

Epidemiology and surveillance of meningococcal disease in Latvia

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Background

- Latvia has been producing statistics on meningococcal disease since 1990.
- Outlined here are the methods used to ascertain number of cases and conclusions that can be drawn from the pattern of incidence.
- Latvia annually purchases 15 Meningococcal vaccine doses (Men A+C).
- The Vaccine is distributed to one children's hospital in Riga to vaccinate children who suffer from splenectomy.

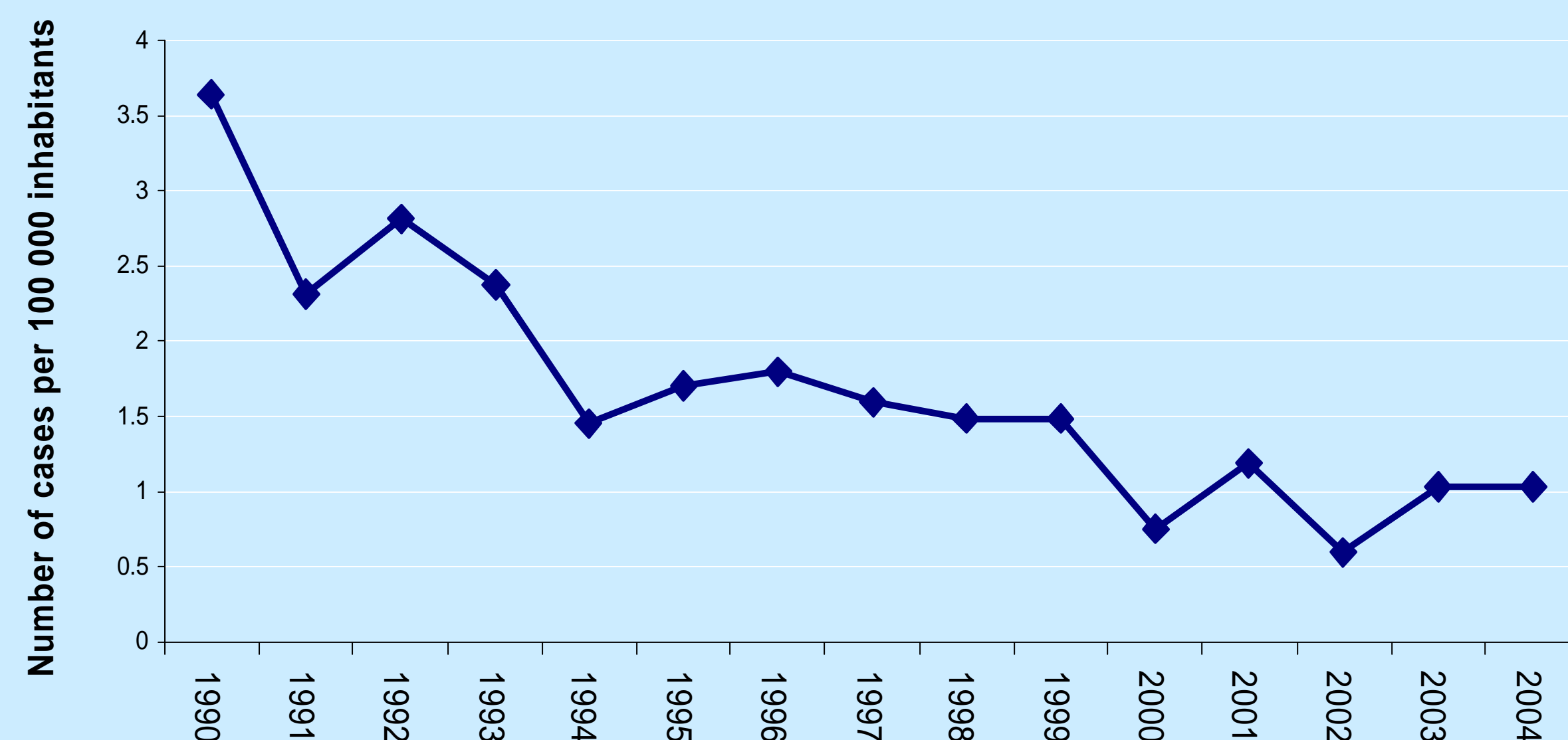
Methods

- Every case of meningococcal disease is subject to compulsory notification.
- Clinicians in the public and private healthcare sectors are legally responsible for notifying the meningococcal disease by phone or by fax, as well as for case management.
- The notification time for meningococcal disease is 12 hours.
- Epidemiologists in branches of the PHA (Public Health Agency) organise preventive and control measures and investigate cases (outbreaks).
- In Latvia there is no reference laboratory, thus for confirmation of N.Meningitidis the samples from patients are examined both in laboratories of hospitals and PHA branches.
- Current information issued by PHA in the epidemiological bulletin ("Epidemiologijas bilatens") is disseminated regularly by email and post to other ministries, institutions and mass media, and is available through PHA web site.

