

CASES

- Person in the population identified as having a disease or health disorder

1. Clinical illness - Mild cases may be more important sources of infection than severe cases because they are abundant

2 Subclinical illness > Referred to as Inapparent, Covert, Missed or Abortive Cases

Play a dominant role in maintaining Endemicity in the

community

Subclinical infection occurs mostly in infectious diseases

Example- polio, influenza etc. →
Subclinical infections is not seen in Rabies

3. Latent infections → Primary case
Host does not shed the infectious agent which lies dormant within the host without symptoms
Example- herpes simplex

a. Primary case

First case of a disease introduced into population

Always excluded from both numerator & denominator for secondary attack rate

calculation

b. Index case (I-Index /

- Investigator's first case)

First case to come to the attention of the investigator
c. Secondary case- Those developing from contact with primary case
d. Serial interval

Time gap in between the onset of the primary case & secondary case

Information on series of secondary cases with serial interval, gives the idea of incubation period of disease

e. Suspect case

- Individuals who have all signs & symptoms of a disease but not yet been diagnosed