

A descriptive study on communicable diseases in Kelantan state, Malaysia from 2018-2022

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Communicable diseases pose significant public health challenges globally. By understanding the patterns and characteristics of these diseases, it will assist in the development of disease control measures and intervention strategies. This study aimed to describe the communicable diseases under the Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 reported in Kelantan from 2018 to 2022. **Materials and Methods:** A descriptive analysis was performed on data obtained from multiple sources of surveillance databases including eNotifikasi, eDengue, National TB Registry (NTBR), National AIDS Registry (NAR), and eMeasles systems. The study period was from January 2018 to December 2022. Data entry and analysis were conducted using Microsoft Excel and the results were presented with graphical representations, numerical values, and percentages. **Results:** A total of 43,771 infectious disease cases were reported in Kelantan during the study period. Majority of the cases were Malaysian (98.22%), Malays (95.91%), male (56.75%), and were notified within 24 hours from the date of diagnosis (91.22%). The mean age was 18.98 (SD 20.22). The highest number of cases occurred in 2022 (28.32%) while the lowest was reported in 2021 (4.85%). The three most common diseases were Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease (HFMD) (34.23%), Dengue fever (30.37%), and Tuberculosis (12.41%). Kota Bharu had the highest number of cases (41.09%), followed by Pasir Mas (8.75%) and Bachok (8.08%). **Conclusion:** Communicable diseases remain a significant health burden in Kelantan. The results highlight the burden and distribution of infectious diseases in Kelantan. Kota Bharu district has the highest burden of communicable diseases with the common reported disease being HFMD. Continued research and surveillance are necessary to understand the changing patterns of communicable diseases and to inform evidence-based interventions for better health outcomes in the region.