## Serologic Data for Cholera Surveillance and Control: Where are we today?

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## Challenges in counting cholera cases





#### Identified and Reported as Cholera

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Lack of routine confirmation (‡ Bias)					
Health system defficiencies ( Bias)					

# Low specificity of suspected case definition and imperfect diagnostic tools





## Seroepidemiology for cholera





Volume 121, Issue Supplement May 1970

#### JOURNAL ARTICLE

#### Seroepidemiologic Studies during a Simultaneous Epidemic of Infection with El Tor Ogawa and Classical Inaba Vibrio cholerae Get access >

Kenneth J. Bart, Zahidul Huq, Moslemuddin Khan, Wiley H. Mosley, Md. Nuruzzaman, A. K. M. Golam Kibriya

The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Volume 121, Issue Supplement, May 1970, Pages S17–S24, https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/121.Supplement.S17
Published: 01 May 1970

What makes cholera serology different from many vaccine preventable diseases?



Time since infection

- Faster decay
- More variable baseline levels
- High variability in postinfection antibody trajectories
- One single antibody with a single threshold probably isn't good enough



### Post-infection antibody dynamics



Azman et al, 2019, PMID 30787170

## Differences in boost and decay of different antibodies helpful in estimating recent infections



Jones et al, 2022, PMID 36286520

## Seroincidence

- *Seroincidence*: incidence of immunologically meaningful exposures to *V. cholerae* O1
- What proportion of indivudals were infected/exposed in the last X (eg., 1,3,6) months?



### Laboratory Methods: A menu of options

#### Vibriocidal (functional) Assay

#### Luminex Assay (or ELISAs)



## What happens in partially vaccinated populations?

- Differential antibody response between vaccinated and infected in the first few months
- Recent infection models can be adjusted if vaccination status is known
- After waiting ~3 months postvaccination, models no longer misclassify vaccinees as recently infected



Jones et al, in prep

### Serology to get a national overview



## Understanding the infection to case ratio in



## Insights from combined serologic and clincal surveillance in Bangladesh (*preliminary*)



Hegde, Khan et al, in prep

## Insights from combined serologic and clincal surveillance in Bangladesh

- ~800 infections for every medically attended true cholera case
- ~160 infections per symptomatic infection
- ~5 symptomatic infections per medically attended true case



## Where are we now?

- Laboratory methods available in multiple labs including the use of Luminex beads
- Analysis methods allow for estimation of seroincidence rates in the past 6 months (less reliable up to 1 year)
- Serosurveys in partially vaccinated populations feasible (with some care)
- On-going work to characterize seroincidence in several locations including Nepal, DRC, Bangladesh, India, Cameroon

## Looking forward

- Further standardize analysis tools
  - Luminex data processing
  - Availability of standard reagents (e.g., beads)
  - Seroincidence estimation
- What does seroincidence mean, especially in highly endemic settings?
  - Exposure vs infection?
- How do we translate this to immunity?
  - Does this vary by setting?
- Opportunity to collect large amounts of serologic data with new multi-pathogen serosurveillance platforms!

## Can we capitalize on other efforts?

