

Malaria in Bintulu division: a 5-year overview

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ABSTRACT

Malaria is a common disease that still poses a global health threat including in Sarawak. As Malaysia is moving towards elimination of malaria, there are many challenges that need to overcome in achieving this goal. The main objective of this study is to determine the epidemiology of Malaria in Bintulu and its control measures. A descriptive study was done based on VEKPRO database from 2012 to 2016 to determine endemicity, type of parasites, case classification and type of occupation related to the cases. Cases were confirmed by laboratory verification with the presence of malarial parasites in the slides taken from various health facilities. A total of 299 cases were detected for that period of time with IR ranging from 17.8% to 33.1% per 100 000 population. The commonest parasites found were Plasmodium knowlesi (64.5%) followed by Plasmodium vivax (21.7%), Plasmodium falciparum (10.0%), Plasmodium ovale (1.7%), Plasmodium malariae (1.0%) and mixed infection (1.0%). More than one third of malarial cases were classified as imported cases while the remaining were indigenous cases. Workers from agriculture and timber industries were the main contributors for malaria in Bintulu at 72.3%. Increasing deforestation has led to more detection of zoonotic malaria, while those working in malarial endemic countries has caused human malaria to be continuously detected and required urgent control measures. Identifying all these factors would facilitate in planning the strategies in the execution of the elimination program. Multi sectoral approach involving intra and interagency are necessary to create awareness to the public and prompt action in order to achieve malarial elimination.

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Maternal and child health status among Orang Asli in Pahang

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Maternal and child health services for Orang Asli in Pahang was established many years ago to serve health services via community clinics and mobile clinics. **Objective:** The purpose of this study is to assess the progress of maternal and child health status among Orang Asli in Pahang. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted from January till June 2016 in which the 7 years data gathered and analysed. The maternal and child health data was obtained from HMIS, health records and under 5 mortality from 11 district health offices in Pahang. All data from year 2007 up to 2015 was analysed using Microsoft Word, Excel and SPSS software. **Results:** The attendance of antenatal mothers to health clinics increased in trend. Percentage of early booking and safe delivery also increased in trend. Immunization among Orang Asli children was more than 95%. Maternal mortality rate among Orang Asli was higher compared to general population and 70.6% were preventable deaths. The trend of under-five mortality rate reduced from 2013 to 2015. Majority of the deaths occurred in hospital. The commonest cause of death was certain infection and parasitic diseases. **Discussion:** Overall maternal and child health status among Orang Asli in Pahang has improved. However, it is still lower than general population. Quality of health care services to Orang Asli community should be improved by improving accessibility in term of number of facilities, human resources and health education.

KEY WORDS:

Orang Asli, Maternal and Child Health