



DIRECTORATE
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MUMPS DIAGNOSED – THE IMPORTANCE OF MMR VACCINATION

In January 2009, one individual had mumps confirmed in Iceland. He had never been vaccinated with MMR but had recently arrived from England where outbreaks of mumps have been occurring.

Measles have been diagnosed in unvaccinated individuals in Switzerland, England, Australia and New-Zealand. **A high coverage of MMR is necessary to prevent outbreaks of measles, mumps and rubella in Iceland.** Recent information on MMR vaccination in Iceland indicates that the coverage may be suboptimal.

Central database on vaccinations in Iceland

Since 2003, the Chief Epidemiologist in Iceland has been sponsoring the development of a central database on vaccinations. In January this year, all health care centres in Iceland had been connected electronically to this database. Information on vaccinations is transferred automatically over the Internet to the central database and, in addition, old information on vaccinations, dating back to 2002, has been collected. Only a few institutions in Iceland remain to be connected to the database.

The central database will be useful to health care employees as well as the health authorities in evaluating vaccination coverage and individual vaccination history.

In the near future, individuals will hopefully be able to get their own history of vaccination directly over the Internet.

Suboptimal coverage of MMR vaccination

Information on more than 500.000 vaccinations has currently been collected in the central database on vaccinations. The coverage of the pentavalent vaccine (DTP-Hib-IPV) and MenC vaccine is 95–97% among two-year old children. The coverage of MMR vaccination, on the other hand, is only approximately 86% among three-year old children.



This information is worrisome and indicates that outbreaks of measles could be imminent. It is therefore important to increase the MMR coverage among Icelandic children in order to prevent outbreaks.

Thorolfur Gudnason

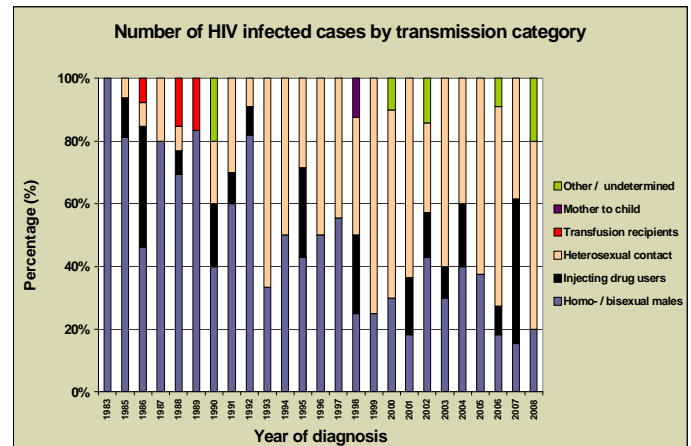
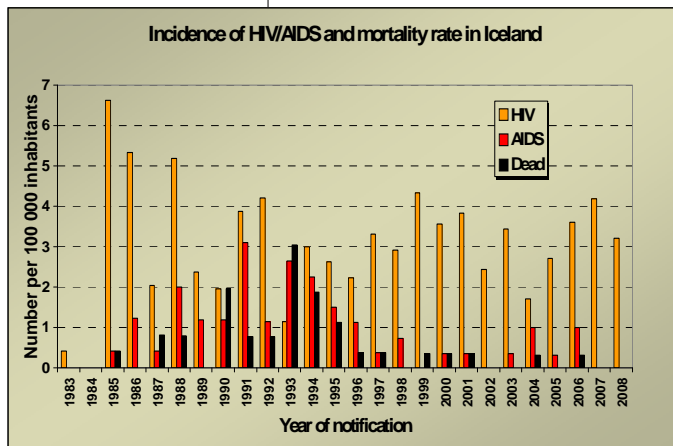
HIV AND AIDS IN ICELAND IN 2008

Only about 86% of three-year olds in Iceland have been vaccinated against MMR. This information is worrisome.

In 2008, ten individuals were diagnosed with HIV infection in Iceland, seven men and three women. No one was diagnosed with AIDS, the final phase of the disease. At the end of 2008, a total of 218 individuals had been diagnosed with HIV since the disease was first detected in Iceland, of whom 60 have developed AIDS and 37 have died (fig. 1). Only one of the individuals diagnosed in 2008 was of Icelandic descent, the others were applicants for residence permits.

The pattern of HIV transmission routes observed in recent years continues. Infection through heterosexual contact has been increasing relatively most. Among those diagnosed with HIV in 2007, drug abusers were proportionately a large number, while not one was diagnosed in 2008 (fig. 2).

Haraldur Briem



DIAGNOSES AT THE LUH DEPARTMENT OF VIROLOGY IN JANUARY 2009

Respiratory infections

In January 2009, RSV was diagnosed in over fifty percent of all positive samples at the Department of Virology of the Landspítali University Hospital (LUH). Other viruses detected were: influenza A (H3), adenovirus, parainfluenza-1, herpes simplex, and one unvaccinated individual was diagnosed with mumps.

Gastrointestinal infections

Twenty-eight individuals, children and adults, had a noroviral infection (calicivirus) confirmed in January 2009, while four individuals had astrovirus and one had rotavirus detected. Noroviral infection is therefore still frequent in the community.

Thorolfur Gudnason