

# **Expanded Programme on Immunization in Iran: Last 3 Decades Achievements from 1979 to 2008**

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## **Abstract**

Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in I.R.Iran began in 1984 after establishing of health network for PHC all over the country and reached to high & accepted coverage rates for active immunization of infants against vaccine preventable diseases including Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Measles, Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis.

**Keywords:** *Immunization, Health network, Vaccine, Iran*

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## **Introduction**

Primary health care network was established based on 14000 health houses and 4500 primary health care centers in 1984 with aim of primary health care delivery, expansion of immunization programme and development of programs for control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Conducting these activities resulted in enormous decrease in infantile and maternal mortality rates, prevalence of communicable diseases, and increase of routine vaccination coverage.

## **Results**

At the beginning of EPI, the coverage of EPI vaccines were less than 40%. In 2002, coverage of all of these vaccines was more than 95%. In 1994 the HBV vaccination integrated in EPI. For example BCG coverage increased from 10% to 99%, OPV3 from 34% to 100%, Hepatitis B vaccine from 62% to 99% (in children born at 1982 and after wards).

Vaccination campaigns in 1988-2004 resulted in noticeable increase of these vaccines coverage.

After MR campaign in December 2003, MMR vaccine was integrated in EPI. MMR vaccine coverage has been 97% in 3 last years.

## **Conclusion**

Establishment of primary Health care network was a successful experience in the country resulting in decrease of Mortality and morbidity of infants and mothers and also control of both Communicable and non communicable diseases and expansion of vaccine coverage. The country has been in Polio-free status since 2001. Both Measles and Congenital Rubella Syndrome have been eliminated since 2004 and Neonatal Tetanus since 1995.

## **Reference**

Statistics of Center of Communicable Disease Control, Tehran, Iran