

## Malta

<b>Population (January 2013):</b>	421 364
<b>Human development Index (2013):</b>	0.829
<b>HAV vaccine recommendations:</b>	HAV vaccine is usually recommended for the management of contacts of cases and for outbreak control. It is also recommended for: 1. travellers to regions with a high prevalence of hepatitis A 2. people with occupational exposure, e.g. sewage workers.
<b>Seroprevalence studies by quality score:</b>	score 0: 0 studies score 1: 0 studies score 2: 1 study
<b>Seroprevalence studies timeframe:</b>	2004

Seroprevalence assessment: **very low**  
Incidence assessment: **low**  
Risk of infection >30 years: **moderate**

The only data available for Malta comes from the study of Kurkela et al. (Kurkela 2012). The reported seroprevalence of HAV is below 50% by 30 years of age and below 25% by 15 years (Figure 1). Malta falls in the category of very low endemicity countries.

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

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

Incidence data is available from 1989 until 2001 from one study (Nothdruff 2007) and from 2006 until 2012 from TESSy (Figure 2). The incidence is low, ranging from 0.53 to 3.81 per 100 000, and shows a subtle declining trend with peaks every 3–5 years.

The susceptibility among adults is moderate, as data show susceptibility levels around 70% by 30 years. Almost all individuals over 60 are seropositive.

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

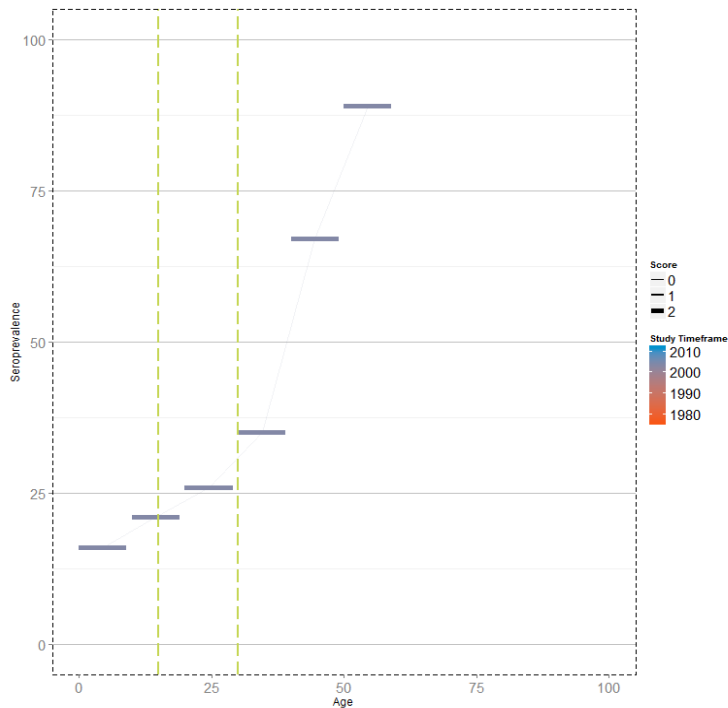
Panel a.1: 1975–1989

No data available

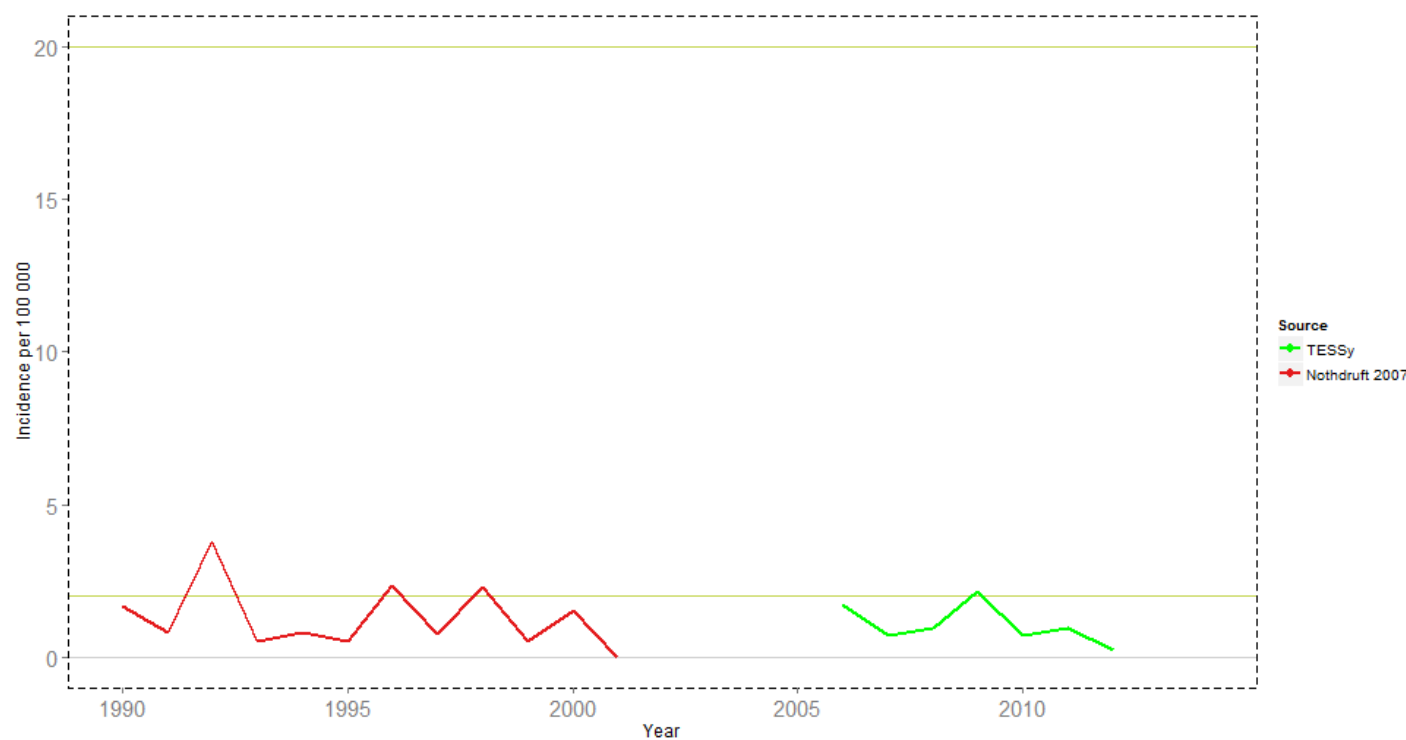
Panel a.2: 1990–1999

No data available

Panel a.3: 2000–2013



Malta\_Figure 2. Reported incidence of hepatitis A, Malta, 1989–2013



## References

1. 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.
2. Nothdurft HD, Dahlgren AL, Gallagher EA, Kollaritsch H, Overbosch D, Rummukainen ML, et al. The risk of acquiring hepatitis A and B among travelers in selected Eastern and Southern Europe and non-European Mediterranean countries: Review and consensus statement on hepatitis A and B vaccination. *J Travel Med.* 2007;14(3):181-7.