

**RATE OF PERTUSSIS DISEASE AMONG IRAQ POPULATION. A RETROSPECTIVE
STUDY DURING 2016 TO 2019****Dr. Abdul Sattar Sahib Hamed***

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ABSTRACT

Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease that only spreads between humans. This study aimed to identify the rate of whooping cough disease among cases during the studied period. A retrospective cross sectional study was carried out at the Life Statistics Center of the Iraqi Ministry of Health within 4 years, started from 2016 up to 2019. During this period, the study samples were 4262. Data was entered to Excel sheet and the STATA software program was used to analyze this data and make tables and graphs. Out of 4262 cases, there are 49.8% were male cases and 50.2% were female male. The highest frequency 34.2% of studied sample occurred during 2017 followed by 23.8% during 2016 and the less frequency 19.1% during 2019. 68.4% of studied samples with pertussis occurred in the age less than 5 years. There are a significant relationship between age groups and gender by years at the p. value less than 0.05. The rate of pertussis disease was higher during 2017. We need to widespread use of the vaccine, it has had a clear effect on lowering infection rates in some countries, which almost reach zero in some areas where the vaccine coverage reaches 100%.

KEYWORD: Pertussis disease, Rate, Gender, Iraq, Retrospective study.

INTRODUCTION

Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease that only spreads between humans.^[1] Whooping cough usually spreads to another person through coughing, sneezing, or direct contact.^[2] Many babies who get whooping cough are infected by older siblings, parents, or caregivers who may not even know they have the disease.^[3] Whooping cough can affect humans of any age, but more than 70% of cases occur in children under the age of 5 years, and about 40% of cases occur in infants under the age of 6 months.^[4] Whooping cough is more dangerous in children younger than 2 years of age, and nearly all deaths occur in children younger than 6 months of age.^[5] Most deaths result from pneumonia and complications affecting the brain. Whooping cough is dangerous when it affects older adults as well.^[6] Worldwide, there are an estimated 24.1 million cases of whooping cough and about 160,700 deaths annually.^[7] In 2012, the CDC reported 48,277 cases of whooping cough in the United States, but many more were undiagnosed or reported.^[8] This is the largest number of cases reported in the United States since 1955 when public health experts reported 62,786 cases.^[9] Since the 1980s, there has been an increase in the number of reported cases of whooping cough in the United States.^[10] In 2010, the CDC saw an increase in reported cases among children 7 to 10 years old.^[9] Similar trends occurred in the following years; however, the CDC also noted an increase in cases among

teens.^[11,12] According to United Nations statistics, pertussis infects up to 50 million people around the world annually, of whom between 200,000 and 400,000 cases per year are mostly children.^[13] The incidence of pertussis increases in the following human groups.^[14] Children who do not fully complete the pertussis vaccination schedule; Infants who are directly exposed to the disease; elderly people who live in epidemic areas of whooping cough, or because they did not receive a full vaccination according to the schedule prepared for them; Babies born prematurely or having heart or lung disease have a higher risk of complications from whooping cough.^[15,16] Statistics indicate that the incidence of pertussis for white people is 88%, compared to 8% for blacks.^[16, 17] Having a single attack of whooping cough does not provide complete lifelong immunity to the disease, but a second attack, if it occurs, is mild and may not always be diagnosed as a whooping cough. In fact, some adults with "walking pneumonia" actually have whooping cough.^[18,19] From this point, this study aimed to identify the rate of pertussis (whooping cough) disease among cases during the studied period.

METHODOLOGY

A retrospective cross sectional study was carried out at the Life Statistics Center of the Iraqi Ministry of Health within 4 years, started from 2016 up to 2019. During this period, the study samples were 4262. Data was entered to

Excel sheet and the STATA software program was used to analyze this data and make tables and graphs.

RESULTS

Out of 4262 cases, there are 49.8% (2124/4262) were male and 50.2% (2138/4262) were female. The highest frequency 34.2% (1458/4262) of studied sample occurred during 2017 followed by 23.8% (1014/4262) during 2016 and the less frequency 19.1% (812/4262) during 2019 shows in Table 1. Therefore, in the same table shows that there is a significant relationship

between years and gender at the p. value less than 0.05. In Table 2, we show that the highest frequency 68.4% (2914/4262) of studied samples were in the age less than 5 years old and 24.6% (1050/4262) in the age groups 5 to 14 years old and the less frequency 1.1 % (45/4262) in the age more than 45 years old. There is a significant relationship between years and age groups at the p. value less than 0.05 [Table 2]. The rate of pertussis disease was higher 0.39 during 2017, followed by 0.27 and 0.26 during 2016 and 2018 respectively [Figure1].

Table 1: Distribution of studied samples according to gender by years.

