

Abstract title: Trend of Malaria in Pregnancy Prevalence in Plateau State, 2013 – 2017

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Background: Malaria threatens the lives of pregnant women, with approximately 25 million pregnant women at risk of malaria in Africa and this contributes to an estimated 11% of maternal mortality. Nigeria suffers the highest global burden despite control efforts with approximately 58million cases and 108,000 deaths annually. We described the trend of malaria among pregnant women in Plateau state from 2013-2017.

Methods: We retrieved and analyzed Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) monthly records of malaria in pregnancy cases in Plateau State over a five-year period (2013-2017). We retrieved the excel spreadsheets of the IDSR 002 from the Epidemiology/Disease Surveillance unit of Plateau State ministry of health. We abstracted data on malaria in pregnancy for the period of review, validated and cleaned the data. We summarised the data using proportions and frequencies.

Results: Prevalence of malaria in pregnancy increased steadily from 4.5% in 2013 to 7.7% in 2017. The highest peak of prevalence was noticed between July and November during the period understudy. The age group most affected was 20-40 years and >40 years accounted for the age group least affected. The case fatality rate (CFR) was 0.2% in 2013 and it increased across the years and peaked at 0.5% in 2016 but declined to 0.21% in 2017. The month of December accounted for the highest peak of CFR within the five-year period.

Conclusion: There is an increase in the prevalence of malaria in pregnancy in Plateau state, with peaks in July and November. This may be explained by the peak of the rainy season which encourages breeding of mosquitoes. We recommend that all malaria control efforts be intensified in the State during the rainy season and further research is needed to elucidate reasons for the increase in prevalence despite control measures.

Key words: Malaria in Pregnancy, Prevalence, Plateau State, Case Fatality Rate