Objectives: The objective of this cross-sectional study is to determine seroprevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen and related risk factors among new recruits in a military unit in Turkey.

Methods: 8589 newly-recruited soldiers were involved in the study. Blood samples were drawn from them between January 2006 and December 2006 and then ELISA technique was applied to the samples. In addition, questions on the risk factors of hepatitis B contagion were asked to the participants in the survey.

Results: The results turned out that HBsAg seroprevalence is 2.8%. Further survey results indicated that seropositivity increased depending on certain risk factors. In multiple regression analysis, significant correlations were determined between HBsAg positivity and some risk factors such as living in Southeast Anatolia Region (P<0.01), having a history of living with a hepatitis B porter (P<0.001) and presence of a hepatitis B porter in the neighborhood or at work (p<0.05).

Conclusions: Seropositivity studies carried out in the field reflect the true population more accurately.

We can conclude that field studies on hepatitis B and public awareness of it seem to be essential.