

TUBERCULOSIS 1999, PART I

No. 45, 2000

In 1999 a total of 537 cases of tuberculosis (TB) due to Mycobacterium tuberculosis were notified in Denmark, 164 in Danes (31%) and 373 in immigrants (69%). In comparison, there were 529 cases in 1998, 35% in Danes and 65% in immigrants, EPI-NEWS 45/99. Of the Danish cases 103 were men and 61 women. The number of cases fell in younger Danes but was unchanged in the older population, Fig. 1. The median age for Danish cases was 46 years for men and 61 years for women, as compared with 48 and 45 years respectively in 1998. Of the 373 cases in immigrants, about half (185) were from Somalia, 11% from Pakistan, 14% from other parts of Asia, 9% from the former Yugoslavia and 6% from Africa. Greenlanders resident in Denmark made up 3%. Of the total number of patients, 345 (64%) were notified as having pulmonary TB; of these 313 (91%) had pulmonary TB alone, while 32 (9%) also had extrapulmonary TB. A total of 126 patients (23%) had lymph-node TB, 10 of these with concurrent pulmonary TB. The remaining 12% of patients had TB mainly of the bones, urinary tract or gastrointestinal tract. Of the Danish cases 83% had pulmonary TB, a proportion similar to the previous year's. However, the proportion of pulmonary TB in immigrants rose from 40% in 1998 to 56% in 1999. Lymph-node TB made up 32% of TB cases in immigrants and 5% of Danish cases; thus 94% of the total number of cases of lymph-node TB occurred in immigrants. The diagnosis was confirmed by culture in 80% of all cases, which continues the decline seen in 1998, when 83% of cases had a positive culture. A total of 113 patients (21%) had positive microscopy of sputum or tracheal aspirate and thus constituted an infective risk. The proportion of these infectious patients fell from the previous year but remained higher in Danes (38%) than in immigrants (15%).

Calculation of incidence

The basis for calculating the incidence of TB in Danes has been changed. Figures for the number of immigrants and their descendants are now used as the basis for calculating the incidence in immigrants. This group is then subtracted when

Fig. 1. No. of notified cases of TB in Denmark 1994-1999, by age

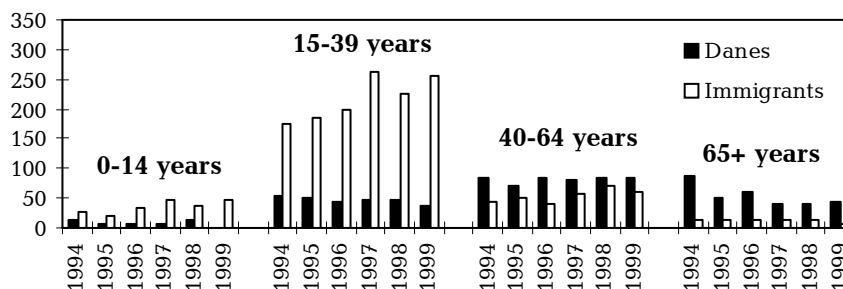


Table 1. No. of notified cases of TB with incidence per 10⁵ in Danes and immigrants, 1999, by county

	Danes	Immi-grants	Total	Incidence per 10 ⁵		
				Danes	Immi-grants	Total
Copenhagen Municip.	49	104	153	11.9	128.7	31.2
Frederiksberg Municip.	4	10	14	5.0	96.0	15.5
Copenhagen	16	51	67	2.9	80.2	10.9
Frederiksborg	4	20	24	1.2	77.2	6.6
Roskilde	5	4	9	2.3	29.8	3.9
West Zealand	7	11	18	2.5	79.7	6.1
Storstrøm	13	13	26	5.2	125.4	10.0
Bornholm	3	2	5	7.0	143.4	11.2
Funen	10	31	41	2.2	118.0	8.7
South Jutland	3	1	4	1.3	6.8	1.6
Ribe	5	4	9	2.3	39.7	4.0
Vejle	5	23	28	1.5	136.3	8.1
Ringkøbing	9	5	14	3.4	48.1	5.1
Aarhus	15	53	68	2.5	132.3	10.7
Viborg	6	8	14	2.7	113.1	6.0
North Jutland	10	30	40	2.1	163.8	8.1
Other	-	2	2	-	-	-
Not stated	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total	164	373	537	3.3	102.6	10.1

