

Croatia

Population (January 2013):	4 262 140
Human development index (2013):	0.812
HAV vaccine recommendations:	HAV vaccination is mainly recommended to travellers to endemic areas and to risk groups such as MSM. It is also used as outbreak control measure.
Seroprevalence studies by quality score:	score 0:1 studies; score 1:1 study score 2:0 studies
Seroprevalence studies timeframe:	1989–2009

Seroprevalence assessment: **very low**
 Incidence assessment: **very low**
 Susceptibility in adults: **high**

One 1989 study, including only children, estimated HAV seroprevalence be below 50%. in those under 16 years of age

A 2009 study estimated seroprevalence to be under 25% in those under 30 years of age. Therefore, Croatia is currently likely to be a very low endemicity country (Croatia_Figure 1).

Croatia_Table 1. Hepatitis A seroprevalence level by time period

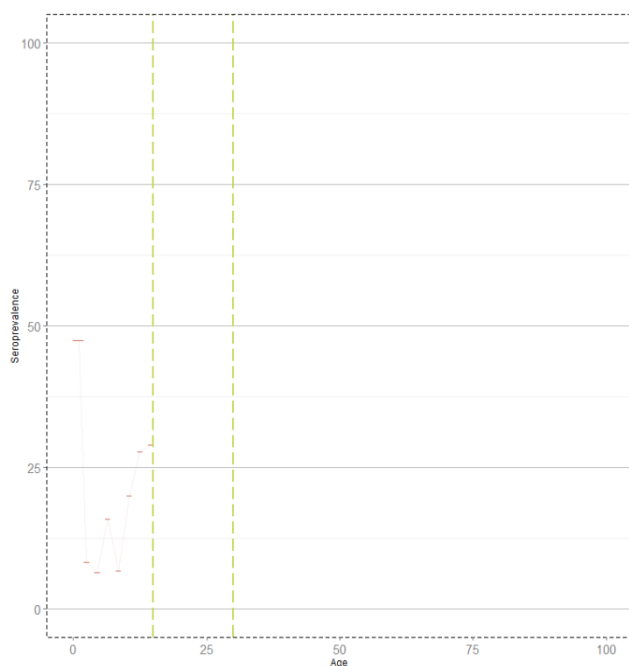
	Very low endemicity	Low endemicity	Intermediate endemicity
1975–1989	*	*	
1990–1999			
2000–2013			

**The assessment cannot be completed as data are not available at 30 years of age.*

There is no incidence data available, and TESSy data is not available for Croatia since the country joined the European Union in 2013. Data from the National Health Institute show a steady decrease of hepatitis A incidence since the mid 1970s when it was well above 100 cases per 100 000. After a peak around 2000, the incidence has been as low as less than 1 case per 100 000 as shown in FFigure 2. Croatia is currently a country at very low incidence of HAV.

The susceptibility at 30 years is above 70%, while it declines to around 45% at the age of 50. Hence the susceptibility is high in the adult population.

