



Laboratory-confirmed cases

In 2000 and 2001, a total of 54 and 51 cases of syphilis were detected, respectively, including two with congenital syphilis. This represents a marked increase in comparison with 1999, when 34 cases were detected, EPI-NEWS 34/00. The figures include both early (duration <2 years) and late cases, [Table 1](#). The increase is primarily due to cases in men, among whom there was a substantial shift towards early acquired syphilis in 2001.

Table 1. No. of cases of syphilis diagnosed in 2000-2001

Diagnosis	2000		
	M	F	M
Acquired, early	17	7	30
Acquired, late	23	5	6
Congenital	0	2	0
Total	40	14	36

Acquired syphilis

Cases of acquired syphilis were detected in all counties, and as before most frequently, 40%, in the Municipality of Copenhagen, [Table 2](#).

Table 2. No. of acquired cases of syphilis by county of detection of diagnosis, 2000-2001

County	2000-2001	
	M	F
Copenhagen Municipality	32	9
Frederiksberg Municipality	2	1
Copenhagen	9	4
Frederiksborg	2	0
Roskilde	2	0
West Zealand	1	0
Storstrøm	0	1
Bornholm	0	1
Funen	6	1
South Jutland	1	3
Ribe	4	1
Vejle	3	1
Ringkøbing	0	2
Aarhus	6	0
Viborg	1	0
North Jutland	7	3
Total	76	27

A total of 32% of the cases were detected in general practice, 40% in public sexually transmitted disease clinics and 22% in hospital wards, [Table 3](#). It is apparent from [Table 4](#) that 54% of the men and 41% of the women were born in Denmark. The latter represents an increase from 20% in 1998-99. Places of birth abroad were, in order of frequency: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and South America. Country of in-

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fection was not stated for 58% of the patients, [Table 5](#). In contrast to 1998-99, there was information about infection in Denmark. Infection abroad was, in order of frequency: Europe, Asia and Africa. The patients' age distribution is shown in [Table 6](#). The number of cases of syphilis detected in pregnant women was 11 in 1996, 12 in 1997, 11 in 1998, six in 1999, six in 2000 and four in 2001, [Table 7](#).

Table 3. No. of cases of acquired syphilis by place of diagnosis, 2000-2001

Place	2000-2001	
	M	F
General practice	26	
Dermatology practice	3	
Other specialist practice	2	
Public STD clinic	32	
Other outpatient department	0	
Hospital ward	13	
Total	76	27

Table 4. No. of cases of acquired syphilis by place of birth, 2000-2001

Country of infection	2000-2001	
	M	F
Denmark	13	9
Faroese	0	1
Greenland	0	1
Abroad	20	15
Not stated	43	7
Total	76	27

Table 5. No. of cases of acquired syphilis by country of infection, 2000-2001

Diagnosis	Birthplace	2000-2001	
		2000	2001
Early	Denmark	3	0
	Abroad	1	1
Late	Denmark	0	1
	Abroad	2	2
Total		6	4

Table 6. No. of cases of acquired syphilis by age, 2000-2001

Age (yrs)	2000-2001			
	Early		Late	
	M	F	M	F
0-19	2	0	1	0
20-24	4	2	2	2
25-29	3	7	4	4
30-39	15	3	9	2
40-49	10	0	2	1
50+	13	1	11	5
Total	47	13	29	14

Congenital syphilis

The two cases of congenital syphilis were respectively an adoptive child

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Table 7. No. of cases of syphilis diagnosed in pregnant women, 2000-2001

County	2000-2001	
	M	F
Copenhagen Municipality	3	9
Frederiksberg Municipality	2	1
Copenhagen	9	4
Frederiksborg	2	0
Roskilde	2	0
West Zealand	1	0
Storstrøm	0	1
Bornholm	0	1
Funen	6	1
South Jutland	1	3
Ribe	4	1
Vejle	3	1
Ringkøbing	0	2
Aarhus	6	0
Viborg	1	0
North Jutland	7	3
Total	76	27

from India and a child born in Denmark to a foreign woman living here, who was not serologically investigated for syphilis during pregnancy. This child was severely ill but was not correctly diagnosed and treated until several months after birth.

Comments

There has been an increase in number of cases of syphilis in men in particular, with a pronounced shift towards early acquired syphilis in 2001. The number of female patients born in Denmark was increasing and infection again took place in Denmark. It is striking that the number of cases of syphilis detected in pregnant women has fallen substantially since 1998, when selective screening of pregnant women was introduced instead of the previous general screening. Far fewer pregnant women are thus investigated. This is also the first time since 1989 that syphilis was found in an infant born in Denmark. Furthermore, the number of pregnant women treated has fallen from 12 in 1997 to four in 2001. It is therefore not unlikely that undetected intrauterine infection occurs as a result of the reorganisation in 1998, since experience shows that congenital syphilis is a difficult diagnosis to make without having this suspicion. (N. Axelsen, Dept. of Clin. Biochem.)

NOTIFIED CASES

Syphilis (acquired or congenital) must be notified on form 1510. In the year 2000-2001 a total of 36 cases of syphilis was notified, this corresponds to 34% of diagnosed cases. Nine were women (25%) and 27 men (75%). Nine men and four women were notified in 2000, and 17 men and six women in 2001. Three and 13 men were homosexual, respectively, while in two cases sexual orientation was not stated. A total of nine (56%) of the 16 homosexual men were infected in Denmark, six abroad, while the country of infection for one man was not stated. (E. Smith, G. H. Kock-Hansen, Department of Epidemiology)

Patients with laboratory-diagnosed chlamydia by sex and county

3rd and 4th quarter 2001

County	3rd quarter				4th quarter			
	2001			2000	2001			2000
	M	F	Total		M	F	Total	
Cph. and Frb. Municip.	276	524	801 *	643	243	484	728 *	725
Copenhagen	104	292	396	297	133	259	392	354
Frederiksborg	56	127	183	175	50	128	178	217
Roskilde	40	133	173	135	32	100	132	99
West Zealand	77	151	229 *	215	54	151	205	223
Storstrøm	54	111	165	115	43	77	121 *	123
Bornholm	1	13	14	22	1	14	15	16
Funen	93	219	313 *	305	73	207	280	334
South Jutland	77	241	319 *	200	36	88	124	169
Ribe	43	99	142	128	30	93	123	110
Vejle	67	156	223	231	70	165	235	225
Ringkøbing	55	121	176	186	64	118	183 *	205
Aarhus	101	387	489 *	552	194	369	563	625
Viborg	48	103	151	124	37	109	147 *	143
North Jutland	123	266	389	342	128	251	379	434
Total	1215	2943	4163 *	3670	1188	2613	3805 *	4002

*) Sex was not stated in some cases

Patients with laboratory-diagnosed gonorrhoea by sex and county

1st quarter 2002

County	1st quarter			2001
	2002			
	M	F	Total	
Cph. and Frb. Municip.	40	8	48	30
Copenhagen	3	-	3	6
Frederiksborg	2	1	3	4
Roskilde	-	-	-	3
West Zealand	2	-	2	1
Storstrøm	1	-	1	3
Bornholm	1	1	2	-
Funen	1	-	1	7
South Jutland	3	1	4	2
Ribe	1	-	1	-
Vejle	2	-	2	5
Ringkøbing	-	-	-	2
Aarhus	7	-	7	6
Viborg	1	-	1	2
North Jutland	1	1	2	3
Total	65	12	77	74