Eradication, Part 2: Measles

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Section C

Measles Update
Supplemental Immunization Activities ("catch-up"/"keep-up"/follow-up”) reached:
- 10.4 million children in 2000
- 10.6 million children in 2001
- 9.9 million children in 2002

Routine measles vaccine coverage was:
- 94% in 2000
- 96% in 2001
- 92% in 2002

Active measles surveillance indicators improved over the period
# Measles Progress Report: Americas Region

## Measles Surveillance Performance, Americas Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspected cases reported</td>
<td>56,136</td>
<td>46,629</td>
<td>30,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% visited within 24 hours</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% sites reporting weekly</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% persons with adequate samples</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% labs receiving samples &lt;= 5 days</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% labs with results &lt;=4 days</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As with polio, virological surveillance becomes more important as cases diminish.

Two serotypes (H1, D9) were found to have transmitted in 2002–2003:
- H1 (Mexico, U.S.) from East Asia
- D9 (Venezuela, Colombia) from Europe

In the U.S., other imported serotypes did not transmit (D4, D6, D7).
In 2002, there were 2,584 confirmed measles cases in five countries
  - Large outbreak in Venezuela due to importation from Europe, low coverage

In 2003, there were 105 confirmed measles cases in six countries
  - Most cases were imported
  - Only Mexico, U.S. reported transmission
During 2001–2003, there were 216 confirmed measles cases in 31 U.S. states — 96 (44%) imported, 120 indigenous — The 96 imported cases generated 42 chains of indigenous transmission — Of 120 indigenous cases ▶ 59 (49%) import-linked ▶ 18 (15%) imported virus ▶ 43 (36%) unknown source
Measles incidence has been less than one case per million inhabitants since 1997. Most cases are imported and are from multiple sources. Small outbreaks with limited transmission occur, but immunity levels are high enough to prevent endemic transmission.
There has been no indigenous measles transmission for two years or more in 38/47 AMRO countries and territories.

Importations will continue as long as measles persists in other regions.

If countries follow the PAHO strategies, imported cases will not transmit.

The goal of regional measles elimination may have been achieved.
Global Measles Situation

- Range of regional coverage levels
  - AMRO, EURO, WPRO: 82–94%
  - EMRO: 67–73%
  - SEARO: 50–72%
  - AFRO: 51–60%

- Since 2000, WHO/UNICEF have been recommending two opportunities for children to receive a first dose of measles vaccine (second opportunity schedule)
  - Either through routine EPI
  - Or through periodic campaigns
Global Measles Situation

- During 1997–2001, 156/191 (82%) of WHO Member Countries provided second opportunities through Supplementary Immunization Activities

- Conclusion
  - Other regions still have a long way to go before global measles eradication can be undertaken