

# THE CURRENT SITUATION CONCERNING SYPHILIS AND GONORRHOEA IN SLOVENIA

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## ABSTRACT

The epidemiological situation of syphilis and gonorrhoea in Slovenia in 1994 is the subject-matter of the present paper. During the past twenty years, syphilis was on a distinctive decline in Slovenia. In 1994, 36 cases of early syphilis were registered, representing an incidence of 1.82 per 100 000 inhabitants and equaling the situation 12 years ago. A continuous decline in gonorrhoea was also registered, the incidence in 1994 being 10.7 per 100 000 inhabitants, but due to known reasons this data are not reliable. Since Slovenia borders the crisis territories of former Yugoslavia, sexually transmitted diseases demand particular attention of public health authorities and also close cooperation of venereologists from the countries of the Alps-Danube-Adriatic region.

## KEY WORDS

*syphilis, gonorrhoea, epidemiology, Slovenia.*

## INTRODUCTION

Slovenia has very reliable data on formerly venereal and presently termed classic sexually transmitted diseases (STD) (syphilis, gonorrhoea, *ulcus molle*, lymphogranuloma venereum) since reporting them has been compulsory by law since 1948 (1). The patients are registered and in the majority of cases also treated in 9 dermatological outpatient STD clinics that cover the needs of the entire country (population 1 990 623). The data are reported monthly to the STD Registry Office at the Department of Dermatology of the Ljubljana University Medical Centre which provides a cumulative annual report and analysis.

During the past 20 years, the incidence of classical STD in Slovenia, syphilis and gonorrhoea, followed the trend in western Europe (2). Syphilis increased in the seventies, started to decline toward the end of the decade and followed such a persistent decline that in the years 1992 to 1993 only two cases of early syphilis were registered in the entire country, meaning an incidence of 0.10 per 100,000 inhabitants. Surprising were the data for 1994 when 36 cases of early syphilis were registered in the entire country, meaning an incidence of 1.82 per 100 000 inhabitants (1,2,3, 4,5) (Fig. 1).

Just like in other European countries, during the second World War and in the following period gonorrhoea was widely spread in our country. In

