

Germany

Population (in millions) (2011)	82.2
Country classification (2012)	High-income
Gross national income per capita (PPP int \$) (2011)	\$40 230
Total health expenditure as % of GDP (2010)	11.64%
Per capita total health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$4332.34
Per capita government health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$3339.32
Life expectancy at birth (in years) (2009)	80
Human Development Index (2011)	0.940
Median age (in years) (2010)	44
Total fertility rate per woman (2010)	1.4

The Government of Germany reports as follows.

National coordination

There is no written national strategy or plan that focuses exclusively or primarily on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

There is no designated governmental unit/department responsible solely for coordinating and/or carrying out viral hepatitis-related activities. There is one full-time equivalent staff member who works on hepatitis-related activities in all government agencies/bodies.

The government does not have a viral hepatitis prevention and control programme that includes activities targeting specific populations. However, hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for people who inject drugs, prisoners and people living with HIV.

Awareness-raising and partnerships

The government did not hold events for World Hepatitis Day 2012 and has not funded other viral hepatitis public awareness campaigns since January 2011.

The government does not collaborate with in-country civil society groups to develop and implement its viral hepatitis prevention and control programme.

Evidence-based policy and data for action

There is routine surveillance for viral hepatitis. There is a national surveillance system for the following types of acute hepatitis: A, B, C, D and E, and for chronic hepatitis C.

There are standard case definitions for hepatitis. Deaths, including from hepatitis, are reported to a central registry. Information was not provided on the percentage of hepatitis cases reported as "undifferentiated" or "unknown" hepatitis.

Liver cancer cases are registered nationally, but cases with HIV/hepatitis coinfection are not.

The government publishes hepatitis disease reports annually.

Hepatitis outbreaks are required to be reported to the government and are further investigated. There is adequate laboratory capacity nationally to support investigation of viral hepatitis outbreaks and other surveillance activities.

There is no national public health research agenda for viral hepatitis. Viral hepatitis serosurveys are conducted regularly; the target populations are children aged 3–17 years and the general population. The last serosurvey was carried out in 2009–2011.

Prevention of transmission

There is a national policy on hepatitis A vaccination, which recommends vaccination for health-care workers (including health-care waste handlers).

The government has not established the goal of eliminating hepatitis B.

Information was not provided on the percentage of newborn infants nationally in a given recent year who received the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth. In a given recent year, 90%–91% of one-year-olds (ages 12–23 months) received three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.

There is a national policy that specifically targets mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B (Annex B).

There is a specific national strategy and/or policy/guidelines for preventing hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection in health-care settings. Health-care workers are vaccinated against hepatitis B prior to starting work that might put them at risk of exposure to blood. Hepatitis B vaccination is also recommended for health-care waste handlers.

There is a national policy on injection safety in health-care settings but it is not known what type of syringes it recommends for therapeutic injections. Single-use or auto-disposable syringes, needles and cannulas are always available in all health-care facilities.

Official government estimates of the number and percentage of unnecessary

injections administered annually in health-care settings are not known.

There is a national infection control policy for blood banks. All donated blood units (including family donations) and blood products nationwide are screened for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

There is no national policy relating to the prevention of viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs.

The government does not have guidelines that address how hepatitis A and hepatitis E can be prevented through food and water safety.

Screening, care and treatment

Health professionals obtain the skills and competencies required to effectively care for people with viral hepatitis through schools for health professionals (pre-service education) and on-the-job training.

There are national clinical guidelines for the management of viral hepatitis, which include recommendations for cases with HIV coinfection.

The government has national policies relating to screening and referral to care for hepatitis B, but not for hepatitis C.

People testing for both hepatitis B and hepatitis C register by name; the names are kept confidential within the system. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C tests are free of charge for all individuals and are not compulsory for members of any specific group.

Publicly funded treatment for hepatitis B and hepatitis C is available to all people with national health insurance. In 2010, the government spent €7.8 million (US\$ 10 million) on outpatient care for hepatitis B and €1.8 million (US\$ 2.3 million) on outpatient care for hepatitis C, not including drug costs.

The following drugs for treating hepatitis B are on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government: interferon alpha, pegylated interferon, lamivudine, adefovir dipivoxil, entecavir, telbivudine and tenofovir. The following drugs for treating hepatitis C are on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government: interferon alpha, pegylated interferon, ribavirin, boceprevir and telaprevir.

The Government of Germany did not indicate a need for assistance from WHO in relation to viral hepatitis prevention and control.