

A Study of Malaria in Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

Background: To the best knowledge of the author, there is no available literature on the status of Malaria in Himachal Pradesh. Hence the preparation of this document.

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

Methods: By studying the documents prepared by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) and the website of the National Health Mission (NHM), Himachal Pradesh under which the State NVBDCP functions.

Results: It is seen that the Annual Parasite Incidence (API) of Malaria in Himachal Pradesh had come down to the very low level of 0.02 in 2018 and that there were only 15 cases of Malaria during 2021.

Conclusions: Himachal Pradesh is very close to achieving Malaria elimination goals.

Keywords: Malaria; Himachal Pradesh; API; NVBDCP; WHO.

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INTRODUCTION

Himachal Pradesh lies in the northern part of India. It is bounded by Jammu & Kashmir in the north, Punjab and Haryana in the west, China in the east and Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the south.



Fig. 1: Map of Himachal Pradesh [Source: (1)]

MATERIAL & METHODS

The study design included analysis of the annual reports of the Malaria Division of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) and a study of the website of the National Health Mission (NHM), Himachal Pradesh under which the State NVBDCP functions.

RESULTS

According to the most recent data available on the NVBDCP website (data for 2018),

the API for Himachal Pradesh was 0.02.² It's comparison with the API from 2017 can be seen from the following table:

Table 1: API of Himachal Pradesh, 2017 and 2018

State	Year	
	2017	2018
Himachal Pradesh	0.02	0.02

(Sources: 2 and 3)

Thus, it is seen that the API in 2018 was the same as that seen in 2017.

In 2018, the API was not uniform throughout the state but varied between the districts. This can be

seen from the following table:

Table 2: API of the Districts of Himachal Pradesh, 2018

S. No.	District	API
1	Bilaspur	0.02
2	Chamba	0.00
3	Hamirpur	0.12
4	Kangra	0.01
5	Kullu	0.05
6	Mandi	0.01
7	Shimla	0.00
8	Sirmour	0.01
9	Solan	0.00
10	Una	0.00
State	Himachal Pradesh	0.02

(Source: 2)

A study of the NHM Himachal Pradesh website was not useful because on clicking the link, NVBDCP as a constituent programme was not displayed and hence no data on Malaria could be retrieved.⁴

An internet search revealed the following information on Malaria cases in Himachal Pradesh from 2019 to 2022 (until 25th April) and is shown in the following table. The data source was the newspaper write-up provided by the Himachal Pradesh health minister on World Malaria Day 2022.⁵

DISCUSSION

Beginning in 2019, there has been a decline in the incidence of Malaria in Himachal

Table 3: Data on Malaria Cases in Himachal Pradesh, 2019 to 2022

S. No.	District	Year			
		2019	2020	2021	2022 (until 25th April)
1	Bilaspur	6	0	0	0
2	Chamba	0	0	0	0
3	Hamirpur	73	26	6	1
4	Kangra	2	2	5	0
5	Kinnaur	0	0	0	0
6	Kullu	2	0	0	0
7	Lahul-Spiti	0	0	0	0
8	Mandi	4	0	4	1
9	Shimla	0	0	0	0
10	Sirmour	19	3	0	0
11	Solan	3	2	0	0
12	Una	0	0	0	0
	Total	109	33	15	2

(Sources: 5)

Pradesh.

In 2016, the Government of India adopted a framework for Malaria Elimination in India covering the period 2016 – 2030.⁶ This was based on WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria covering the period 2016 – 2030 which was adopted in 2015 and updated in 2021.⁷

The aim is to reach zero Malaria cases by 2027 and then wait for three years before WHO can grant Malaria free status certification. It is already the middle of 2022 and India is about to reach the

halfway mark of the period from 2016 to 2027.

CONCLUSION

Although Himachal Pradesh did not reach zero Malaria cases in 2021, it did reach a figure of 15 cases during that year. Therefore, it is a good candidate for being the first administrative jurisdiction in the country close to being able to achieve Malaria elimination goals.

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