

John Morley (Public Health Wales)

From: FOI (Public Health Wales)
Subject: FW: Information request

Thanks for your response.

With all due respect, I believe your epidemiologist may be creating unnecessary confusion for himself by getting caught up in semantics. If I may I will try to keep this on point:

Out of the 437 confirmed measles cases, 50 had had either a single or double mmr jab - this is the figure you have provided to me before so I believe we can all agree on this basic fact?

If 50 out of the 437 confirmed cases had had either the single or double mmr vaccine, this is a percentage of 11.44% of people who had caught measles and had had one or two mmr jabs . Can we agree on that?

Using this figure of 437 confirmed cases as well as the 50 who had had either one or two mmr jabs, we can therefore roughly determine that the vaccine is approximately 88.56% effective. Would you agree with these basic figures? In the interests of not taking up your time unnecessarily, a simple yes or no would be fine to these questions,

Thanks once again for your time and patience,

In regards to your correspondence and questions regarding the information Public Health Wales has published onto its WebPages regarding measles, detailed below

To clarify, 50 people who had had one or two mmr jabs were confirmed as having measles out of the 437 confirmed measles sufferers in Wales in the outbreak from November 2012 to July 2013? This is a 11.44% failure rate which means the mmr jab is generally 88.56% effective and not the 95-99% quoted by Public Health Wales if using this outbreak example.

You say that:

This means that:

- 1 in 18 unimmunised children in the ABMU Health Board area (Swansea and Neath Port Talbot) had laboratory confirmed measles during the outbreak.***
- 1 in 748 children who had received 1 dose of MMR (had laboratory confirmed measles during the outbreak.***
- 1 in 2200 children who had received 2 doses of MMR had laboratory confirmed measles during the outbreak.***

Th These figures given above are cleverly presented I'm sure but they are avoiding the issue. According to your own table (and updated final confirmed figures) these figures should read as '31 out of the 437 confirmed cases had had the two mmr doses, 19 had had the one mmr dose-a total of 50. This is a 11.44% failure rate which means the mmr jab is generally 88.56% effective and not the 95-99% quoted by Public Health Wales if using this outbreak example.

I would welcome your views and confirmation of the 50 people out of 437 confirmed measles sufferers who had previously received one or two mmr jabs,

I have checked with our epidemiologists who state that your calculations above is not a measure of vaccine effectiveness. **Vaccine effectiveness** is generally defined as the reduction in the incidence of a disease in the vaccinated population compared to the incidence of the same disease in the unvaccinated population, where the vaccine is in use in the field or community. The measure which you have calculated above is the proportion of confirmed measles cases in the outbreak which had not received any MMR vaccinations, this is not the same as vaccine effectiveness.

Kind regards

John

Ivor John Morley

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