calculating the incidence in Danes. The overall incidence was 10.1 per 10⁵ in 1999 and 10.0 per 10⁵ in 1998. In 1999 the incidence was 3.3 per 10⁵ in Danes and 102.6 per 10⁵ in immigrants, Table 1. If, as before, the whole population is used as the basis for the calculation, EPI-NEWS 45/99, the incidence in Danes comes out at 3.5 per 10⁵ in 1998 and 3.1 in 1999. As before, the Municipality of Copenhagen had the highest overall incidence. The counties of Copenhagen, Bornholm and Aarhus, as well as the Municipality of Frederiksberg, showed a higher incidence than the national average.

Risk groups

13 patients were stated to be HIV positive, six Danes and seven immigrants. 25 patients were alcoholics, drug addicts and/or homeless; 22 of

these were Danes. 21 of these were men aged 28 to 53 years with a median age of 45 years.

Sources of infection

There was a known source of infection within the close family or circle of acquaintance for 28% of Danes and 20% of immigrants. Most Danes (97%) were thought to have been infected in Denmark, while the majority of immigrants were infected abroad, typically in their country of origin. Nevertheless, a total of 26 immigrants (7%) were thought to have been infected in Denmark. 34 patients were notified with relapse, 19 Danes (12%) and 15 immigrants (4%). 25 of these cases were relapse of pulmonary TB.

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Patients with laboratory-diagnosed chlamydia, by sex and county

2nd quarter 2000

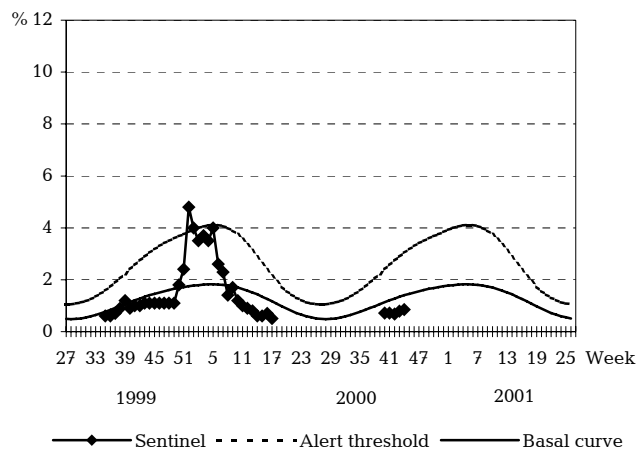
	Chlamydia, 2nd quarter			1999
	2000			
	M	F	Total	
Cph. and Frb. Municip.	223	408	636 *	551
Copenhagen	84	246	330	292
Frederiksborg	57	120	178 *	163
Roskilde	29	69	98	100
West Zealand	50	134	184	199
Storstrøm	42	92	134	129
Bornholm	2	17	19	12
Funen	63	177	240	373
South Jutland	43	90	133	212
Ribe	43	81	124	128
Vejle	63	141	204	192
Ringkøbing	46	127	173	155
Aarhus	160	330	490	590
Viborg	29	73	102	78
North Jutland	99	264	363	306
Whole Country	1033	2369	3408	3480

* Sex was not stated in some cases

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Sentinel surveillance of influenza activity

Weekly percentage of consultations, 1999/2000/2001



Sentinel: Influenza consultations as % of total consultations

Basal curve: Expected frequency of influenza consultations under non-epidemic conditions

Alert threshold: Possible incipient epidemic

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