Years	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
	Frequency /Percent	Frequency /Percent	
2016	497	517	1014
	49%	51%	100%
2017	736	722	1458
	50.5%	49.5%	100%
2018	460	518	978
	47%	53%	100%
2019	431	381	812
	53.1%	46.9%	100%
Total	2124	2138	4262
	49.8%	50.2%	100%

This result significant at $p < .05$.

Table 2: Distribution of studied samples according to age groups by years.

Years	Age groups				Total
	<5	5-14	15-44	≥45	
	Frequency %	Frequency %	Frequency %	Frequency %	
2016	772	227	15	-	1014
	76.1	22.4	1.5	-	100
2017	898	421	122	17	1458
	61.6	28.8	8.4	1.2	100
2018	591	260	104	23	978
	60.4	26.6	10.6	2.4	100
2019	653	142	12	5	812
	80.4	17.5	1.5	0.6	100
Total	2914	1050	253	45	4262
	68.4	24.6	5.9	1.1	100

This result significant at $p < .05$.

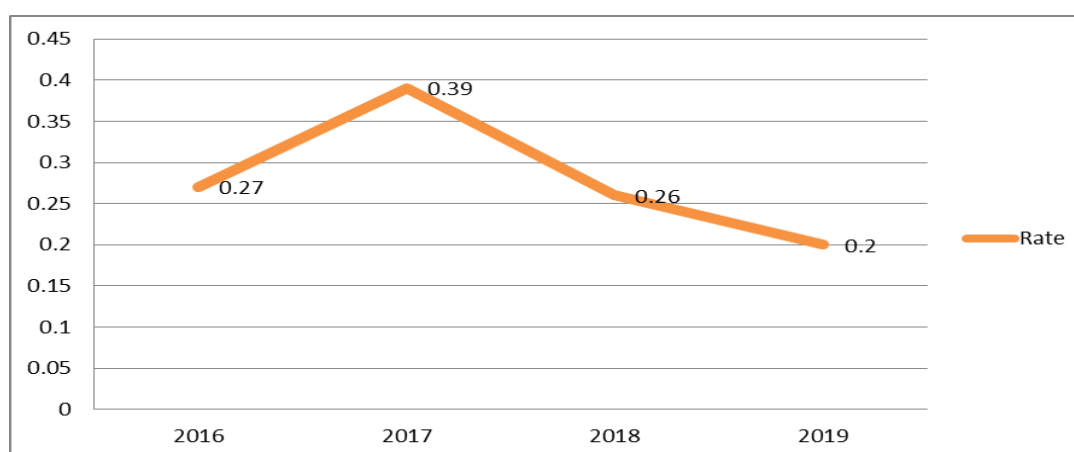


Figure 1: Rate of Pertussis per 10000 of population during 2016 up to 2019.

DISCUSSION

This study aimed to identify the rate of whooping cough disease among cases during the studied period. Gender is a major factor in determining the prevalence of the disease in adolescents and adults. In our study, we found that the female cases 50.2% were more slightly than 49.8% male cases and compared with another studied done it in Iran by Manijeh 2014, the authors found the male cases with Pertussis were more than female cases.^[20] A study done it in Tunisia 2012, the researcher found that the female cases with pertussis were more than male cases.^[21] While a study done it in Italy by Gabutti and Maria in 2012, they found the same frequency between them.^[22] This difference between the results refers to differ of behavior and culture between the countries. Also, the age is a main factor in determining the prevalence of the disease among childhood and adolescents. In this study we found the highest frequency 68.4% of studied samples occurred in the age less than 5 years and 24.6% in the age 5 to 14 years. Compared with other studied done it in Nigeria^[23,24], in Guinea^[25] and in Ghana^[26], the authors found that the pertussis disease was occurred in children with age less than 10 years old more than other groups. This is due to most of them not receiving the vaccine during childhood, or the health system was deteriorated. In addition to, some countries were suffering from poverty and destitution; it's led to increase the incidence of the disease.

CONCLUSION

We concluded that the pertussis disease was higher among female cases more than male cases. Also the rate of disease was higher during 2017. The pertussis disease had higher frequency among the age groups less than 5 years.

Recommendation

We need to widespread use of the vaccine; it has had a clear effect on lowering infection rates in some countries, which almost reach zero in some areas where the vaccine coverage reaches 100%. But since the early 1980s, there has been an increase in reported cases of whooping cough; it's because the bacteria that first cause whooping cough are always changing at the genetic level. Research is underway to determine whether any of the changes have an impact on public health. However, the latest studies indicate that pertussis vaccines are still effective despite recent genetic changes. Another reason for the high number of cases is weak immunity. From this point, we need to increase the research on this field by the researchers.

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