June 29, 2024

Dr. Petter Allebeck , Editor-in-chief

European Journal for Public Health

**Subject: Article (Commentary) on the global burden of dengue cases and deaths in 2023**

**Dear Dr Allebeck,**

Please find our manuscript as a commentary entitled “Global Landmark: 2023 Marks the Worst Year for Dengue with Millions Infected and Thousands of Deaths Reported” submitted to ‘The European Journal for Public Health’ for your consideration review and publish in the journal.

The year 2023 marks the historic milestone of 6 million cases and more than 6000 deaths caused by dengue virus infection. Countries in the temperate regions including the USA, France, Spain, and Italy also recorded dengue cases in 2023. There were two obvious hotspots of dengue cases: South America and Asia (South Asia and Southeast Asia). As we approach the summer and the rainy season, countries in the Northern Hemisphere are bracing for another potentially record-breaking year of DENV in 2024, eliciting both anticipation and surprise among observers. In the first half of 2024, laboratory-confirmed dengue cases surged to nearly 4.7 million, with over 5,366 deaths reported globally.

We estimated the continent-wide mortality rate per thousand population which revealed the highest number of cases from South America (3,924,992) with the highest number of deaths in Asia (3,637). Globally, there were 56,672.26 cases and 28.45 deaths per million population. The highest number of cases and deaths per million population was reported in North America, with 258,252.27 cases and 90.30 deaths, respectively. While these are just numbers, the figures are significant and concerning thus impacting millions of individuals each year. We argue that urgent global initiatives be taken to address the global spreading of the dengue virus to early detect cases, and save lives through comprehensive public health measures that include a successful vaccine shortly.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

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