A Study of Malaria in Goa

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Abstract

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

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

Methods: By studying the documents prepared by the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases (NCVBD) and doing a web search on Malaria in Goa.

Results: It is seen that the Annual Parasite Incidence (API) of Malaria in Goa had come down to the very low level of 0.24 in 2018 and that there were only 272 cases of Malaria in Goa during 2019.

Conclusions: Goais very close to achieving near elimination goals but will have to take active measures to reach it.

Keywords: Malaria; Goa; API; NCVBD; WHO.

MATERIAL & METHODS

The study design included analysis of the annual reports of the Malaria Division of the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) for 2017 and 2018 and a web search for information on Malaria in Goa.

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RESULTS

According to the most recent data available on the NCVBDC website (data for 2018), the API for Goa was 0.24.[2] It's comparison with the API from 2017 can be seen from the following table:

Table 1: API of Goa, 2017 and 2018

State	Year	
	2017	2018
Goa	0.42	0.24

[Sources:(2) and (3)]

Here, it is seen that the API in 2018 was about half as that as 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 Goa, 2018

S. No.	District	API
1	North Goa	0.30
2	South Goa	0.20

[Source:(2)]

Further search revealed the following information on Malaria cases in Goa during 2019 and 2020 and is shown in the following table:

Table 3: Data on Malaria Cases in Goa, 2019 and 2020

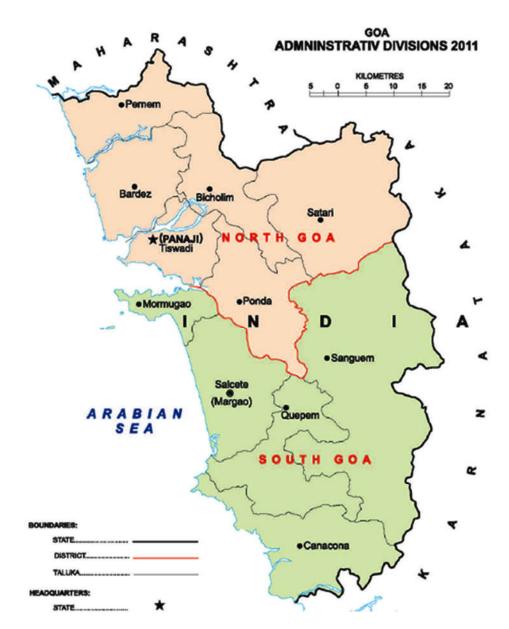| Reference Period	Number of Malaria Cases
2019	272
2020 (till July)	53

[Sources: (4)]

INTRODUCTION

Fig. 1: Map of Goa [*Source:* (1)]

Goa is in the western part of India. It is bordered by Maharashtra in the north, the Arabian Sea in the west and Karnataka in the east and south.

DISCUSSION

Beginning in 2017, there has been a decline in the incidence of Malaria in Goa.

In 2016, the Government of India adopted a framework for Malaria Elimination in India covering the period 2016 – 2030.[5] 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.[6]

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 nearly the middle of 2022 and India is about to reach the halfway mark of the period from 2016 to 2027.

CONCLUSION

Although Goa did not reach zero Malaria cases in 2020, it did reach an API of 0.24 during 2018. Therefore, it is a good candidate for being among the first few states in the country close to being able to achieve near elimination goals.

Conflict of Interest: There is no conflict of interest.

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