

A Study of Malaria in Bihar

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Abstract

Background: There is very little literature available on the Status of Malaria in Bihar. Hence the preparation of this document.

Objectives: To find out the parameters of Malaria in Bihar till as recently as possible.

Methods: By studying the documents prepared by the National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC).

Results: It is seen that there were 695 cases of Malaria in Bihar during 2023 (up to 25th October 2023).

Conclusions: Bihar is very far from achieving Malaria elimination goals.

Keywords: Malaria; Bihar; NCVBDC; WHO.

INTRODUCTION

Bihar lies in the northern part of India. It is bounded by Nepal in the north, Uttar Pradesh in the west, West Bengal in the east and Jharkhand in the south.

MATERIAL & METHODS

The study design included analysis of documents available on the website of the NCVBDC.

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RESULTS

According to the most recent data available on the NCVBDC website, the number of Malaria cases in Bihar during 2023 (up to 25th October 2023) was 695.² It's comparison with the number of cases from previous years can be seen from the following table:

Table 1: Number of Malaria Cases in Bihar, 2019 to 2023

State	Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Up to 25th October 2023)
Bihar	1608	518	647	578	695

(Sources: ⁽²⁾ and ⁽³⁾)

It is seen that the number of cases was 1608 in 2019 but then decreased drastically to 518 during the following year and has now increased slightly to 695 in 2023 (up to 25th October 2023).

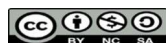




Fig. 1: Map of Bihar [Source: ⁽¹⁾]

DISCUSSION

Beginning in 2019, there has been a decrease in the number of Malaria cases in Bihar.

In 2016, the Indian Government adopted a “Framework for Malaria Elimination in India” covering 2016 – 2030.⁴ This was based on the “Global Technical Strategy for Malaria” of the World Health Organization (WHO) covering 2016-2030 which was adopted in 2015 and updated in 2021.⁵

The aim is to reach Nil Malaria cases by 2027 and then wait for three years after which WHO can grant Malaria-free status certification. It is already the end of 2023 and India is about to reach the three-fourth mark of the period from 2016 to 2027.

CONCLUSION

Although Bihar did not reach zero Malaria cases in 2022, it reached a figure of 578 cases during that year. Therefore, it must put in more efforts to achieve Malaria elimination goals.

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