

## EPIDEMIOLOGY OF COMMON INFECTIONS IN WESTERN GREECE

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**INTRODUCTION:** Preliminary epidemiological studies in children in W. Greece showed that the incidence of some infections due to definite pathogens was significantly different among urban, suburban and rural areas.

**PURPOSE:** To determine the incidence of salmonellosis, brucellosis, hepatitis A and B, measles, bacterial and viral meningitis, namely infections transmitted by different routes, in urban, suburban and rural areas in children. Differences in the incidence of infectious diseases in different areas may be of importance in their prevention.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:** Included in the study were all children with salmonellosis, brucellosis, hepatitis A and B, measles, bacterial and viral meningitis reported in the Department of Health during 1991 to 2000. The annual incidence of each of the above-mentioned infectious diseases was estimated in urban, suburban and rural areas.

**RESULTS:** The annual incidence per 100000 children [number in parenthesis] was in urban, suburban and rural areas

(a) for salmonellosis: [38.1], [150.8] and [8.3], (b) for brucellosis: [5.6], [59.8], [15.2] (c) for hepatitis A: [16.3], [69.1], [5.8] (d) for viral meningitis: [20.8], [92.3], [0.5] (e) for haemophilus b meningitis: [2.7], [0.0], [0.0] (f) for meningococcal meningitis: [9.5], [9.2], [0.0] (g) pneumococcal meningitis: [1.0], [4.5], [0.0] (h) for Hepatitis B: [4.7], [4.5], [1.5] and (i) for measles: [44.2], [36.7], [32.0], respectively.

**CONCLUSIONS:** (a) Viral as well as bacterial meningitis is extremely seldom in rural areas. (b) The incidence of infections transmitted by food or the fecal-oral route is very high in suburban areas, high in urban and low in rural areas.

