Pakistan is one of the two remaining countries in the world where poliomyelitis (polio) is still categorized as an endemic viral infection, the other being Afghanistan. As of October 2015, there have been 38 documented cases of wild poliovirus in Pakistan in the past year. Though the polio vaccination campaign in the country started in 1974, the efforts for eradication officially started in 1994. The infection remains endemic despite over 100 rounds of vaccination being carried out in the past decade.

Pakistan had the world's highest number of polio cases in 2014, and as of October 2015, it has maintained this record. However, the number of cases in 2015 is a fraction of those recorded in 2014. The country has announced a goal of eradication by 2016.

Recent Government Efforts

In 2015, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government issued arrest warrants for 1,200 parents and guardians for refusing to administer vaccines to their children. 512 people were arrested on the charge warrants for 1,200 parents and guardians for refusing to administer

70% of the population had received polio vaccines in 2015, due to increased vaccination in parts of the northwest Frontier Regions and three cities of Punjab within 12 districts of Balochistan.

2016 in 12 districts of Balochistan

India Occupied Kashmir

Pakistan polio workers under attack from January 2014 till April 2016

Seven police personnel, providing security to anti polio teams, were shot dead in Karachi.

Pakistani polio workers under attack from January 2014 till April 2016

Efforts to eliminate polio in Pakistan have been complicated in recent years, as polio workers have faced attacks by militants who say the health teams are Western spies, or that the vaccines they administer are intended to sterilise children. On January 13, 2016, at least 15 people were killed and several injured after a bomb had exploded near a polio centre near Quetta. And now on April 20, 2016, or just 10 days after the World Health Organisation had expressed hope that polio was in its dying days and could be eradicated from Afghanistan and Pakistan within 12 months, seven police personnel, providing security to anti polio teams, were shot dead in Karachi.