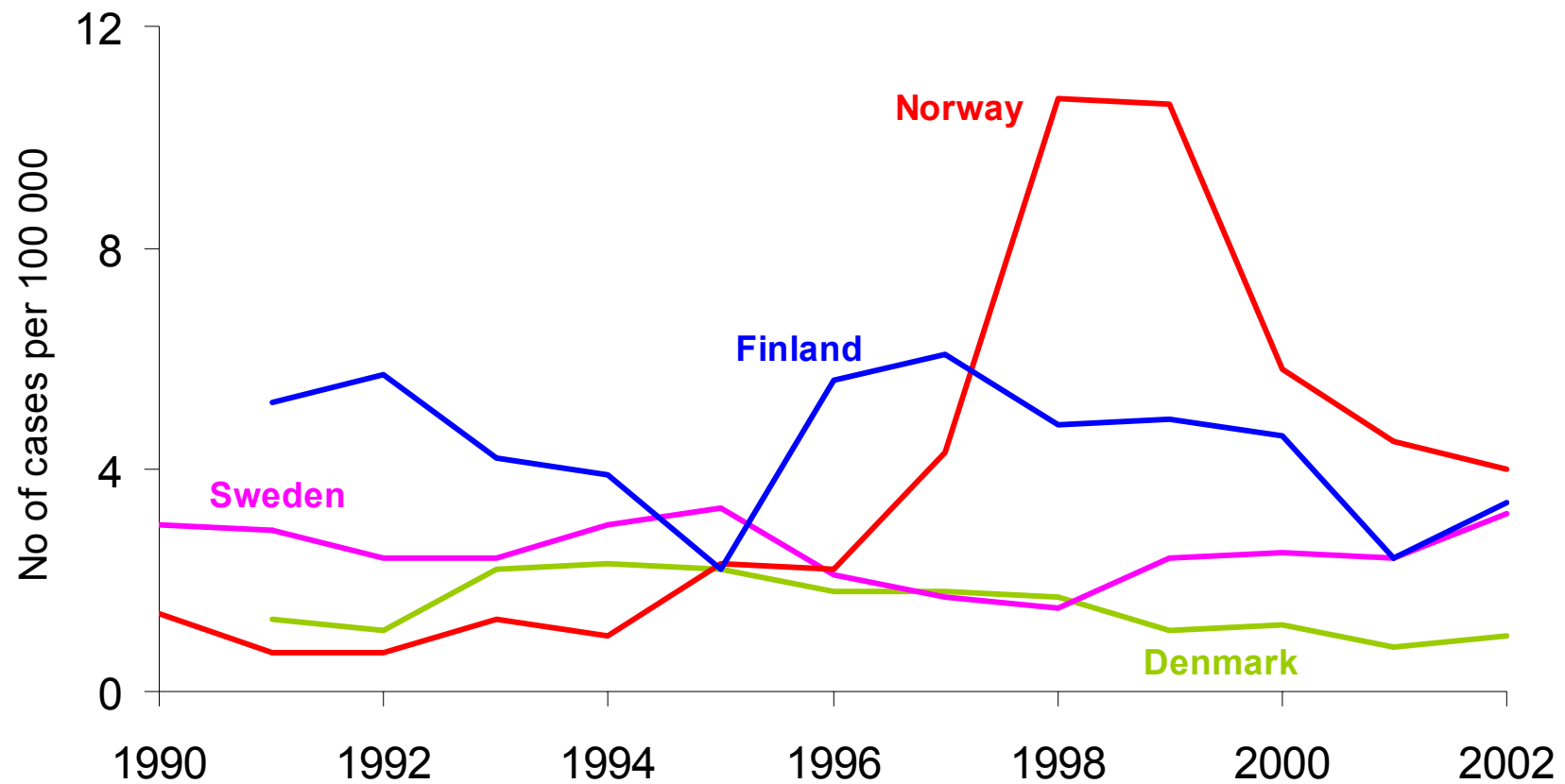


n/a = data not available

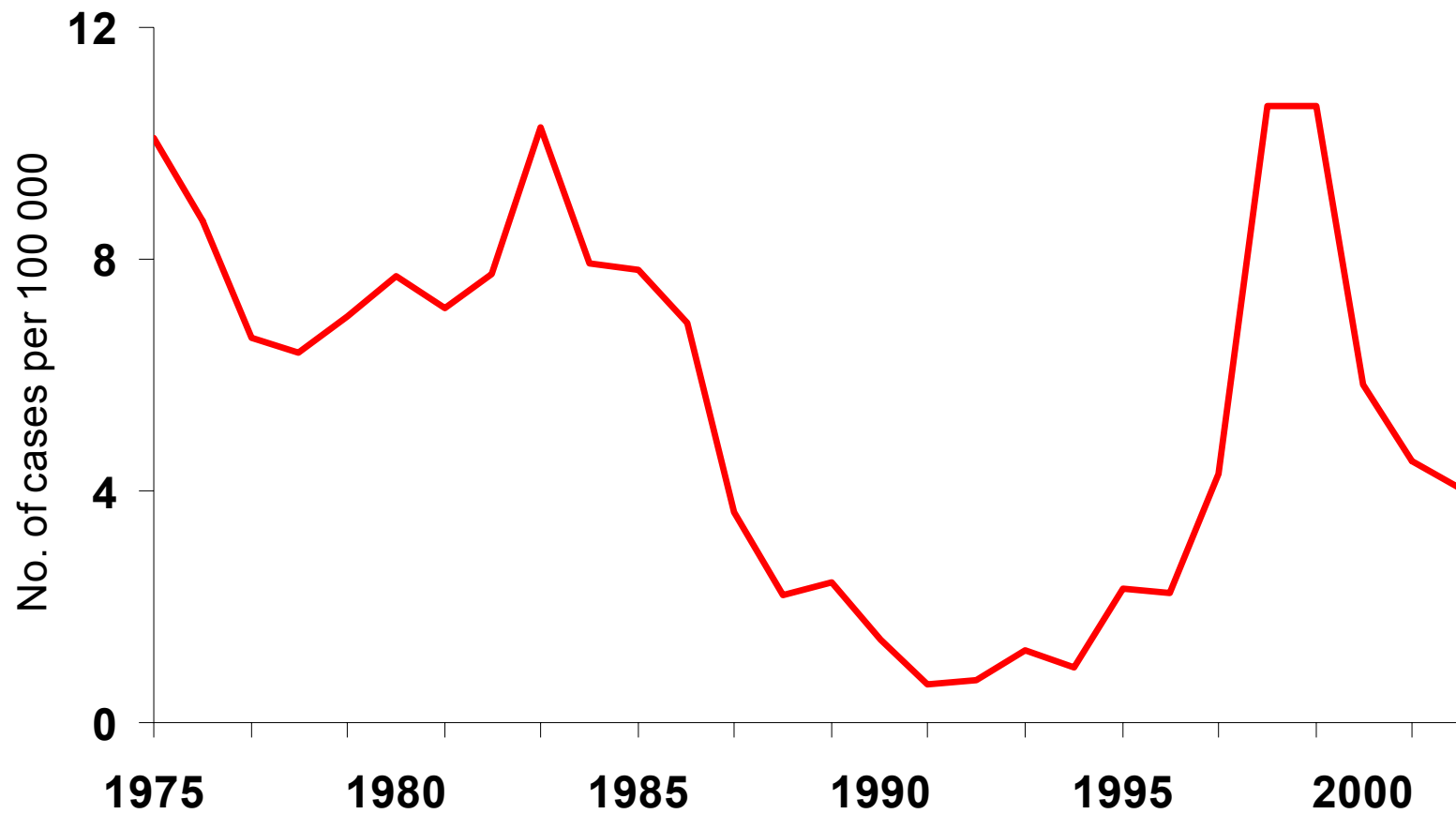
## Acute hepatitis B notifications in the Nordic countries 2002 by route of transmission

	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 (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 disease</b>	X			X	
<b>Haemophiliacs</b>	X	X		X	X
<b>Down syndrome</b>	X			X	
<b>Children in day care centers with carriers &lt; 3 years of age</b>	(X)			X	(X)
<b>Dialysis patients</b>				X	X
<b>Medical students</b>		X		X	
<b>Employees incl. 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 countries 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 hepatitis B (or HIV infection) among IV drug users

# Acknowledgements

- Ragnhild Janzon, Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control
- Dr. Gudrun Sigmundsdottir, Directorate of Health, Iceland
- Dr. Else Smith, State Serum Institute, Denmark
- Prof. Pauli Leinikki, National Public Health Institute, Finland.