

### HOUSEHOLD OUTBREAK OF SALMONELLOSIS IN VEJLE COUNTY

On 2 January 2000 the Medical Office of Health in Vejle County was contacted in relation to two unexpected deaths within a single family. The first patient, a 44-year-old man, developed gastroenteritis with violent diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pains and fever on 29 December 1999. The symptoms persisted till 31 December, when the patient had a cardiac arrest following a short period of dyspnoea. Resuscitation was unsuccessful and the patient was dead on arrival at the local hospital. The other patient had an even shorter clinical course. This was the first patient's 18-year-old son, who started vomiting on New Year's Eve and developed diarrhoea and fever on New Year's Day. About 26 hours after the father's death, the son lost consciousness and was brought in dead to the hospital. In addition to these two cases, milder cases of gastroenteritis have been reported in three other members of the family. Samples taken at forensic autopsy showed growth of *Salmonella enteritidis* from both faeces and blood, and *Salmonella enteritidis* has also been demonstrated in another member of the family. It is thought that the most probable source of the outbreak is a cake containing raw egg, which the family had eaten between Christmas and New Year. Remnants of this cake are being analysed for salmonella. The Vejle Regional Food Inspectorate, the Food Directorate, the State Veterinary Serum Laboratory and Statens Serum Institut are cooperating in the further tracing of the infective source. An overall report with results of supplementary analyses will be published later.

#### Salmonella enteritidis infection

*Salmonella enteritidis* usually produces a self-limiting gastroenteritis. A minority of patients develop septicaemia, as has presumably happened in the two reported cases. Untreated salmonella septicaemia has a mortality of around 25%. However, such a rapid clinical course with a fatal outcome is rare in healthy younger patients. The commonest source of *Salmonella enteritidis* is raw egg and dishes prepared from raw or partially raw egg.

Fig. 1. Laboratory-diagnosed cases of *Salmonella enteritidis* infection 1980-1999

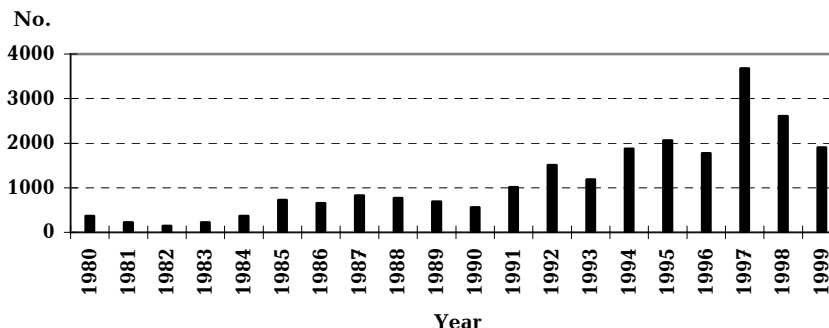


Fig. 1 shows the number of *Salmonella enteritidis* cases registered by the laboratory-based surveillance system during the period 1980-1998, together with the estimated figure for 1999. It will be seen that the curve peaked in 1997, when 3674 cases were registered. In 1998 the number fell to 2607 and about 1900 infective episodes are expected to be registered in 1999. This considerable reduction in the number of cases is principally due to the plan of action for the control of salmonella in chicken stocks producing eggs for consumption. Despite the declining occurrence of salmonella in laying hens, there is still a risk of salmonella infection from the ingestion of raw eggs. It is relevant to point out that *Salmonella enteritidis* organisms may be present inside the egg. The household remedy of quickly scalding the eggs before use thus provides no security against *Salmonella enteritidis* infection.

(Arne Poustrup, MOH, Vejle County, Kåre Mølbak, Dept. of G-I Inf.)

#### HIV/AIDS QUARTERLY REPORT 2nd QUARTER, 1999

As shown in the accompanying report, 14 AIDS patients were notified during the 2nd quarter of 1999. The incidence of AIDS is thus remaining low. The number of AIDS deaths is also low, a total of three persons dying of AIDS during the first six months of 1999, the lowest figure for the 20 years in which surveillance of the disease has been operative. There has again been a rise in the number of newly found HIV-infected persons, after 1998 produced the lowest figure ever. Thus HIV infection was demonstrated in 131 persons in the first six months of 1999, as against 97 in the same period of

1998. The rise has been seen chiefly in homo/bisexual men, but there has also been a small numerical rise in heterosexually infected persons. The proportion of women is still rising, constituting 32% of HIV-infected persons during the first six months of 1999, as against 26% in 1995 and 29% in 1998. However, these changes in data from the HIV surveillance system do not necessarily reflect real changes in the spread of infection within the population and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

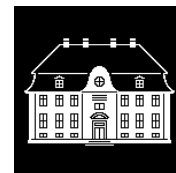
(Else Smith, Dept. of Epidemiology)

#### INFLUENZA

Sentinel surveillance is showing an increased incidence of influenza, which could be interpreted as a possible incipient epidemic (see overleaf). The figures cover the whole country and any differences in incidence between counties cannot be assessed. Most other European countries are also reporting an increased incidence with localized outbreaks. During the present winter season up to week 52 inclusive, a total of 48 specimens have been received via the sentinel system. Seven influenza A isolates have been found, all subtyped as influenza A/Moscow/10/99-(H3N2)-like. A second round of specimen-taking programme by 20 new sentinel physicians has just been initiated. The influenza A isolates found are closely related to one of the strains in the current vaccine: A/Sydney/5/97-(H3N2)-like. The vaccine for 1999/2000 should therefore also provide immunity against the influenza strain that is now being isolated.

