

IMPLEMENTATION OF IMMUNIZATION SERVICES FOR THE UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT TWANO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, JAYAPURA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Immunization service is essential in reducing infant mortality rate. However, due to physical distancing and social distancing, the Covid-19 pandemic may have reduced the utilization of immunization service. This study aimed to determine the implementation of immunization services for the under-five children during Covid-19 pandemic at Twano community health center, Jayapura.

Subjects and Method: This was a qualitative study conducted at the Twano Entrop Community Health Center, Jayapura City, Papua, from August to September 2020. A sample of informants including immunization personnel and head of community health center. The data were collected by in-depth interview, questionnaire, and document review.

Result: The immunization coverage was 43% at Twano community health center, which was far below the national target of 80%. The factors affecting immunization coverage included: (1) worries of infection; (2) parental ignorance; (3) no invitation from the health workers.

Conclusion: The factors affecting immunization coverage included are worries of infection, parental ignorance, and no invitation from the health workers.

Keyword: immunization, the under-five children, Covid-19 pandemic.

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BACKGROUND

The Covid-19 pandemic has a significant impact on health services. One of them is the feeling of worry or anxiety from many people to leave the house. The determination of Covid-19 as a non-natural disaster by the Government with its various demands has made people even more worried about going to health facilities. During the Pandemic period, first-level health facilities (Public Health Center, Primary Clinics) or advanced health facilities or hospitals were considered a dangerous place for the growth and spread of Covid-19 for vulnerable aged people such as the elderly and toddlers. Therefore, almost all health facilities such as hospitals (RS), First Level Health Facilities (FKTP)

and other health facilities focus on preventing transmission and handling positive cases of Covid (Ministry of Health, 2020). The large focus of attention of health facilities on Covid-19 creates the impression that other essential services are not being implemented.

Referring to the data www.covid19.go.id as of August 30, 2020, there are 172,053 cumulative positive cases in Indonesia, of which 2.33% are under five; Of the 40,525 treated, there were 2.22% under-five, from 124,185 who recovered there were 2.46% under-five, and from 7,343 who died there were 0.86% under-five. This data shows that the percentage of Covid cases aged under five is relatively high.

The issue of reducing the mortality rate for children under five is still strong today. This is because the health level of a country depends on the description of the infant mortality rate. In Indonesia, this issue is of grave concern because the infant mortality rate is still relatively high. Based on data from the United Nations (UN), the number of infant deaths in Indonesia in 2019 is 21.12. Efforts to reduce infant mortality by preventing the transmission of Covid-19 at the age of under-five and implementing essential health services for immunization for toddlers during the pandemic in new ways are two things that must continue in a balanced manner (Kemenkes RI and Germas, 2020).

An essential health service that is effective in reducing child mortality is immunization. Immunization provides immunity or immunity. The body becomes immune to diseases that can be prevented by immunization (PD3I). Based on the facts in the field, it is stated that since the Covid-19 Pandemic, there has been a significant effect, namely a decrease in the percentage of immunization and surveillance services for PD3I. Referring to data released by GSVI, WHO and UNICEF, it is shown that there are around 80 million children aged less than 1 year of age who will have the risk of diphtheria, measles and polio because they did not get perfect immunization services during the Covid-19 Pandemic. It was also stated that 64% of 107 countries were forced to not carry out essential routine immunization services for the community during the Covid-19 pandemic to impact the emergence of new outbreaks, namely measles and polio outbreaks. It is feared that there will likely be an Extraordinary Event (KLB) (Ministry of Health, 2020).

The percentage decline in essential services for immunization coverage and

PD3I can also be seen from comparing data between January to April 2020 and 2019. During the Pandemic, there was a decrease in essential services for immunization coverage and PD3I surveillance performance by 0.5% to 87%. It was found that the most significant decrease in immunization coverage occurred in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with a percentage of 46.5% (Ministry of Health, 2020).

The Public Health Center, the first health facility, has a significant role in achieving the target of essential immunization coverage services (Ministry of Health, 2020). Public Health Center Twano Entrop, Jayapura City, Papua Province is one of the pilot health centers located in the middle of Jayapura city, precisely on Jl. Raya Kelapa Dua Entrop, South Jayapura District. This Public Health Center has officially operated to serve patients 24 hours since February 20, 2018. Since this Public Health Center's operation, all health services, especially for toddlers, have usually been carried out. The pattern of essential service approaches implemented by Twano Health Center before the Pandemic was a challenge in itself to achieve a reduction in under-five mortality and achieve immunization coverage according to the expected data.

