

MUSTAFA MAGBOL
ALZAIEM ALAZHARI UNIVERSITY,
SUDAN

COVID-19 surveillance report for Sudan, 2020 to 2021

Abstract:

Background: Following the World Health Organization declaration, COVID-19 was first appearance in Sudan was in March 2020. Cases were reported to the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health through the surveillance system from different sources. This study used surveillance data from 2020 to 2021 to describe the epidemiologic patterns of COVID-19 occurrence in Sudan and provide insight for better preparedness and response.

Methods: Through a retrospective descriptive study, COVID-19 cases records obtained from the national surveillance line-list in Surveillance and Information Directorate in Federal Ministry of Health. The analysis of data was done with SPSS version 21. Descriptive analysis done by frequencies and percentages, and further analysis through performing multivariate logistic regression.

Results: Out of 48,545 suspected cases tested for COVID-19 using RT-PCR, 27,453 (56.5%) tested positive with case fatality ratio of 6.5%. Higher death rate among elderly (78% > 60-year-old) and males (70.1%). From the reported cases, 53.8% showed no symptoms, while the common symptoms among symptomatic patients were; fever (26.4%), cough (19.1%), shortness of breath (16.8%) with small proportion (4.5%) reported loss of smell and taste. Specific states, Khartoum, Gezira and Red Sea showed highest prevalence. The disease peaked four times during 2020–2021, with a proposed alert threshold of 200–250 cases per week acting as an explosion point nationwide.

Conclusions: The high case fatality rate in the country requires further analysis, as well as the high proportion of asymptomatic infection. This will be ensured by improving the quality and completeness of surveillance data. A proposed threshold of 200–250 cases per week should be an alert to augment the measures of controlling the pandemic over the country, including providing enough supplies to decrease mortality.

Biography

Dr. Mustafa Magbol is a distinguished member of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Alzaiem Alazhari, located in Khartoum, Sudan. With a passion for medical education and research, Dr. Magbol has dedicated his career to advancing the field of medicine and nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals.