

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.