

## THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF *NEISSERIA MENINGITIDIS* IN ITALY, 2009-2010

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### *Background*

Incidence of *Neisseria meningitidis* invasive disease in Italy in the years 2000-2008 has been generally low ranging between 0.3 and 0.6/100,000. We here describe the national epidemiology of meningococcal invasive disease for the years 2009-2010.

### *Methods*

Information on *N. meningitidis* invasive disease derives from the advanced surveillance since 1994. From 2007 individual notifications are reported on a website database by the Local Health Units

*N. meningitidis* isolates and clinical samples are sent to the National Reference laboratory, at ISS, for confirmation and typing. Analysis was performed by EPI-INFO version 3.5

### *Results*

In 2009 and 2010\* 188 and 136 cases of meningococcal invasive disease were reported, respectively, with an annual incidence rate of 0.3/100,000 and 0.2/100,000. The highest incidence rates were observed in children < 1 year of age (2.8 and 4.6/100,000 in 2009 and 2010), followed by the 1-4 year age group (1.6 and 1.0/100,000, respectively). In the 15-24 year age group incidence rates were 0.7/100,000, 0.2/100,000 respectively. Information on serogroup was available for 258\*\*/324 (79,6%); 61% were due to serogroup B (158 cases) and 26 % to serogroup C (68 cases). Interestingly, compared to previous years a rise in proportion of cases due to other serogroups (A,Y,W135,X) was observed (12,4%).

### *Conclusion*

Incidence of *N.meningitidis* invasive disease in Italy continues to be low although infants <1 year are still the most affected. Preliminary data show a decrease of number of cases caused by serogroup C very likely due to MenC vaccination being recommended in almost all the Italian Regions.

\* (preliminary data)

\* notare che I tre CW non possono essere considerati tipizzati ne altro