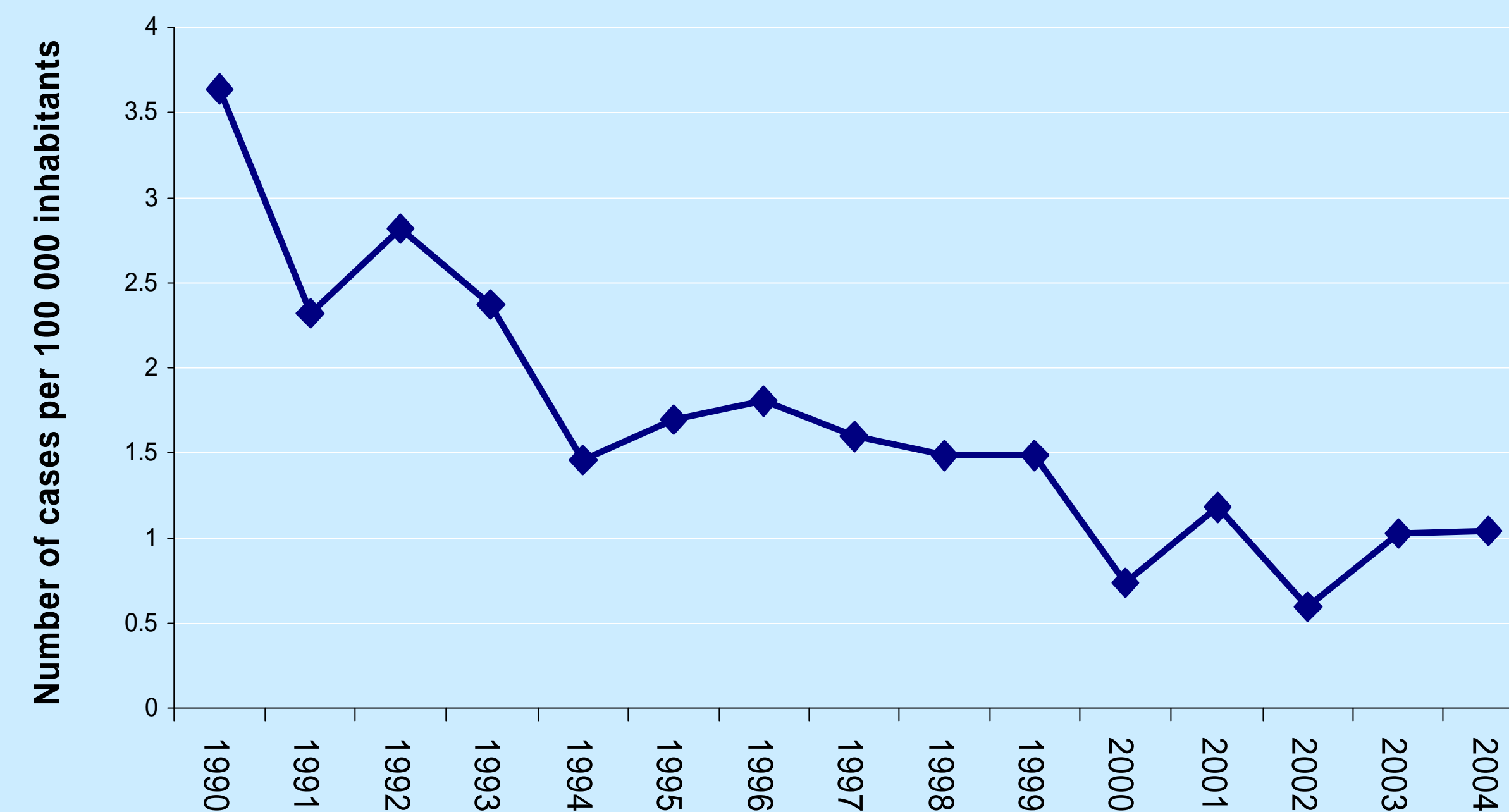
Results

- In 2000-2004 in Latvia 108 cases of meningococcal disease were registered, out of which 90 (83%) were investigated in laboratories; of these 54 (60%) were positive and 36 (40%) were negative.

