

Epidemiological Profile of Measles Cases in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan: 2018

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ABSTRACT Background:

Measles

is a highly contagious viral disease with significant childhood morbidity and mortality. This study was carried out to assess the magnitude of measles cases and its description with respect to socio demographic and clinical characteristics during 2018 in AJ& K.

Methodology:

This

descriptive study was carried out on secondary data received at the Directorate

General Health Muzaffarabad. A suspected

measles case was defined as ? any child of age < 15 years, belonging to

either sex and resident of the state of Azad Jammu & Kashmir with

non-vesicular macula papular rash and fever along with one of the symptoms of

cough, coryza and conjunctivitis from 1st January 2018 to 31st

December 2018. A confirmed case of measles was defined as ? a suspected case of measles who is

laboratory confirmed by the presence

of measles-specific IgM antibodies. ? Line listing of

all cases was done and data was analyzed by person place and time and

frequencies proportions and rates were calculated.

Results:

A

total of 561 cases were recorded in which 58% (n=305) were males. The median

age of cases was 30 months (range 2-180 months). Majority of cases (80%) were

below 6 years of age. The Epi-curve showed that peak cases were reported from 20th

epidemiological week to 27th

week and thereafter the cases showed

gradual decline. Fever and rash were associated with cough (87%)

runny nose (75%) and conjunctivitis (63%). Majority of cases were reported from

tertiary care hospitals followed by secondary care health facilities.

Conclusion:

Most

of the children with measles were up to 3 years of age group and were either not immunized or partial immunized against measles. Continuation of VPD surveillance and strengthening of routine immunization is the solution to achieve and sustain 100% immunization coverage rate in Azad Jammu & Kashmir.