

# The 2001 Serological survey in the Czech Republic – DIPHTHERIA

Kříž B.<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology, National Institute of Public Health, Prague

<sup>2</sup>3<sup>rd</sup> Medical Faculty, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

## SUMMARY

*Diphtheria morbidity in the Czech part of former Czechoslovakia showed a continuous downward trend between 1946 and 1974. Afterwards, sporadic cases of diphtheria were reported in some years. Compulsory vaccination against diphtheria was started in 1946 with a monovaccine, later replaced by bivalent DiTe. Since 1958, newborns have been vaccinated with DiTePe vaccine. As many as 98 % to 100 % of the population of age groups under 50 years likely to have been vaccinated have antibody levels >0.01 IU/ml. About 83 % to 88 % of the older age groups who represent a naturally immunized population have antibodies as well. This immune status excludes the possibility that diphtheria could spread massively if accidentally imported into the Czech Republic.*

*Key words:* diphtheria, serological survey, herd immunity

**Address for correspondence:** B. Kříž, Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology, NIPH, Šrobárova 48, 100 42 Prague, 10, Czech Republic. E-mail: bohukriz@szu.cz