

**TREND OF DETECTION AND PREVALENCE RATES OF
LEPROSY IN THE CENTRAL - HIGHLAND REGION, VIETNAM
DURING 1996-2005**

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ABSTRACT

A retrospective study was conducted to assess, describe and predict the epidemiology situation of leprosy (based on annual leprosy reports during 1996-2005 from 11 provinces) in the Central-Highland Region, Vietnam.

Between 1996 and 2005, a total 4,262 leprosy cases were detected in the Central-Highland Region in Vietnam; 60% were males and 40 % were females (male to female ratio = 1.5: 1). The percentage of young age group (< 15years) was 8.5% during this period. For clinical classification, 57.6% were Multi-Bacillary, 42.4% were Pauci-Bacillary. The disabled grade II proportion of leprosy among new cases decreased consistently and continuously from 36.8% (1996) to 19.1% (2005), averaging 25.6%.

Trends of the leprosy detection and prevalence rates decreased significantly, steadily and continuously from 1996. The prevalence was 1.35 per 10,000 population in 1996 and that had decreased by 86% at the end of 2005 (0.19 per 10,000 population). The detection rate was 2.03 per 100,000 population in 2005 and that had decreased by 76% since 1996 (8.34 per 100,000 population). The annual decrease in prevalence and detection rates in the Central-Highland Region during 1996 – 2005 were result of adequate findings of new leprosy cases during 1996 (789 cases) – 2005 (236 cases). The relationship between prevalence and detection rate was highly positively correlated ($r = 0.99$), and was statistically significant ($p < 0.01$). This indicated that the more the detection rate decreased, the more the prevalence rate decreased.

The forecasts for detection rate of leprosy are 1.66, 1.31, and 0.97 per 100,000 population in 2006, 2007 and 2008 (the accuracy of forecasting is quite high as the mean square deviation is only 0.12. The forecasts for the number of new leprosy cases are 209 in 2006, 194 in 2007 and 179 in 2008. However, the accuracy of forecasting is not high.

KEYWORDS: LEPROSY/ TREND/ DETECTION RATE / PREVALENCE RATE

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