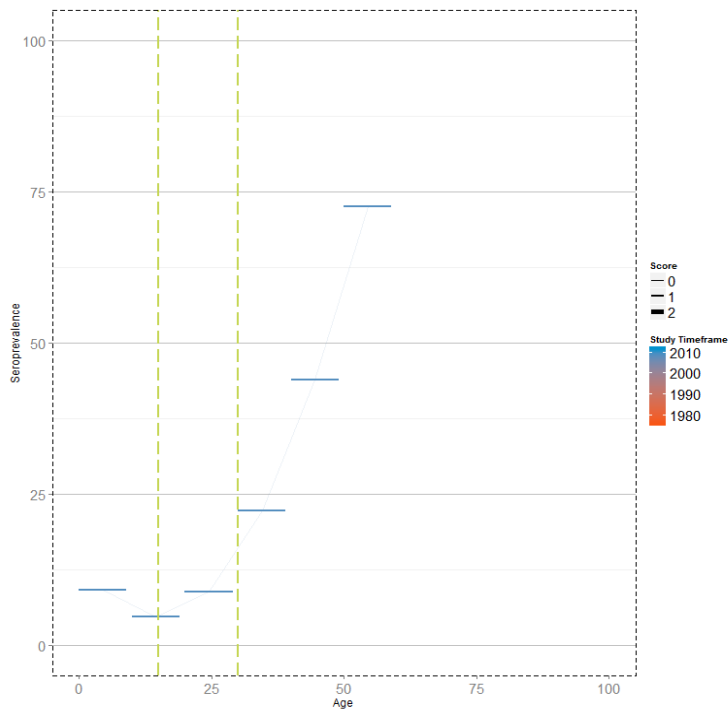
Panel a.1: 1975–1989



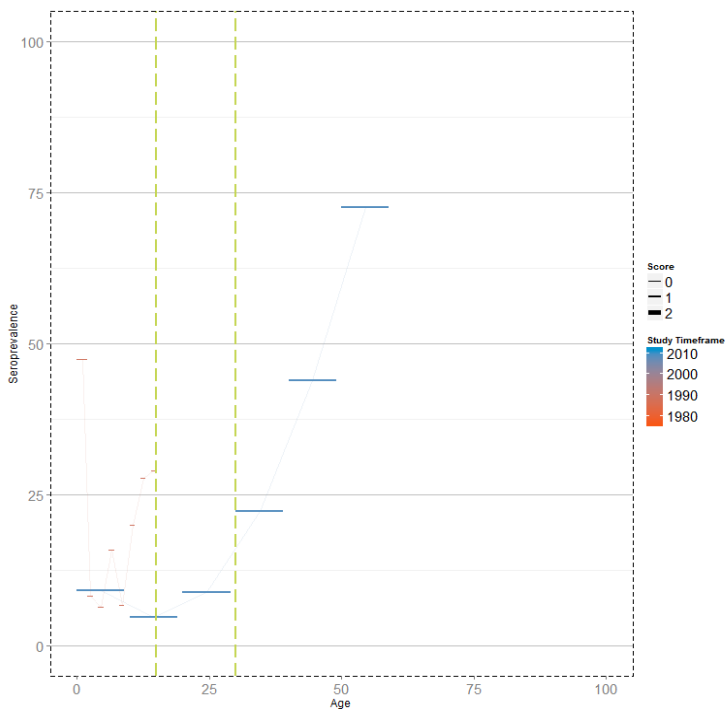
Panel a.2: 1990–1999

No data available

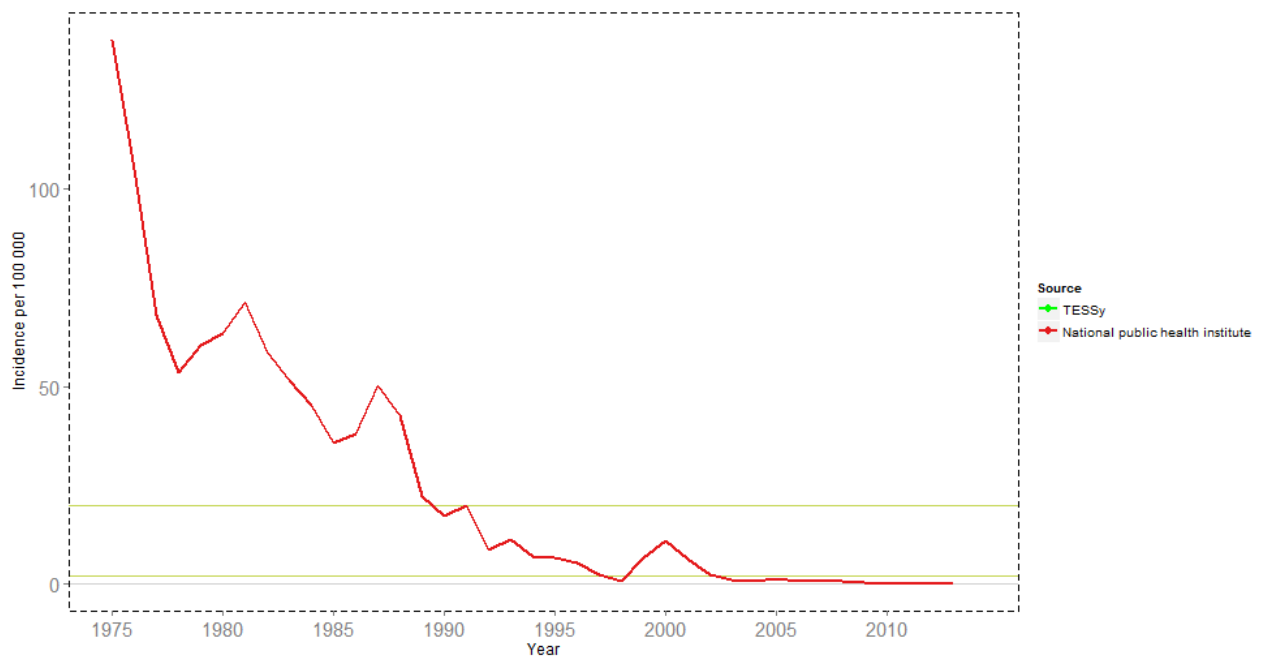
Panel a.3: 2000–2013



Croatia_Figure 1 (panel a). Summary of seroprevalence in Croatia, by age and time period.



Croatia_Figure 1 (panel b). Summary of seroprevalence in Croatia, by age and time period (1975-2013)



Bibliography

1. Aleraj B. Infectious diseases in Croatia in 2002 - A short review. *Infektoloski Glasnik*. 2003;23(1):37-40.
2. Aleraj B. Infectious diseases in Croatia in 2003. *Infektoloski Glasnik*. 2004;24(3):133-7.
3. Puntaric D, Bozikov J, Vodopija R. Cost-benefit analysis of general immunization against hepatitis A in Croatia. *Croat Med J*. 1996;37(3):193-9.
4. Vilibic-Cavlek T, Kucinar J, Ljubin-Sternak S, Kolaric B. Seroepidemiology of hepatitis A in the Croatian population. *Hepat Mon*. 2011 Dec;11(12):997-9.