

## Finland

<b>Population (January 2013):</b>	5 426 674
<b>Human development Index (2013):</b>	0.879
<b>HAV vaccine recommendations:</b>	The national vaccination programme covers HAV vaccination for haemophiliacs and PWID and their close contacts. In addition, vaccination is recommended for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. chronic liver patients, including HBV and HCV carriers</li> <li>2. travelers to high endemicity countries</li> <li>3. people with occupational increased risk for HAV infection, e.g. people working with children or refugees, sewage workers</li> <li>4. for outbreak control</li> </ol>
<b>Seroprevalence studies by quality score:</b>	score 0: 1 study score 1: 1 study score 2: 2 studies
<b>Seroprevalence studies timeframe:</b>	1978–1998

Seroprevalence assessment\*: **very low**

Incidence assessment: **very low**

Susceptibility in adults: **very high**

*\*this assessment is based on data from the 1990s*

The two studies published in Finland before 1990 (Ukkonen 1979, Pohjanpelto 1984) estimated an HAV seroprevalence of below 10% by the age of 30 years (Finland\_Figure 1). For the period 1990–1999 we included two studies. Both estimated a HAV seroprevalence by age 30 years below 10%.

There are no studies conducted after 2000. Nevertheless, Finland has been a very low endemicity country since at least the late 1970s (Finland\_table 1).

### Finland\_Table 1. Hepatitis A seroprevalence level by time period

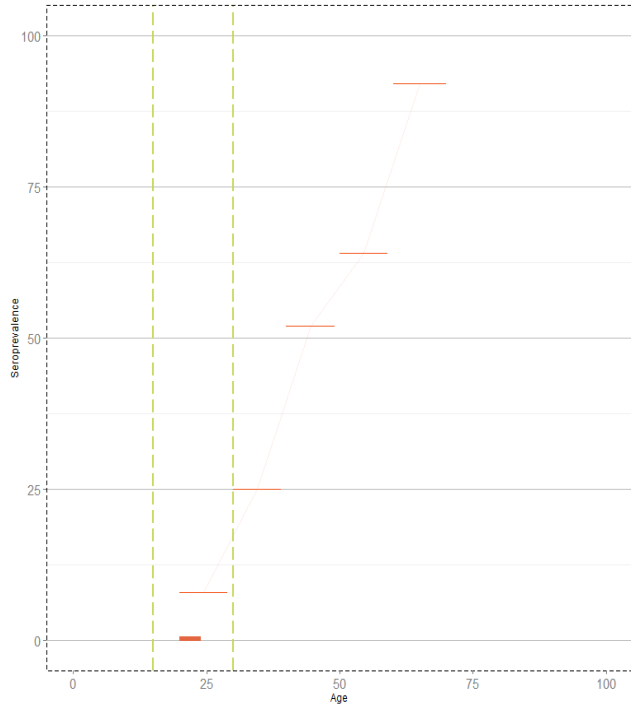
	Very low endemicity	Low endemicity	Intermediate endemicity
1975–1989			
1990–1999			
2000–2013			

For the years where data are available (Finland\_Figure 2), the incidence is very low and follows a decreasing trend, of 0.17 per 100 000 in 2012.

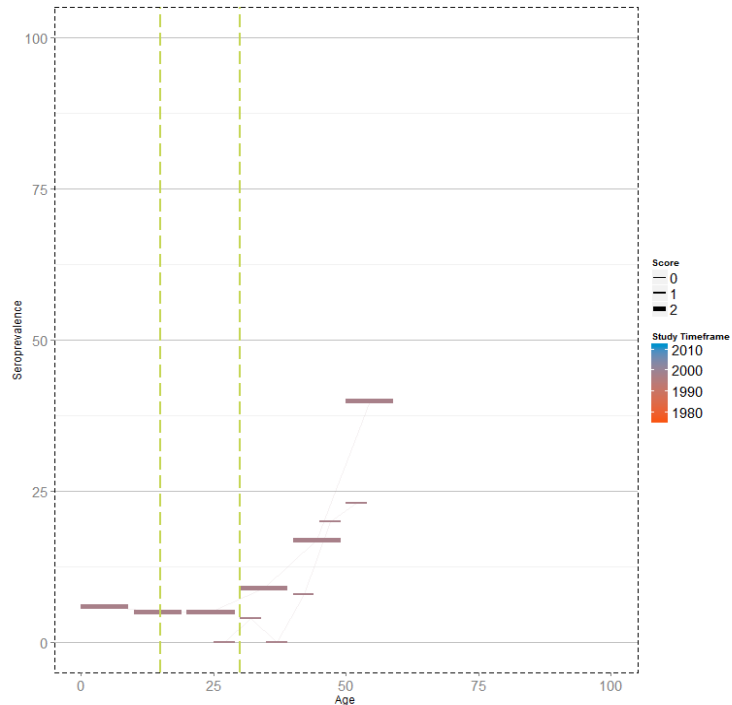
In the 1990s susceptibility levels by 30 years were around 90% and over 50% for those aged between 50–60 years. Considering the very low incidence profile of the country in the last years and the absence of sustained circulation of the virus, susceptibility in adults is likely to be very high in the present situation.