The author examines how the introductory immunization coverage rate is achieved at the Twano Health Center during the pandemic. This is very important because necessary immunization is the primary immunization that cannot be postponed. Where the targets of essential services for basic immunization coverage at Twano Health Center been achieved and the constraints in meeting the target level? This question aims to see the target achievement of essential services for basic immunization

coverage at the Twano Community Health Center during the Covid-19 Pandemic and to analyze the factors that affect the introductory immunization coverage rate at Twano Health Center, Jayapura City.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD

1. Study Design

This researchs design is qualitative research with document studies and in-depth interviews, with descriptive technical analysis. This research was conducted at the Twano Entrop Health Center, Jayapura City, Papua Province when data collection was carried out from August to early September 2020.

2. Study Variable

A sample of informants, including immunization personnel and head of community health center.

3. Study Instrument

The instrument was the researcher himself and an open questionnaire (guide questionnaire).

4. Data Collection

Data was obtained through data collection of toddlers who received primary immunization and data on target coverage to receive primary immunization at Twano Health Center. The data is between March - July 2020, during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The author will compare the number of essential immunization services during the Covid-19 Pandemic with the target coverage. Suppose it is found that the immunization coverage is not achieved. In that case, it will be continued with analysis through in-depth interviews conducted directly with the Head of the Twano Entrop Public Health Center and Integrated Healthcare Center implementing officers to understand the factors that cause the primary immunization target not achieved Twano Public Health Center.

RESULTS

The Papua Provincial Government designated Papua as an emergency response area for Covid-19 and imposed Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) by the closing airport and port access in March 2020. Since this decree, the Twano Entrop Community Health Center has not provided health services outside the building or Integrated Healthcare Center until mid-May. 2020. Health services for children under five are carried out through teleconsultation/appointment at the Public Health Center.

After the PSBB was opened in mid-May 2020, toddlers' health services were carried out with strict requirements. Several policies were implemented: (1) the schedule of services to Integrated Healthcare Center was rotated in turn. Health workers who provide services are confirmed in advance by screening body temperature.

Likewise, with children under five who will be served, their body temperature must be screened. (2) The number of children served is limited and divided by age. Also, there are restrictions on the types of services. Children did also asked to sign an *informed consent*. (3) The service place is carried out in an open space and is large enough by taking into account the air circulation. (4) There is a service distance between the officers and the children being served. (5) Delivering to the public before the day of service so that those who come to use personal protective equipment such as mandatory masks according to standards and follow applicable health protocols.

Based on the data collected by the author, the following results are obtained: Table 1 shows that the primary immunization achievements at Twano Public Health Center each month vary from

0% in April to 68% in June. This achievement is still far from the national target of 80%.

Also, each month the primary immunization outcomes between Integrated Healthcare Center vary. For example, in May the Twano Public Health Center's average primary immunization achievement was 37%, but Integrated Healthcare Center went between 10% at Integrated Healthcare Center Bougenville to 82% at Integrated Healthcare Center Waniambey.

Based on the table data above, it can be concluded that the number of immunization achievements during the Covid-19 Pandemic at the Twano Community Health Center was not achieved on average. The percentage of coverage of essential immunization services at each Integrated Healthcare Center or the Twano Public Health Center is only 43%, compared to the Central Governments target of 80%.

After conducting in-depth interviews with immunization and nutrition officers and the Head of the Twano Public Health Center, several causes were found for the inadequacy of immunization coverage at Twano Public Health Center. Namely, the officers did not immunize Integrated Healthcare Center because of PSBB regulations. The following are excerpts of interviews conducted with informants:

"In April we did not do immunizations. At that time, Covid-19 patients were relatively high. In addition to our focus on that, we also have to follow the PSBB rules, so our immunization services are eliminated" (Immunization and nutrition officer).

Feelings of fear and worry also cause the inaccessibility of immunization coverage. This was conveyed by the informant as follows:

"Our officers have concerns and are afraid to provide immunization services in the Covid-19 era. On the other hand, mothers are also worried and scared to bring their children to the Public Health Center. They feel that in the Public Health Center there are a lot of Covid patients, so if they come here later they will catch it" (Head of Public Health Center Twano).

Parents 'or mothers' ignorance that immunization can still be carried out during the PSBB with an appointment to the Public Health Center officer is also a cause of inadequacy. , as said by the following informant:

"Many mothers do not know that immunization can still be carried out at the Public Health Center by appointment. During a pandemic, our Public Health Centers remain open. So if there are mothers whose children must be immunized, when we contact our officers, we direct them to come to the health centre to be served" (Head of Public Health Center Twano).

The results of interviews with informants showed that the absence of a callback or a reminder from the Public Health Center staff to notify that children had to be immunized during the Covid -19 pandemic, which was also a cause of inadequacy. This is as expressed by the following informant:

"Our officers did not call back or remind mothers to do immunizations. Concentration on the Covid pandemic has made several scheduled plans not implemented" (Head of Public Health Center Twano).

