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**Review of meningitis Outbreaks,**

**Liberia, 2017-2018.**

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**Introduction**

Meningitis remains a major public health concern worldwide. It causes severe illness and could lead to permanent disability or death if not detected or treated quickly. In 1997, the annual non-epidemic cases of acute bacterial meningitis were estimated at 1.2 million globally with 135,000 fatalities. By February 2012, WHO reported a rise in the estimated global annual fatalities to 170,000 cases. Over the past two years Liberia had experienced sporadic outbreaks. The study was conducted to describe the outbreaks by person, place and time.

**Methods**

We conducted a retrospective record review study. We obtained the outbreak data recorded over 2017 to 2018 from National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) database. We analyzed for demographics and outcomes as well as sample results. Results were expressed in percentages using proportion.

**Results**

In 2017, the country recorded 38 suspected cases, with 34% case fatality rate. In 2018, the country recorded 111 suspected cases with case fatality of 5%. Of the overall 149 cases for the 2 years, median age of suspected cases was 12 (0.3 to 75) years and male accounted for 76% (113). Nimba County reported the highest number of cases 34% (50). The country recorded 74% of the total cases in 2018. Six of the suspected cases were confirmed positive for Neisseria meningitidis.

**Conclusion**

Over the period, most of the cases were in 2018, and male gender were mostly affected. Also, Nimba County accounted for the highest number of cases. We therefore recommend that awareness on preventive measures of meningitis be conducted in most affected demographics.