



CHLAMYDIA 2001

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According to the national laboratory notification system, 15,150 cases of chlamydia (oculogenital Chlamydia trachomatis infection) were diagnosed in 2001. This figure represents an annual incidence of 283 per 10⁵. Since 1994, 260,000-280,000 analyses have been carried out annually, and chlamydia has been diagnosed in approximately 5% of those tested, table 1.

Table 1. No. of analyses and laboratory-diagnosed cases of chlamydia, 1994-2001

Year	Analyses	Cases	(%)
1994	277,464	13,869	(5.0)
1995	271,555	13,038	(4.8)
1996	281,579	13,369	(4.7)
1997	271,652	13,596	(5.0)
1998	272,920	12,831	(4.7)
1999	262,131	13,930	(5.3)
2000	268,471	14,735	(5.5)
2001	280,694	15,150	(5.4)

The age distribution for patients with chlamydia in 2001 was more or less unchanged relative to previous years, with 80% of males and 89% of females being in the age group 15-29 years, table 2.

Table 2. Age-specific incidence of chlamydia for cases where both age and gender were stated, 2001

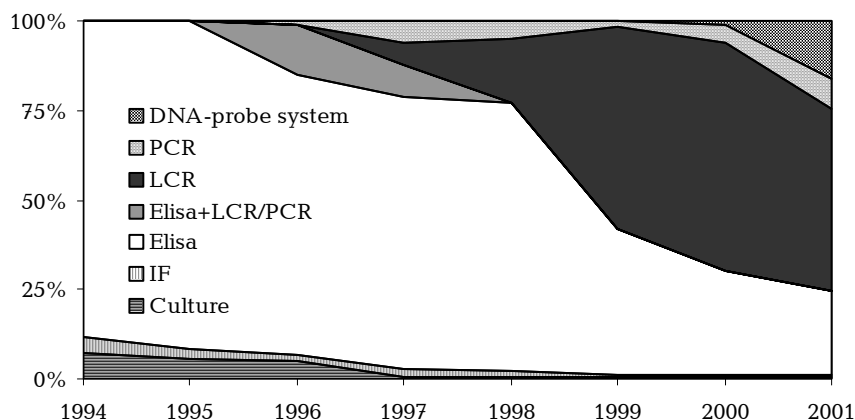
Age (yrs)	Males		Females	
	No.	per 10 ⁵	No.	per 10 ⁵
< 1	49	142	35	107
1-4	0	0	0	0
5-9	1	1	6	4
10-14	4	3	68	45
15-19	699	492	3,206	2,344
20-24	1,744	1,055	4,453	2,765
25-29	1,069	550	1,881	988
30-34	477	232	629	319
35-39	184	87	282	139
40-44	85	44	110	59
45-49	41	22	30	17
50+	42	5	24	2
Total	4,395	167	10,724	397

Males made up 29% of diagnosed cases of chlamydia in 2001. During the years 1994-2000, this proportion has increased steadily, from 23% to 30%.

Diagnosis

In 76% of cases, the diagnosis was made by DNA methods, which is a slight increase from 70% in 2000, fig. 1. By the end of the year, a DNA-

Fig 1. Diagnostic methods for chlamydia used in Denmark, 1994-2001



probe system was in use in two clinical microbiology departments. This method was used for 21% of the patients who were found positive using a DNA method.

In 472 patients (3%), chlamydia was diagnosed by analysis of urine with DNA methods. Analysis of urine samples were reported from nine out of 18 laboratories.

Chlamydia in children

Chlamydia was diagnosed in 167 children under the age of 15 years. A total of 88 (53%) of these children were under one year old. Of these, 77 had conjunctivitis. For 63 of the children, age was stated in months, and 55 (87%) of these were neonates (i.e. less than one month old). On suspicion of child sex abuse, culture is recommended as a test for

chlamydia, since the reliability of the positive test result in this situation is of particular importance. Chlamydia swabs for urogenital sampling and chlamydia transport medium should be used for taking specimens.

