

Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices related to prevention of mosquito borne diseases in an urban community in El Salvador

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: In El Salvador Mosquito Borne Diseases (MBDs) cause a serious health problem. Although these diseases do not produce high mortality rates; they produce a high economic loss which contributes to the collapse of the public health system. Over the years the Salvadoran public health system has invested large amounts of resources to minimize the problem through campaigns against mosquito borne diseases. Despite this, the population is still affected by the recent diseases as Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika outbreak. The aim of this study is to evaluate sanitation conditions variables and identify knowledge, attitudes, practices related to the prevention of MBDs.

Methods: This work is a cross-sectional survey about sanitation conditions and Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on prevention of MBDs of inhabitant's ≥ 15 years from an urban community with highest number of cases reported in 2015.

Results: Majority of respondents (98.2%) had direct supply of drinking water; however 96.4% of respondents were agreed that they have an inconsistent water supply. Regarding MBDs prevention respondents showed high acceptable knowledge (76.8%), high favorable attitude (92.1%) and an acceptable implementation of practices toward prevention reproduction of mosquitoes (58.5%) and a poor implementation to prevent mosquito bites (38.3%).

Conclusions: The findings revealed high acceptable knowledge about MBDs and a high favorable attitude regarding to prevent them, but also revealed a scarce implementation of prevention practices. The generalized storage of water on non-covered barrels because the inconsistent water supplies, can be source of proliferation of mosquitoes and therefore increases the risk of transmission of MBDs. High population density of the community can magnify this risk.. It is necessary to enhance education to promote better implementation of practices using the most common media together with the local health workers.