

Estimated Rate of Neglected COVID-19 Reporting According to Legal Surveillance System Implication on Problem of Disease Control

Dear Editor,

The number of confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases have been continuously increased since its first appearance in December 2019.^[1] The disease becomes pandemic and WHO already declared public health emergency since 11th March 2020. An important public health manipulation for infection control is the systematic case registry. The registry data are important epidemiological information for disease management planning. In many countries such as Thailand,^[2] the legal surveillance system on COVID-19 is in present use. The neglecting in reporting of the case from medical center is an important problem.

Here, the authors share data from local disease control report from Cambodia, a country in Indochina. There are already evidences of neglected COVID-19 reports in the first country that the disease was identified before reidentification and being reported in Cambodia. There are two COVID-19 cases officially reported from Center of Cambodian CDC on two Indonesian patients who got a diagnosis of COVID-19 from a private hospital laboratory in aboard (see details on “<https://cambodianess.com/article/two-indonesians-becomes-cambodias-latest-covid-19-patients>”). From tracing back, these two cases are not included in registry data in the first country that the disease was identified. The neglected COVID-19 report rating is equal to 0.19% of official registry reported cases (expected range, 95% confidence interval = 0.05% – 0.76%; giving the data there are 1,045 cases of COVID-19 in the country that cases are neglected).

Of interest, under detection and under reporting of COVID-19 was previously reported in many countries by De Salazar *et al.*^[3] The present report can confirm the existence of the problem. The uncontrollable unethical private hospital might be the problem in good surveillance system in any developing countries.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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