

HIB/HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE B

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) was a once common cause of bacterial meningitis in young children in New York State. Hib infection can also cause other severe invasive diseases such as septicemia, epiglottitis and pneumonia. This disease has been reportable in New York State since 1986. In 1989, 383 cases were reported. In 1990, conjugate vaccines were licensed which allowed children to be immunized against Hib beginning at age two months. As a result of the use of this vaccine, intense public campaign and the development of new regulations and recommendations, the incidence of Hib disease in New York State has dropped dramatically. In 1992, 89 cases were reported statewide. The 1993, data indicates that New York State experienced only 33 cases of disease, 19 Upstate and 14 in New York City. Traditionally, all Haemophilus influenzae illnesses were reported under the Hib category. The actual occurrence of Type b disease is much less. In 1993, only seven cases of Hib disease occurred in children under the age of five in Upstate New York. Six other cases in children < 5 years of age were not typed.

