

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01- 15 July 2024

During the fortnight spanning from **01- 15 July 2024**, media tracking focused on the online editions of mainstream newspapers and various news portals, highlighting a spectrum of health-related topics such as Routine Immunization (RI), vaccine-preventable diseases, Measles and Rubella Elimination, Polio, HPV, Td, and AEFI.

A total of 117 news articles were found across English, and Hindi, news portals, offering insights from both national and international perspectives. These articles presented a diverse range of viewpoints, encompassing positive, neutral, and multi-perspective stances on RI efforts.

Notably, approximately 55.9% of the coverage portrayed RI efforts in a positive light. However, in specific cases, a diphtheria outbreak, and measles cases reported around the world, attached on the polio team in Pakistan concerns about complications received attention, though comprising only 3.6% of the overall coverage.

On the other hand, 40.3% of the coverage maintained a neutral or multi-perspective approach. Overall, the news regarding immunization, policy perspectives, and efforts by stakeholders resonated with the general news media landscape.

Reflection of News stories on Immunization during the fortnight (01- 15 July 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 13	8	5	1		Polio, Hep-B, adult vaccination, zero dose, HPV, Immunization, cervical cancer, vaccination, HFM
Hindustan Times - 3	2	1			vaccination, Uwin, immunization
Indian Express - 4	1	1	2	Diphtheria outbreak attack on polio worker	Diphtheria, Polio, HPV
The Hindu - 6	5	1			TB, Polio, Cervical cancer, Hep-A, HPV, Hep-B,
The Week - 1	1				HPV
Deccan Herald - 1		1			Vaccination
Financial Express -2		2			Immunization, Cervical cancer
Economic Times - 1	1				HPV
Times Now -1	1				Childhood immunization
The Telegraph -1		1			zero dose
Amar Ujala -3	3	3			BCG, HPV,
Dainik Bhaskar - 6	4	2			Polio, cervical cancer, dengue, HPV,
The Guardian -2		2			Covid, Child immunization
Newyork Times -2	1	1			Malaria, Measles
BBC - 2		1	1	whooping cough	Measles, whooping cough
Washington Post -1	1				Measles
CNN -1		1			Immunization
Gavi -5	4	1			vaccine, zero dose, cervical cancer, vaccination
WHO - 7	5	2			childhood immunization, HPV, vaccination, Diphtheria, MR
UNICEF- 4	3	1			childhood immunization, polio, covid,vaccine
Other web portal - 39	21	18			Diphtheria, RI, PCV, HPV, Hep-B,DPT, whooping cough, Immunization, Covid, TB, Measles, adult vaccination, polio, zero dose,influenza, cervical cancer, primary health

Important stories with highlights

The Times of India reports that Union Health Minister JP Nadda chaired the inaugural executive committee meeting of the National One Health Mission. According to a statement from the health ministry, Minister Nadda emphasized that the mission will aid India in achieving integrated disease control and pandemic preparedness by institutionalizing the 'One Health' approach. He also underscored the mission's role in leveraging the ongoing and planned programs of various ministries and departments, fostering collaborations to holistically and sustainably address the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment.

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<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/health-minister-jp-nadda-chairs-first-executive-committee-meeting-of-national-one-health-mission/articleshow/111639816.cms>

Financial Express reports in healthcare news that the Health Ministry has yet to finalize the schedule for the vaccination campaign against the human papillomavirus (HPV). The National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation (NTAGI) has recommended HPV vaccination for adolescent girls aged nine to 14 years. The Ministry is expected to offer the vaccine in the second quarter of this year. In June 2022, the Health Ministry announced that NTAGI had recommended the vaccine's inclusion in the government's universal immunization program. This plan includes a one-time catch-up shot for girls aged nine to 14, followed by a routine introduction at nine years old.

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<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/healthcare-health-ministry-has-still-not-decided-on-its-plan-for-cervical-cancer-vaccination-campaign-report-3544694/>

The Hindu in its Sci-tech section published an article highlighting the epidemiological transition of hepatitis A infection in Kerala. Due to improved sanitation and hygiene, the infection is now shifting from early childhood to adolescents and young adults. In children younger than six years, hepatitis A is usually mild, with almost 70% of cases being asymptomatic. However, in older children, the infection is often symptomatic and can, in rare cases, cause liver injury and even death. Kerala has experienced hepatitis A outbreaks consistently over the past two decades, with at least one outbreak resulting in multiple deaths each year since 2017, including 2024.

