



ALBANIA (ALB)

Population: 3.4 million (1994)

Area: 28 749 km²



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1. General information

The Ministry of Health with its Department of Primary Health Care is, among other duties, responsible for surveillance of foodborne diseases.

The Institute of Public Health, which reports directly to the Ministry of Health carries out all necessary examinations in the field of foodborne diseases. The Institute consists of various units such as Department of Epidemiology with respective Laboratories, Department of Environment and Health with the Laboratories of Bacteriology, Chemistry, Toxicology, Department of Biostatistics, and Department of Immunobiologic production.

All 37 districts of Albania have sectors of hygiene and epidemiology reporting relevant information on communicable diseases including foodborne infections and intoxications to the Institute of Public Health and then the information is going to the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health has set up a list of diseases which are notifiable following the international classification of diseases (ICD-9). The following intestinal diseases have to be officially notified in Albania:

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 001 | Cholera |
| 002 | Typhoid and paratyphoid |
| 003 | Salmonellosis |
| 004 | Shigellosis |
| 005 | Bacterial foodborne infections and intoxications |
| 006 | Amoebiasis |
| 007 | Other intestinal diseases caused by protozoa |

WHO Surveillance Programme for Control of Foodborne Infections and Intoxications in Europe
7th Report

Country Reports: *ALBANIA 1993 – 1998*

- 008 Other foodborne infections caused by other microorganisms
- 009 Intestinal infections of unknown origin

Medical doctors and auxiliary health workers are obliged to report formally to the Sector of Hygiene and Epidemiology in their region which in turn informs the Ministry of Health and the Institute immediately when having noticed such disease.

Albania joined the Programme in 1989 and started submitting relevant information from 1985 onwards.

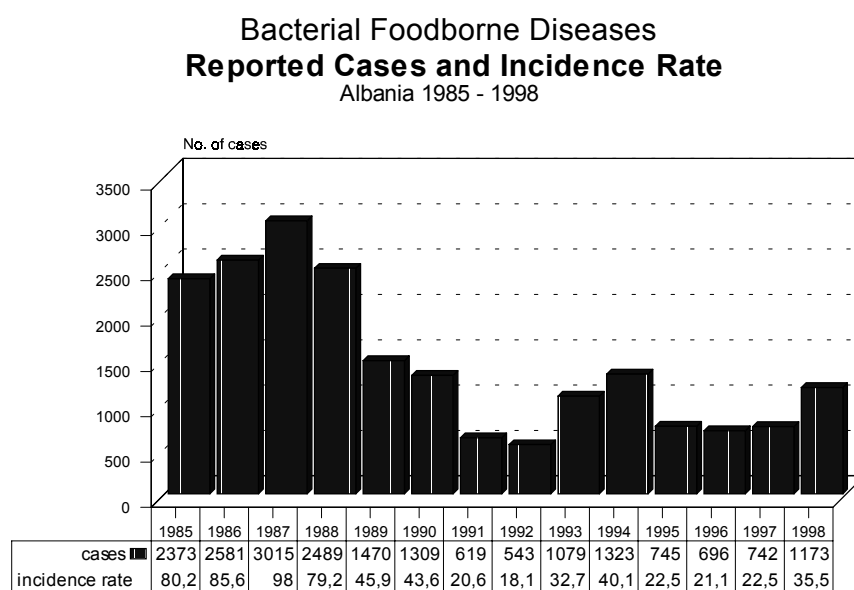
2. Statutory notification

Table AL 1

Statutory notification of gastrointestinal diseases
ALBANIA 1993-1998

ICD-9	Disease	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
001	Cholera	-	626	-	-	-	-
	<i>Incidence rate</i>		18.4				
002	Typhoid and paratyphoid	59	109	54	67	34	44
	<i>Incidence rate</i>	1.7	3.2	1.6	2.0	1.0	1.3
003	Salmonellosis	835	937	816	853	549	749
	<i>Incidence rate</i>	24.6	27.6	24.0	25.1	16.1	22.0
004	Shigellosis	1410	1939	1268	1062	1028	835
	<i>Incidence rate</i>	41.5	57.0	37.3	31.2	30.2	24.6
	Bacterial						
005	fdb.infections/intox	1079	1323	745	696	742	1173
	<i>Incidence rate</i>	31.7	38.9	21.9	20.5	21.8	34.5
	Other intest.diseases						
007	caused by other protozoa	-	1	-	-	-	1
	<i>Incidence rate</i>	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
	Intest.infect.of						
009	Unknown origin	80206	66458	51992	47197	44360	47252
	<i>Incidence rate</i>	2359.0	1954.6	1529.2	1388.1	1304.7	1389.8

Figure AL 1



BgVV; FAO/WHO Centre, Berlin

3. Additional information

Brucellosis in humans

The high Brucellosis incidence led the authorities in Albania to the creation of a special surveillance system for human cases within the Health System (Alert System). Reported cases are sent from the Districts to the National Institute of Public Health and to the Ministry of Health. Animal cases are reported within the Veterinary System and the information is sent from the Districts to the Institute of Veterinary Research.

In 1998 there were 523 cases diagnosed corresponding to patients from different parts of the country. Some cases were imported from Greece, where the patients were working as shepherds. The number of cases in urban areas has increased due to the migratory trend from rural areas. This situation suggests the need of an effective cooperation between animal and public health services.

Source of information: *Ministry of Health, Tirana, ALBANIA*