

Burden of disease

In 2015, the global prevalence of HBV infection in the general population was 3.5%. Among those born before the hepatitis B vaccine became available, the proportion of persons living with chronic HBV infection remains high. Prevalence was the highest in the African (6.1%) and Western Pacific regions (6.2%). Overall, about 257 million persons were living with HBV infection. Assuming that women of reproductive age constitute 25.3% of the world's population (United Nations data), adults chronically infected may include 65 million women of childbearing age who can potentially transmit HBV to their babies. The widespread use of hepatitis B vaccine in infants has considerably reduced the incidence of new chronic HBV infections. Between the pre-vaccine era (which, according to the year of introduction can range from the 1980s to the early 2000s) and 2015, the proportion of children under 5 years of age who became chronically infected fell from 4.7% to 1.3%.

regard coverage

Estimated % of HBsAg prevalence

Estimated % of chronic

Estimated % of chronic prevalence