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<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/hepatitis-a-vaccination-will-be-cost-effective-in-kerala-study/article68371072.ece>

The Economic Times reports that in her maiden speech in the Rajya Sabha, philanthropist and author Sudha Murty highlighted the issue of cervical cancer. Murty advocated for a government-sponsored vaccination program to combat the disease and also emphasized the promotion of domestic tourism. Her remarks came during a discussion on the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/sudha-murty-in-rajya-sabha-cervical-cancer-takes-centre-stage-in-maiden-speech/sudha-murtys-maiden-rajya-sabha-speech/slideshow/111460853.cms>

New Indian Express reports via express news service: Four 10-year-old children have been rushed to Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH) in Koraput after exhibiting symptoms of diphtheria, identified by medical teams. This development occurs amid an ongoing door-to-door survey and health awareness program conducted by the Health and Social Welfare department in the Narayanpatana and Bandhugaon blocks of Koraput district, following recent child deaths. According to sources, two children from Kumbhari and two from Balipeta villages in Narayanpatana were found with suspected diphtheria symptoms during surveillance by medical teams.

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<https://www.newindianexpress.com/amp/story/states/odisha/2024/Jul/02/four-kids-hospitalised-with-diphtheria-symptoms-in-odishas-koraput>

Indian Express reports from Pakistan, two Pakistani police officers were injured when unknown gunmen opened fire on anti-polio vaccination teams in two separate incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to police. The attacks occurred in the Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts. In Shah Alam village, Tank district, gunmen ambushed a team administering oral polio drops to children during a door-to-door campaign, injuring a police constable escorting the team. The attackers managed to flee the scene.

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<https://indianexpress.com/article/pakistan/police-officers-injured-attacks-anti-polio-teams-pakistan-peshawar-9430514/>

WHO reports in a joint news release that global childhood immunization coverage stalled in 2023, resulting in 2.7 million additional children being un- or under-vaccinated compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019. The latest WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage (WUENIC), which offer the world's largest and most comprehensive dataset on immunization trends for vaccines against 14 diseases, highlight the need for ongoing catch-up, recovery, and system-strengthening efforts.

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<https://www.who.int/news/item/15-07-2024-global-childhood-immunization-levels-stalled-in-2023-leaving-many-without-life-saving-protection>

The New York Times reported that two adults residing at a migrant shelter in New York City have been diagnosed with measles, a highly contagious yet preventable respiratory illness, according to city health officials on Friday. The city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is collaborating with the local hospital system to ensure that anyone exposed receives necessary support and resources, as stated in a news release from the department. As of Friday, the potential exposure was limited to individuals living on one floor of the shelter, which is located on Hall Street in the Clinton Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/13/nyregion/measles-nyc-migrant-shelter.html>

A **BBC** health reporter writes that nine babies have died from whooping cough since November 2023, with cases continuing to rise, according to the UK Health Security Agency. The latest figures for England show 2,591 confirmed cases in May, totaling 7,599 since January. Experts are concerned that this could be a particularly severe year for the bacterial infection, which poses significant risks to young

babies. They are urging pregnant women and children to stay up-to-date with vaccinations. The last peak occurred in 2016, with approximately 5,945 cases. Whooping cough, also known as the 100-day cough or pertussis, is a bacterial infection that can affect the lungs and cause prolonged bouts of coughing.

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cye0w4j384ro>

The Guardian reports that conflicts have significantly impeded global vaccination efforts, with health leaders expressing concern as new data reveals that approximately 14.5 million children have not received a single immunization dose. Over half of these children reside in countries plagued by armed conflicts or other humanitarian crises, according to UNICEF and the World Health Organization. The war in Sudan has drastically increased the number of unvaccinated children from around 110,000 in 2021 to an estimated 701,000 last year. Similarly, Yemen now has 580,000 unvaccinated children, up from 424,000 three years ago. In addition to the 14.5 million "zero-dose" children in 2023, 6.5 million children were "under-vaccinated," meaning they had not received all their recommended doses.

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<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jul/15/war-conflict-immunisation-vaccination-vaccine-hesitancy-nutrition-disease-children-who-unicef-measles-hpv>