Geographical distribution

There were also great geographic differences in the number of diagnosed cases of chlamydia in 2001, table 3. The greatest incidence for both males and females, 347 and 641 per 10⁵, respectively, was seen in the Municipalities of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg, while the lowest incidence for males and females, 23 and 259 per 10⁵, respectively, was found in Bornholm County. The average M:F incidence ratio was 0.42, which is more or less unchanged relative to 2000, when it was 0.43.

Comments

The number of laboratory-diagnosed cases of chlamydia was 3% higher in 2001 than in 2000. The number of analyses performed increased by 5%, however, it was similar to that in 1996. It appears that the number of tests being performed on males is still insufficient because although they constitute an increasing proportion of diagnosed cases, males still constitute less than a third of laboratory-confirmed cases. (A. Kunkel, S. Hoffmann, Dept. of Resp. Infections, Meningitis & STIs)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

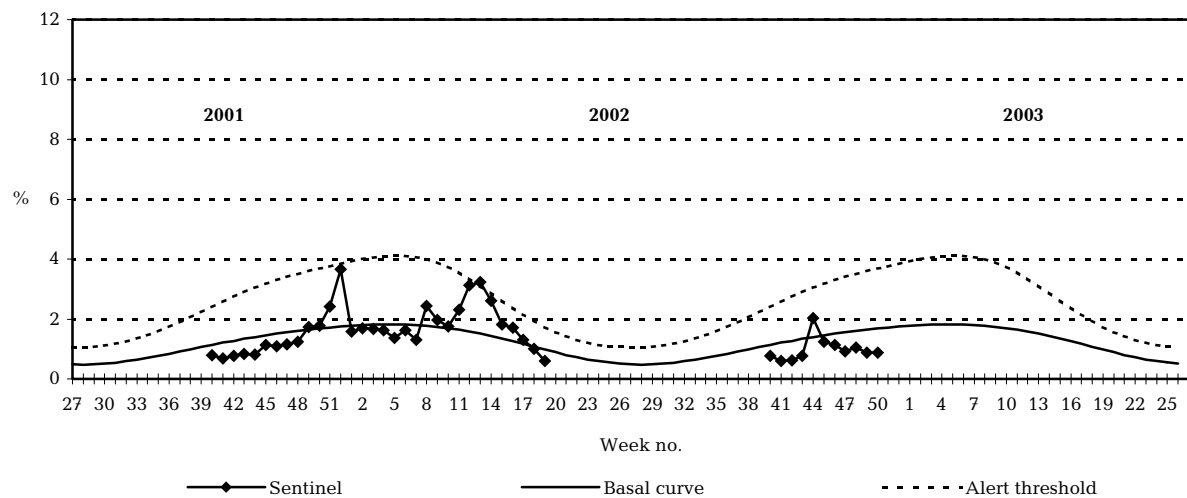
Unless special circumstances arise, the next issue of EPI-NEWS will not appear until the 2nd week of 2003. THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY WISH EVERYBODY A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Table 3. Incidence of laboratory-diagnosed chlamydia, by county and gender, 2001

County	No. per 10 ⁵		
	M	F	M:F
Cph. & Frb.			
Municipalities	347	641	0.54
Copenhagen	140	323	0.43
Frederiksberg	115	285	0.40
Roskilde	103	350	0.29
West Zealand	155	384	0.40
Storstrøm	120	288	0.42
Bornholm	23	259	0.09
Funen	153	359	0.43
South Jutland	149	443	0.34
Ribe	134	347	0.39
Vejle	144	357	0.40
Ringkøbing	163	381	0.43
Aarhus	154	446	0.35
Viborg	123	325	0.38
North Jutland	193	417	0.46
Total	167	397	0.42

Sentinel surveillance of influenza activity

Weekly percentage of consultations, 2001/2002/2003



Sentinel: Influenza consultations as percentage of total consultations

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

Alert threshold: Possible incipient epidemic

(Dept. of Epidemiology)

