

2.4 Problems of Emerging Diseases

2.4.1 Avian Influenza

According to the WHO report on avian influenza situation from 2003 to 23 September 2006 worldwide, there were 251 human cases and 148 deaths. For Thailand, cumulatively there were 25 confirmed cases and 17 deaths, a case-fatality rate of 68.0%; in 2006 (as of September) Thailand reported 3 confirmed cases and 3 deaths. At present, there has been no report of human-to-human transmission of the disease (Table 5.15).

Table 5.15 Avian influenza: numbers of confirmed cases and deaths in Thailand, 2003-2006

Case / death	No. of cases or deaths				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Confirmed cases	0	17	5	3	25
Deaths	0	12	2	3	17
Case-fatality rate (%)	0.0	70.6	40.0	100.0	68.0

Source: National Institute of Health, Department of Medical Sciences, MoPH.

2.4.2 SARS

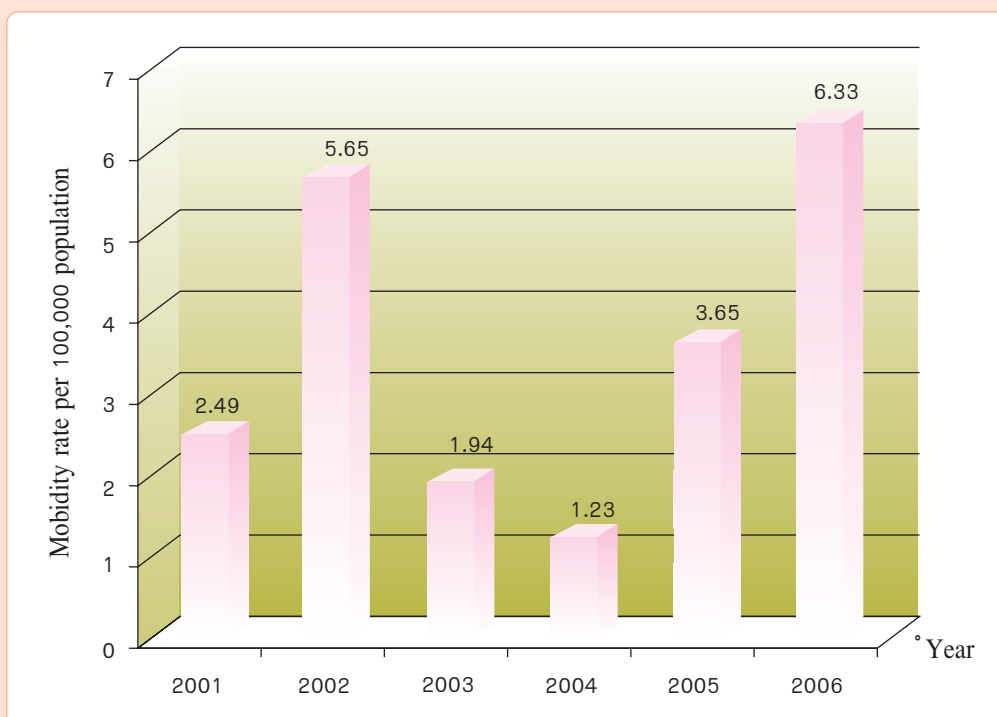
Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is an emerging disease. The SARS epidemic occurred in November 2002 in Quandong province in the southern region of the People's Republic of China. The outbreak could be controlled in June 2003 but had caused illness in 8,437 individuals and 813 deaths in 29 countries; a case-fatality rate of 9.64%. The areas with the widespread epidemic were China (Beijing and Quandong), Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Canada (Toronto) and Vietnam (Hanoi).

In Thailand, there were 9 probable cases (with pneumonia), 2 of whom had died, and 31 suspect cases (without pneumonia), and no deaths. All the patients contracted the disease from abroad. Thailand undertook strict measures for disease prevention and control and could successfully control the disease.

2.4.3 Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease

Hand-foot-mouth disease is another emerging disease; its outbreak was reported in 1997 in Malaysia. For Thailand, for the period 2000-2006, there were 3,961 reported cases and 7 deaths, a morbidity rate of 6.33 per 100,000 population (Figure 5.30).

Figure 5.30 Morbidity rate of hand-foot-mouth disease, 2001-2006



Source: Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control.

Laboratory testing for enterovirus 71 conducted by the National Institute of Health of the Department of Medical Sciences in 2006 found that 13.5% of the samples (26 cases) were positive for the virus. (Table 5.16)

Table 5.16 Number of cases and laboratory testing results for hand-foot-mouth disease, 2001-2006 (Sept 2006)

Year	Surveillance situation		Lab testing results (No. of positive specimens)	
	Cases	Deaths	Enterovirus 71	Echovirus
2001	1,545	0	2	2
2002	3,533	2	3	0
2003	871	2	10	4
2004	474	0	51	0
2005	2,270	0	40	0
2006	3,961	7	26	0

Source: National Institute of Health, Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health.