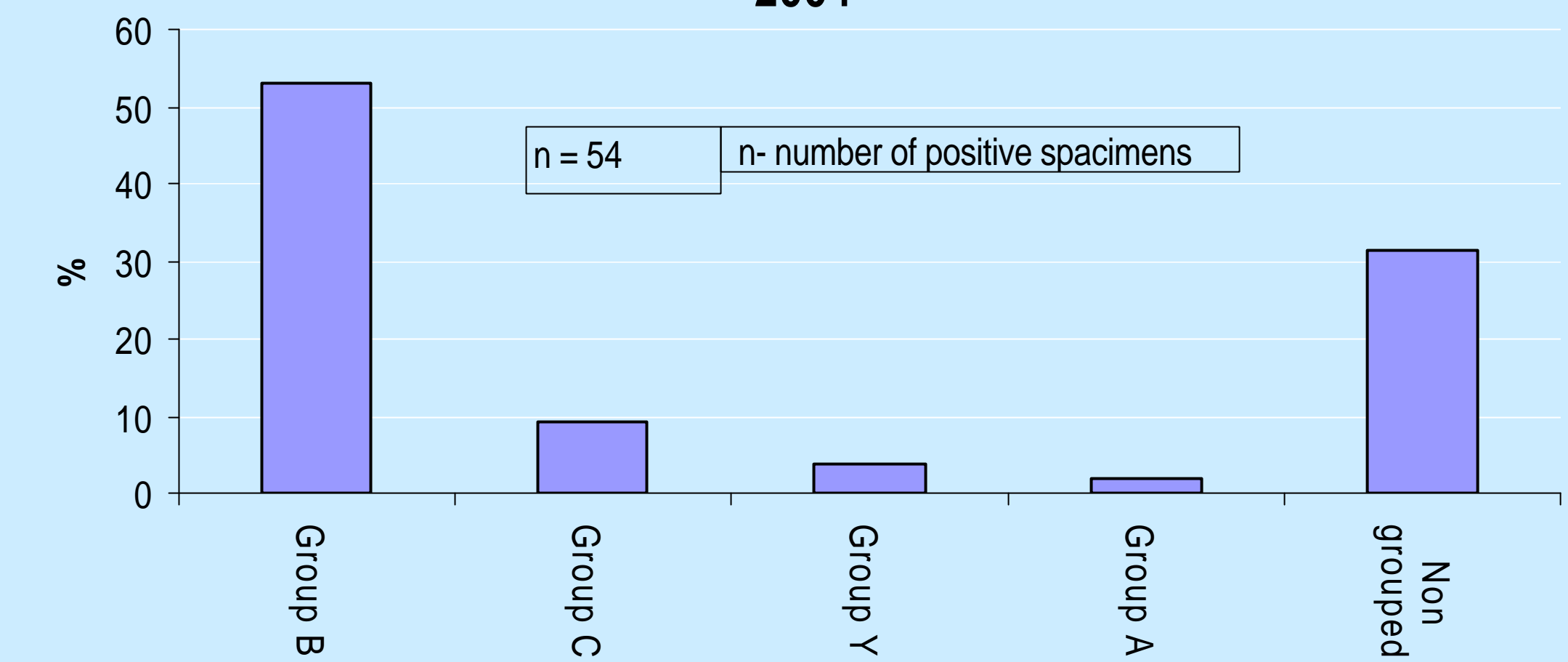
Morbidity of meningococcal disease in Latvia, 1990-2004



