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## Eritrea: Malaria

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## Demographics of Eritrea:

- Next to Sudan, Ethiopia and borders the Red Sea.
- Eritrea's population consists of 5,117,947 million people who speak primarily Tigrinya and Arabic (“Eritrea”, 2016).
- Eritrea consists of one main ethnic group known as the Tigre, they make up of roughly 50% of the country’s population (“TIGRAI”, 2013).
- Eritrea is running under a presidential system. The legislative branch is made up sixty-four people, and there are judges that are elected in their villages. There are also 399 representatives in six administrative regions of the country (Winder, 1997).
- Eritrea has faced some major challenges, one being that in the early 2000’s they were at war with Ethiopia. Prior and since the war Eritrea has had  $\frac{2}{3}$  of its population living under the poverty line. Health care cannot be afforded causing many deaths from diseases. The main disease being malaria (“AFRICA”, 2000).

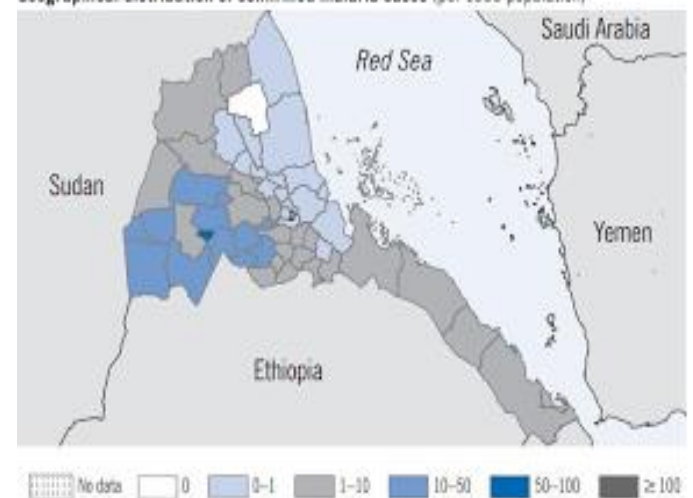
## What is Malaria?

Malaria is “a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite” (“Malaria”, 2017). Often times people who are affected by Malaria get specific symptoms. Such symptoms include, fever, chills, and other symptoms that are similar to a flu (“Malaria”, 2017). Malaria is seen most often in the African regions. Malaria is a very fatal disease that affects hundreds of thousands of people yearly. “In 2016, an estimated 216 million cases of malaria occurred worldwide, and 445,000 people died” (“Malaria”, 2017). While malaria is a big issue in the African regions of the world, it is still an issue in the United States. “About 1,700 cases of malaria are diagnosed in the United States each year” (“Malaria”, 2017). The majority of people who are affected by Malaria in the United States tend to be people who are oftentimes traveling out of country to countries where malaria transmission tends to occur.



(n.d.). Retrieved February 07, 2018, from <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/afri-ca/eritrea/eritrea-malaria-map.aspx>

Geographical distribution of confirmed malaria cases (per 1000 population)



A. (1970, January 01). Eritrea Declines Malaria Mortality by 83%. Retrieved February 07, 2018, from <http://www.madote.com/2011/01/eritrea-declines-malaria-mortality-by.html>

## Epidemiology of Malaria in Eritrea

In Eritrea “67% of the population live in malaria endemic areas” (Nyarango 2006). The people who have the most risk in the country are the people that are below the poverty line.

- 70% of the Eritrean population is located in "high risk" areas for malaria (Admin, 2011)
- the mortality rate for Malaria has decreased by 83% (Admin, 2011)
- At least 300 million acute cases of malaria occur around the world each year, causing more than a million deaths. About 90 percent of these deaths occur in Africa, where malaria kills a child every 30 seconds, according to UN figures.

## Interventions Attempted:

- Insecticide treated nets have been being used in Eritrea and has been shown to reduce the transmission of Malaria by 75% in 2015(Chanda 2015)
- Eritrea has a system in place called Vector Control. The NMCP (The National Malaria Control Program) has used environmental management and chemical larvicides to control breeding sites.
- Due to how common Malaria is in Eritrea public health officials have tried to make sure that people especially children who have had a fever for

roughly two weeks get into a health facility for proper care.

## New Ideas for Intervention Methods:

- Personally, I believe that it is good that the country and health departments as a whole are making a clear effort to solve the Malaria epidemic throughout the country. But I feel that a greater impact can be made if the departments focused on the high-risk areas in Eritrea. If they focus on the high-risk areas of Eritrea it will most likely have the best turnout because those areas are where the breeding grounds are most likely.
- I think that because kids are so prone to getting malaria within the first nine months of birth that they should be tested or put in a safe area to prevent them from getting malaria.
- I also believe that the health officials should really seek the public and educate them on how going to clinics and other areas for care will help reduce their chances of getting Malaria.

Eritrea. (2016, December 02). Retrieved January 25, 2018, from <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2854.htm>

S. (n.d.). TIGRAI Online. Retrieved January 25, 2018, from <http://www.tigraionline.com/articles/eritrea-poorest-of-world.html>

Winder, J. (n.d.). Eritrea 1997. Retrieved January 25, 2018, from <http://www.princeton.edu/~pcwcr/reports/eritrea1997.html>

AFRICA | Ethiopia rejects war criticism. (2000, April 14). Retrieved January 25, 2018, from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/712992.stm>

Malaria. (2017, December 20). Retrieved January 25, 2018, from <https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/>  
Nyarango, P. M., Gebremeskel, T., Mebrahtu, G., Mufunda, J., Abdulmumini, U., Ogbamariam, A., & ... Okbaldet, Y. (2006). A steep decline of malaria morbidity and mortality trends in Eritrea between 2000 and 2004: the effect of combination of control methods. *Malaria Journal*, 533-13. doi:10.1186/1475-2875-5-33