(Per C. Grauballe, Dept. of Virol., Steffen Glismann, Dept. of Epidem.)

5 January 2000



## Patients with positive cultures of pathogenic intestinal bacteria in 1999, by county

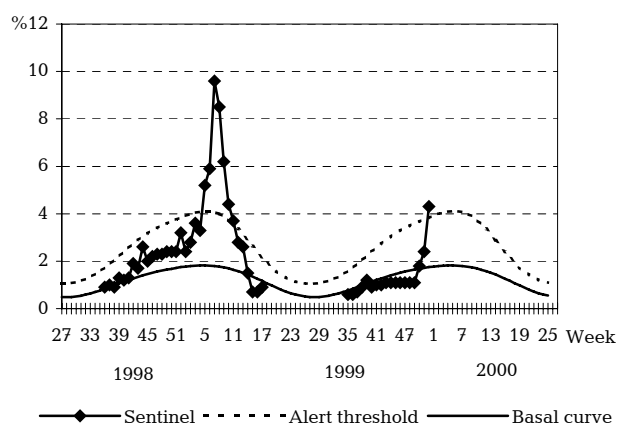
|                         | Campylobacter |      | Yersinia enteritidis |      | S. typhimurium |      | S. enteritidis |      | Other zoon. Salmonella spp. |      |
|-------------------------|---------------|------|----------------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
|                         | Sep.          | Oct. | Sep.                 | Oct. | Sep.           | Oct. | Sep.           | Oct. | Sep.                        | Oct. |
| Cph. Municip.           | 61            | 44   | 3                    | 5    | 4              | 3    | 70             | 30   | 21                          | 8    |
| Frb. Municip.           | 13            | 6    | 1                    | -    | 2              | 1    | 12             | 1    | -                           | 1    |
| Copenhagen *            | 1             | 2    | -                    | -    | 4              | 4    | 3              | 2    | 17                          | -    |
| Frederiksborg           | 25            | 21   | 2                    | -    | 2              | -    | 24             | 16   | 4                           | 3    |
| Roskilde                | 21            | 17   | -                    | 1    | 1              | -    | 12             | 5    | 9                           | 3    |
| West Zealand            | 18            | 6    | -                    | 1    | 3              | 1    | 26             | 4    | 3                           | 4    |
| Storstrøms              | 9             | 12   | 5                    | 2    | -              | 1    | 19             | 22   | 1                           | 3    |
| Bornholms               | 2             | 2    | -                    | -    | 1              | -    | 3              | 2    | 1                           | -    |
| Funen                   | 30            | 32   | 6                    | 5    | 17             | 6    | 35             | 23   | 17                          | 5    |
| South Jutland           | 13            | 10   | 1                    | -    | 2              | 1    | 14             | 10   | 5                           | 4    |
| Ribe                    | 25            | 16   | 1                    | 1    | 2              | 4    | 19             | 14   | 6                           | -    |
| Vejle                   | 32            | 18   | 1                    | 2    | 4              | 4    | 10             | 7    | 5                           | 3    |
| Ringkøbing              | 16            | 18   | 2                    | 4    | 3              | 1    | 20             | 5    | 5                           | 2    |
| Aarhus                  | 56            | 39   | 3                    | 4    | 7              | 6    | 26             | 17   | 6                           | 3    |
| Viborg                  | 17            | 19   | 2                    | -    | 3              | 3    | 9              | 4    | 1                           | 1    |
| North Jutland           | 44            | 25   | 2                    | 5    | 30             | 5    | 17             | 24   | 6                           | 9    |
| Unknown                 | -             | -    | -                    | -    | -              | -    | -              | -    | 1                           | -    |
| Denmark; Sep./Oct. 1999 | 383           | 287  | 29                   | 30   | 85             | 40   | 319            | 186  | 108                         | 49   |
| Denmark; Sep./Oct. 1998 | 336           | 261  | 50                   | 45   | 147            | 61   | 310            | 258  | 87                          | 43   |

\* Figures for Copenhagen county comprise only part of the diagnosed cases

(Intestinal Bacteriology Lab.)

## Influenza activity in sentinel surveillance

Weekly percentage of consultations, 1998/1999/2000



- Sentinel:** Influenza consultations as % of total consultations
- Basal curve:** Expected frequency of influenza consultations under non-epidemic conditions
- Alert threshold:** Possible incipient epidemic

(Dept. of Epidemiology)