**Finland\_Figure 1 (panel a).** Summary of seroprevalence in Finland, by age and time period

Panel a.1: 1975–1989



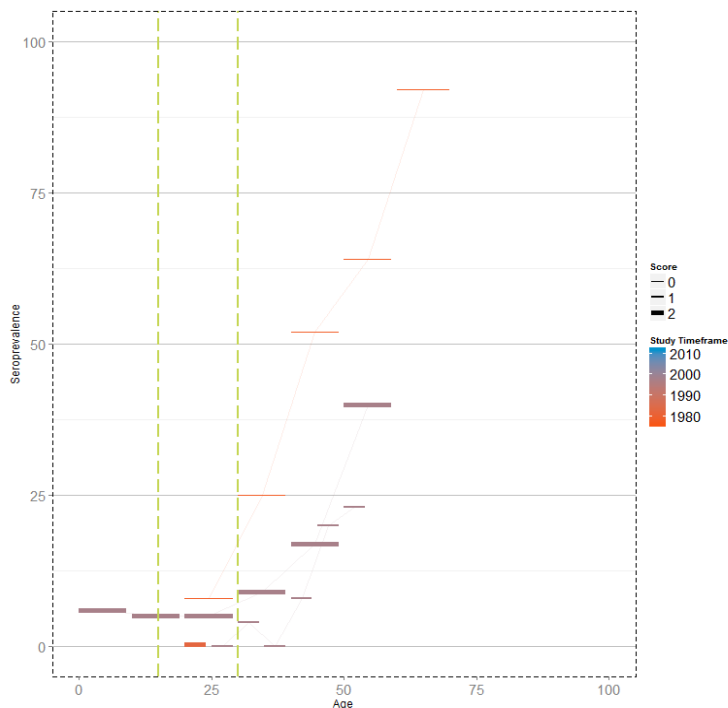
Panel a.2: 1990–1999



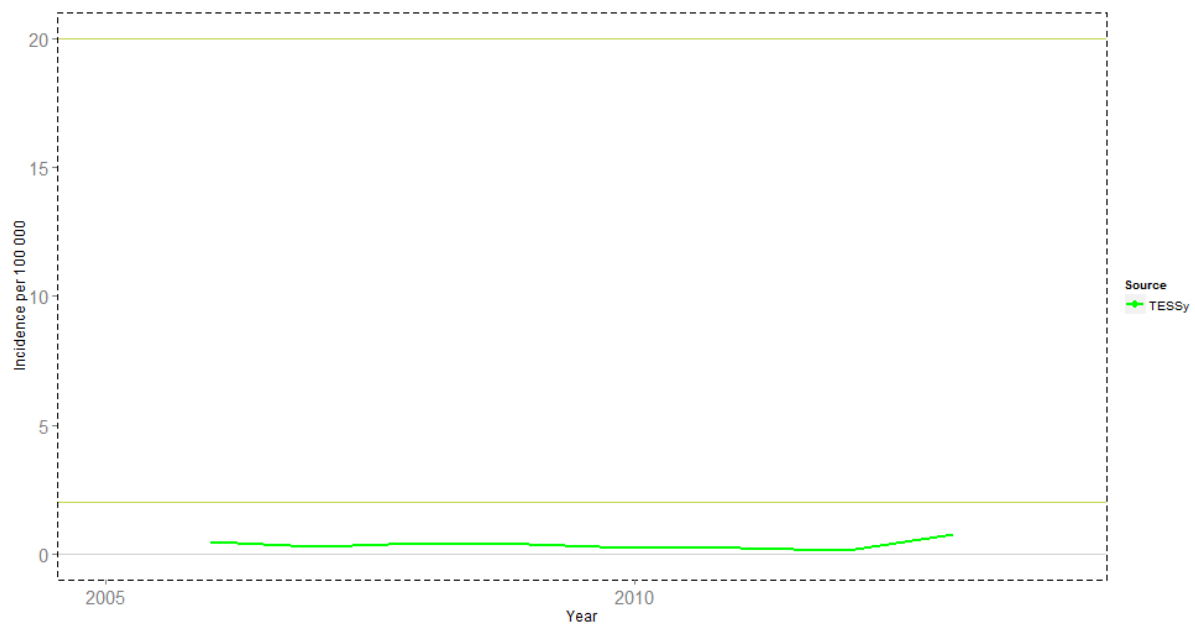
Panel a.3: 2000–2013

No data available

**Finland\_Figure 1 (panel b). Summary of seroprevalence in Finland, by age and time period (1975-2013)**



**Finland\_Figure 2. Reported incidence of hepatitis A, Finland, 2006–2013**



## Bibliography

1. Broman M, Jokinen S, Kuusi M, Lappalainen M, Roivainen M, Liitsola K, et al. Epidemiology of hepatitis A in Finland in 1990-2007. *J Med Virol.* 2010 May;82(6):934-41.
2. Kurkela S, Pebody R, Kafatos G, Andrews N, Barbara C, Bruzzone B, et al. Comparative hepatitis A seroepidemiology in 10 European countries. *Epidemiol Infect.* 2012 Dec;140(12):2172-81.
3. Pohjanpelto P, Lahdensivu R. Rapid decline of hepatitis A in Finland. *Scand J Infect Dis.* 1984;16(3):229-33.
4. Ukkonen P, Pettersson R, Halonen P. Hepatitis A antibodies in Finland. *Scand J Infect Dis.* 1979;11(4):311-2.