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Immunization and human rights

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Among fundamental human rights are the right to life and the right to health. These two rights are very connected and they are also connected with the process of immunization. Immunization is one of the most important achievements in medicine because introduction of vaccine saved millions of lives on the global plan. Almost 11 million children die every year of preventable causes. Millions of people die when lifesaving vaccines and medicines exist, but do not get to those who need them because they or the countries they live in are too poor to pay for or distribute, them. (UN Secretary- General, Kofi Annan Statement to the 59th Commission on Human Rights, 20 March 2003, Geneva, Switzerland). During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995) different human rights were violated and also the right to life and right to health. From the aspect of immunization, there was a huge problem of providing necessary vaccines, their storage and the implementing of vaccination, and a consequence of those omissions are visible today in a form of occurrence of different vaccine-preventable diseases. In this paper we will show the trend of vaccine-preventable diseases in people who were not vaccinated during the war. The occurrence and spread of parotitis and rubella will be showed separately, as diseases that occurred in an outbreak form with a huge number of affected people.

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