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1: [Acta Neurol Scand.](#) 2001 Mar;103(3):153-8.

Links

Increasing prevalence of multiple sclerosis in Finland.**[Sumelahti ML](#), [Tienari PJ](#), [Wikström J](#), [Palo J](#), [Hakama M](#).**School of Public Health, University of Tampere and Department of Clinical Neurophysiology, Tampere University Hospital, Finland. memasu@uta.fi

OBJECTIVES: To follow-up the prevalence trends of **MS from 1983 to 1993** in western and southern Finland. MS epidemiology has been **previously followed from 1964 to 1978** in these regions. The updated prevalences were correlated with incidence trends in the same period. **METHODS:** Age-adjusted and age-specific MS prevalence rates were calculated for cases classified by Poser's criteria. **RESULTS:** In the western health-care districts, Seinäjoki and Vaasa, prevalences in 1993 were 202/10(5) and 111/10(5). In the southern district Uusimaa the respective figure was 108/10(5). In Seinäjoki **a significant 1.7-fold increase was found in 1993 as compared to 1983**, mainly due to **increased incidence**. In Uusimaa a significant 1.2-fold increase in prevalence was found in the presence of stable incidence. In Vaasa prevalence was stable, although incidence was declining. **CONCLUSION:** The prevalence of MS is increasing in Seinäjoki and Uusimaa but not in Vaasa. Both the prevalence and incidence in Seinäjoki are now among the **highest reported**.

PMID: 11240562 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Related Links

- o Multiple sclerosis in Finland: incidence trends and differences in relapsing remitting and primary progressive disease courses.
- o Regional and temporal variation in the incidence of multiple sclerosis in Finland 1979-1993.
- o The epidemiology of multiple sclerosis in Finland: increase of prevalence and stability of foci in high-risk areas.