CONTRIBUTION OF EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MDG 4: A STUDY USING THE FNRI 2015 DATA

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BACKGROUND

The MDG 4 aimed to reduce the mortality rate by two-thirds among under-five children between 1990 and 2015. The decline by half in global mortality rates was the result of local programs and services for children such as the expanded program on immunization (EPI),

OBJECTIVE

The study aimed to determine the contribution of EPI program in the achievement of MDG 4 target which is to reduce the mortality rate by two-thirds among under-five children between 1990 and 2015. The result will be used as basis to assess the implementation of EPI program in attaining the goals of the MDG 4.

METHODOLOGY

Data of 12-23 months old children on EPI participation were extracted from the 2015 Updating of Filipino Children and Other Population Groups Survey. The main indicator of EPI performance is the Fully Immunized Children, defined as infants who received one dose of BCG, three doses each of OPV, DPT and Hepatitis B vaccines and one dose of measles vaccine before reaching one year of age.

RESULT

Results showed that about two-thirds (61.9%) of children 12-23 months were fully immunized (FIC), a substantial decline from the coverage of 79.2% in 2008. Philippine estimates revealed a relatively high coverage of measles immunization of children, at 80.1%. Across regions, Southern Mindanao had the highest rate of coverage (93.6%) followed by Northern Mindanao (88.1%). Under-five mortality rates and measles coverage have a strong negative linear relationship (Pearson’s r = -0.84).

CONCLUSION

Proportion of Fully Immunized Children in 2015 is far below the recommendation of World Health Organization (WHO) of 90% FIC coverage rate. A decreasing trend of FIC coverage rates from 2013 to 2015 was observed. Correlation between under-five mortality rates and measles coverage showed that as the rate of measles coverage increases, under-five mortality rates decreases.

RECOMMENDATIONS

High immunization coverage must be maintained to help eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases affecting child survival. Government programs at the local level need to be strengthened and supported. Improvement of all health facilities, services and trainings of health providers at the local level must be pursued.