

A Study of Malaria in Uttarakhand

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Abstract

Background: There is a lot of literature available on the status of Malaria in Uttarakhand. Hence the preparation of this document.

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

Methods: By studying the documents prepared by the National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) and the website of the National Health Mission, Uttarakhand.

Results: It is seen that there were 24 cases of Malaria during 2023 (up to 25th October 2023).

Conclusions: Uttarakhand is very close to achieving Malaria-elimination goals.

Keywords: Malaria; Uttarakhand; API; NCVBDC; WHO.

INTRODUCTION

Uttarakhand lies in the northern part of India. It is bounded by Himachal Pradesh in the North-west, China in the North-east, Uttar Pradesh in the South-west and Nepal in the South-east.

MATERIAL & METHODS

The study design included analysis of documents available on the website of the NCVBDC and a

study of the website of the Uttarakhand Health Department.

RESULTS

According to the most recent data available on the NCVBDC website, the number of Malaria cases in Uttarakhand during 2023 (up to 25th October 2023) was 24.² It's comparison with the number of cases from previous years can be seen from the following table:

Table 1: Number of Malaria Cases in Uttarakhand

State	Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Up to 25th October 2023)
Uttarakhand	296	15	13	19	24

(Sources:⁽²⁾ and ⁽³⁾)

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It is seen that the number of cases was very high in 2019 but then decreased drastically to 15 during

the following year and has now increased slightly to 24 in 2023 (up to 25th October 2023).



Fig. 1: Map of Uttarakhand (Source:<sup>(1)</sup>)

A study of the Uttarakhand Health Department website was not useful because on clicking the link and going through the website, the information related to Malaria pertained to the year 2011.<sup>4</sup>

The National Health Mission, Uttarakhand, brought out the following district-level data:<sup>5</sup>

Table 2: Number of Malaria Cases in the Districts of Uttarakhand, 2021

| S. No. | District  | Number of Malaria Cases |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1      | Almora    | 0                       |
| 2      | Bageshwar | 0                       |
| 3      | Chamoli   | 0                       |
| 4      | Champawat | 2                       |
| 5      | Dehradun  | 0                       |
| 6      | Haridwar  | 6                       |
| 7      | Nainital  | 5                       |

|       |                   |    |
|-------|-------------------|----|
| 8     | Pauri             | 0  |
| 9     | Pithoragarh       | 0  |
| 10    | Rudraprayag       | 0  |
| 11    | Tehri             | 0  |
| 12    | Uttarkashi        | 0  |
| 13    | Udham Singh Nagar | 0  |
| State | Uttarakhand       | 13 |

(Source:<sup>(5)</sup>)

## DISCUSSION

Beginning in 2019, there has been a decrease in the number of Malaria cases in Uttarakhand.

In 2016, the Government of India adopted a framework for Malaria Elimination in India covering the period 2016 – 2030.<sup>6</sup> This was based on the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria of the

World Health Organization (WHO) covering the period 2016-2030 which was adopted in 2015 and updated in 2021.<sup>7</sup>

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 the end of 2023 and India is about to reach the three-fourth mark of the period from 2016 to 2027.

## CONCLUSION

Although Uttarakhand did not reach zero Malaria cases in 2022, it did reach a figure of 19 cases during that year. Therefore, it is a good candidate for being among the first few administrative jurisdictions in the country close to being able to achieve Malaria elimination goals.

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