

Case study



The trend of measles in Afghanistan

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Abstract

Measles is a highly contagious disease-prone vaccine-preventable disease characterized by a maculopapular rash. It continues to be a common and sometimes fatal disease in developing countries. In Afghanistan, it causes many outbreaks in areas with low vaccine coverage. Measles itself is one of the leading causes of death among young children, even though a safe and cost-effective vaccine is available. In July 2018, the Ministry of Public Health reported 198 outbreaks and 6654 confirmed measles cases. The cause of the increasing number of outbreaks and cases is low immunization coverage and poor public health services. This case study helps to teach students to analyze surveillance data, critically appraise epidemic report and assess the epidemic contingency plan. It is designed for the training of basic level field epidemiology trainees or any other health care workers working in outbreaks of measles and other public health-related fields. It can be administered in 2-3 hours.

How to use this case study

General instructions: this case study should be used as adjunct training material for novice epidemiology trainees to reinforce the concepts taught in prior lectures. The case study is ideally taught by a facilitator in groups of about 20 participants. Participants are to take turns reading the case study, usually a paragraph per student. The facilitator guides the discussion on possible responses to questions. The facilitator may make use of flip charts to illustrate certain points. Additional instructor's notes

for facilitation are coupled with each question in the instructor's guide to aid facilitation.

Audience: this case study was developed for novice field epidemiology students. These participants are commonly health care workers working in the county departments of health whose background may be as medical doctors, nurses, environmental health officers or laboratory scientists who work in public health-related fields. Most have a health science or biology background.

Prerequisites: before using this case study, participants should have received lectures on disease surveillance and outbreak investigation.

Materials needed: Flash drive, flip charts, markers, computers with MS Excel

Level of training and associated public health activity: Novice – public health surveillance

Time required: 2-3 hours

Language: English

Case study material

- Download the case study student guide
- Request the case study facilitator guide

Competing interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

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