Table 1. Visit rates and basic immunization achievements at Twano Health Center

Month of service March - July 2020

NO	Nama Posyandu	Bulan														
		Maret 2020			Apr-20			Mei 2020			Juni 2020			Juli 2020		
		Bayi yang melakukan Imunisasi dasar	Target bayi Cakupan Imunisasi	Pencapaian	Bayi yang melakukan Imunisasi dasar	Target bayi Cakupan Imunisasi	Pencapaian	Bayi yang melakukan Imunisasi dasar	Target bayi Cakupan Imunisasi	Pencapaian	Bayi yang melakukan Imunisasi dasar	Target bayi Cakupan Imunisasi	Pencapaian	Bayi yang melakukan Imunisasi dasar	Target bayi Cakupan Imunisasi	Pencapaian
1	Waniambey	15	22	68%	0	22	0%	18	22	82%	21	22	95%	12	22	55%
2	Kirana	15	25	60%	1	25	4%	11	25	44%	10	25	40%	18	25	72%
3	Cempaka	32	60	53%	0	60	0%	12	60	20%	47	60	78%	28	60	47%
4	Kasuari	20	26	77%	0	26	0%	7	26	27%	9	26	35%	10	26	38%
5	Dahlia II	66	82	80%	0	82	0%	32	82	39%	74	82	90%	74	82	90%
6	Jousuba	8	19	42%	0	19	0%	6	19	32%	8	19	42%	7	19	37%
7	Bukit Pemai	11	24	46%	0	24	0%	7	24	29%	6	24	25%	8	24	33%
8	Mandiri	16	28	57%	0	28	0%	12	28	43%	26	28	93%	7	28	25%
9	Dahlia I	9	30	30%	0	30	0%	5	30	17%	24	30	80%	5	30	17%
10	Mawar	13	30	43%	0	30	0%	14	30	47%	24	30	80%	26	30	87%
11	Bougenville	4	10	40%	0	10	0%	3	10	30%	9	10	90%	8	10	80%
Rata - Rata Pencapaian				54%			0%			37%			68%			53%

DISCUSSION

The results of the study were 43% immunization coverage at the Twano Health Center. These results confirm the Ministry of Health and UNICEF rapid analysis in the PD3I Surveillance and Immunization Bulletin (2020). In the results of quick research regarding the coverage of essential immunization services for the Covid-19 Pandemic era, out of 9,993 people in charge of the immunization program at the health center level, 5,329 people participated. From the implementation of activities held from April 20 to 29, 2020, at 388 District/City Health Centers in 34 provinces, as many as 845 Public Health Center delayed or stopped the coverage of essential immunization services during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Research at the Twano Health Center found three reasons for the low immunization coverage during March-July 2020. One of the reasons is that parents are worried about leaving the house, let alone bringing their children to a health facility where Covid patients are being treated. This finding is in line with the results of a study by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF. Two main causes for the delay or termination of immunization coverage services at Public Health Center in Indonesia, namely, on the one hand, parents who were afraid to bring their children to be immunized and on the other hand, officers who had doubts about carrying out immunization during the Covid-19 Pandemic era because didn't understand the technical instructions.

Inadequate immunization coverage can threaten the lives of children in the future, including resulting in disease outbreaks or KLBPD3I. The rapid assessment indicates that the decline in the range of essential immunization services

could hurt Indonesian children's lives in the future. In addition to causing disease outbreaks or extraordinary events in children, especially the death of children under five.

Referring to the results of the author's research at the Twano Public Health Center, Entrop Jayapura, it was found that during the Covid-19 Pandemic period, namely between March and July 2020, the percentage of essential immunization service coverage averaged 43%. Even in April 2020, the range of critical immunization services was not implemented or was eliminated. The target of the content of essential immunization services at the Twano Entrop Community Health Center is still very far below the national target of 80%.

Thus from the results of this study, the coverage rate for essential immunization services at the Twano Entrop Health Center during the Covid-19 Pandemic was very low or minimal and was far below the percentage target set by the Indonesian government nationally. The absence of immunization services in April 2020 due to the pandemic and PSBB regulations, feelings of worry and fear for officers and parents of contracting Covid when immunizing during the pandemic, parents ignorance that immunization can still be carried out through appointment and no reminders from officers against immunization targets are several factors causing the national immunization service target not to be achieved.

Seeing this situation, the researchers provide appropriate recommendations to avoid the negative impact of this situation, especially in child mortality. Some suggestions that the author can convey by looking at the results of the research above are:

1. Twano Community Health Center continues to provide immunization services in the Pandemic era.
2. Carry out immunization services by implementing strict health protocols.
3. Conducting a systematic and massive campaign/socialization against immunization targets that immunization services at Public Health Center are safe and under control.
4. Officers visit the immunization service targets to their respective homes and carry out immunizations.

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