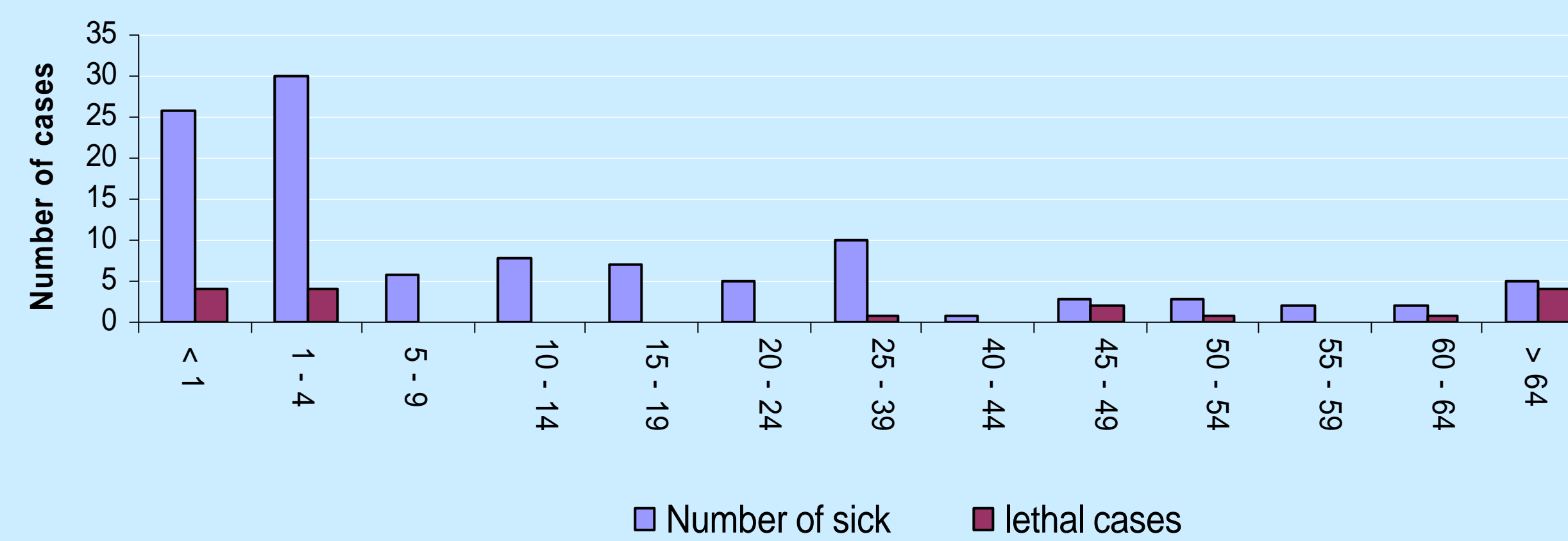
Morbidity of meningococcal disease in Latvia, 1990-2004



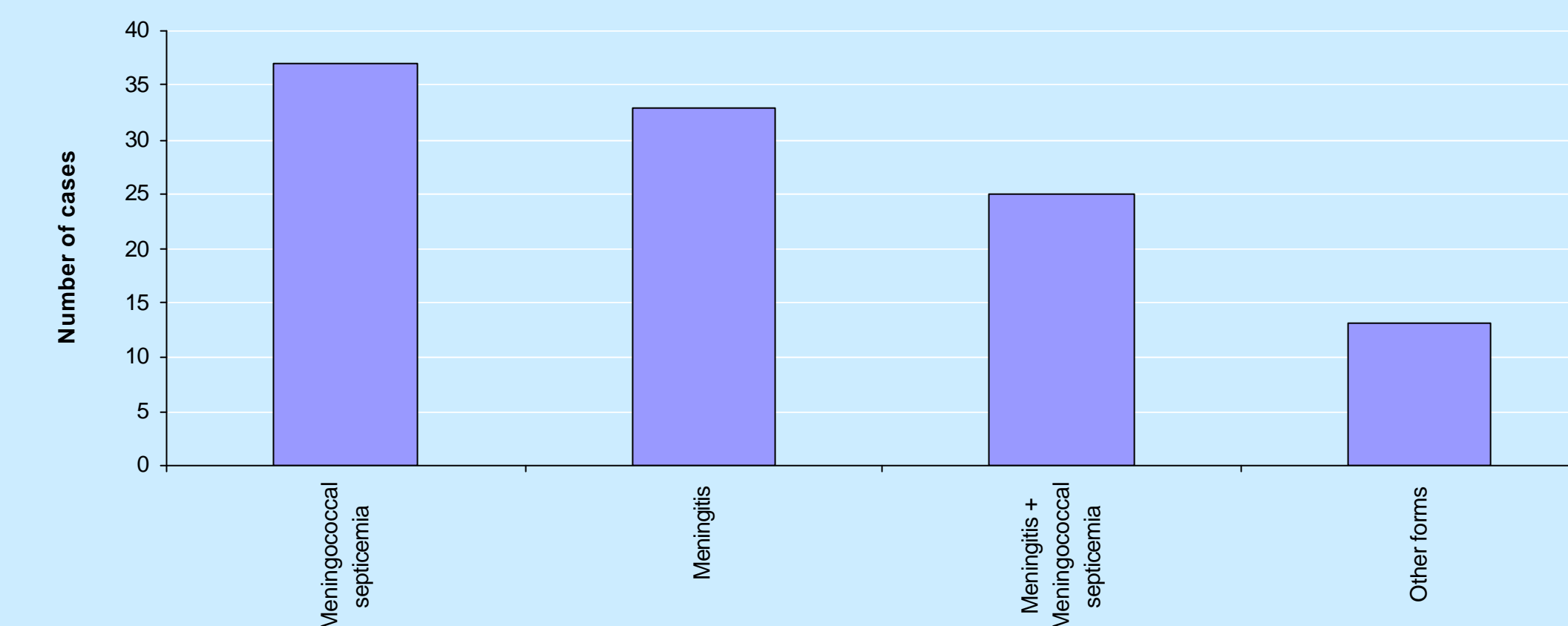
Percentages of agents of meningococcal disease, 2000-2004



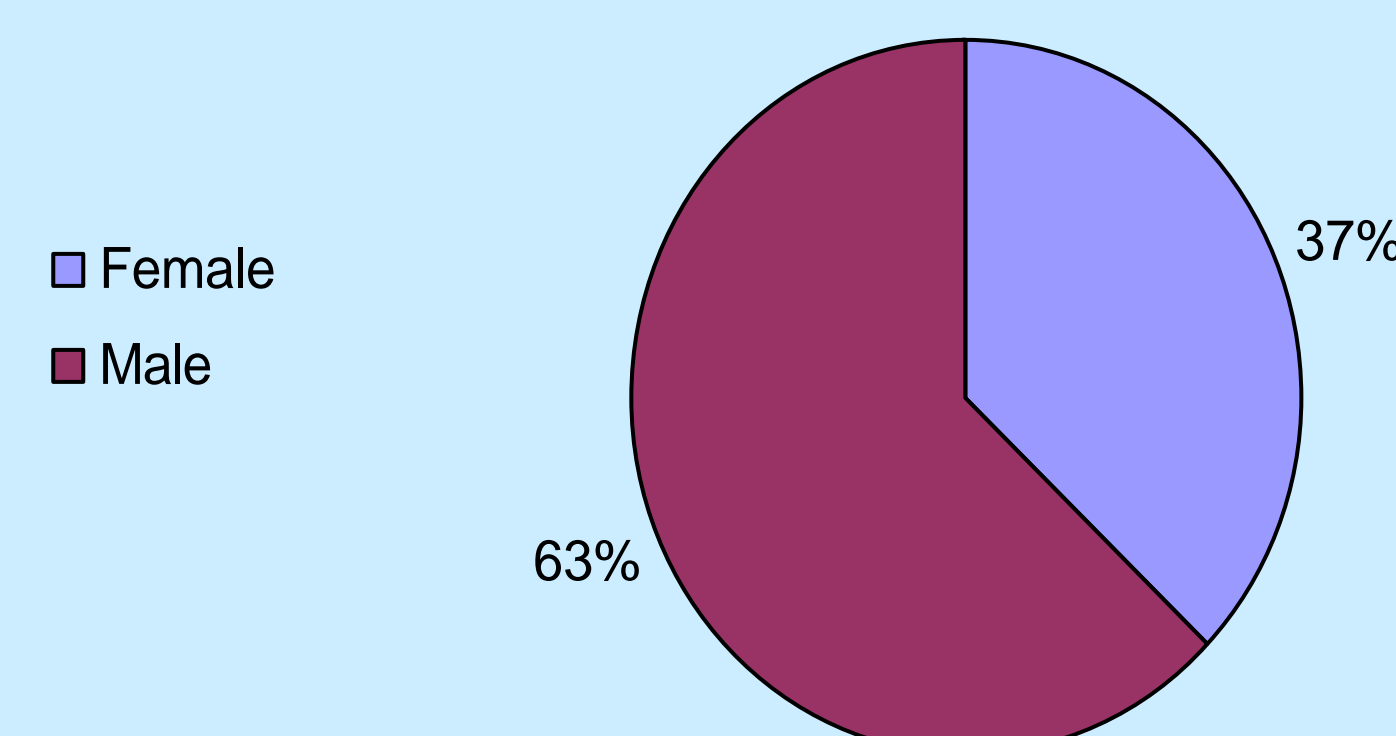
Breakdown of percent of meningococcal disease by age group, 2000-2004



Percentage of clinic forms of meningococcal disease, 2000-2004



Breakdown of meningococcal disease by sex, 2000-2004



Conclusions

- Morbidity with meningococcal disease in Latvia is decreasing. Since 1990 it has decreased by 71,7%. In 2004 the morbidity rate was 1,03 cases per 100 000 inhabitants.
- The most cases of meningococcal disease are registered with children up to 4 years.
- The highest death rate from meningococcal disease is for people after 60 years of age.
- The dominant agent of meningococcal disease is N.Meningitidis B groups.
- Also N.Meningitidis C groups, N.Meningitidis A groups and N.Meningitidis Y groups are singled out laboratorically.