

# Key Findings from the 2011 Liberia Malaria Indicator Survey

The 2011 Liberia Malaria Indicator Survey (LMIS) assessed malaria knowledge, prevention, and treatment practices and malaria and anemia prevalence. Over 4,000 households were interviewed, and almost 3,000 children were tested for both anemia and malaria.





Almost three in ten (28%) children under age five tested positive for malaria according to blood smears. Malaria is most common in older children.

### Prevalence of Malaria in Children by Region

Percent of children 6-59 months testing positive for malaria by microscopy



### **Prevalence of Severe Anemia in Children**

Percent of children 6-59 months with severe anemia (hemoglobin <8.0 g/dl)



Anemia is a common symptom of malaria infection. In Liberia, 8% of children under age 5 have severe anemia, which is defined as hemoglobin less than 8.0g/dl. Anemia is most common in children age 9-11 months (12%).

Nearly 9 in 10 mosquito nets in Liberian households were obtained free of charge.



### \*ITN = Insecticide- treated mosquito net

Half of Liberian households own at least one insecticide-treated net (ITN). ITN ownership is lowest in the South Central region and highest in South Eastern B and South Eastern A regions.

### Access to and Use of ITNs in Liberian Households

Percent of household population who:



More than 3 in 10 individuals have access to an ITN, which means that there are enough ITNs available in the household for the number of people in that household. The 2011 LMIS results show that an equal proportion (32%) of the household population slept under an ITN the night before the survey.

**Trends in Use of ITNs** Percent who slept under an ITN the night before the survey

2009 | MIS 2011 | MIS



Children and pregnant women are the most vulnerable to malaria. Currently, 37% of children under five and 39% of pregnant women slept under an ITN the night before the survey. Use of mosquito nets by both children and pregnant women has increased since 2009.

# Trends in Intermittent Preventive<br/>Treatment of Pregnant WomenPercent of women pregnant in the two years before<br/>the survey, based on their last birth• 2009 LMIS• 2011 LMIS• 2009 LMIS• 2011 LMIS• 58• 55• 62• 74• Treatment• 58• 55• 45• 50• 45• 50• 45



Pregnant women should receive at least two doses of the antimalarial SP/Fansidar during an antenatal visit to prevent malaria. Half of pregnant women received this recommended treatment, a slight increase from 45% in the 2009 LMIS.

### **Treatment of Fever in Children**

Among children under age five who had fever in the two weeks before the survey, percent who:



Over half (57%) of children with fever received an antimalarial. Among children with fever who received an antimalarial, 70% received an ACT the recommended treatment.

### Response rates and methodology:

Malaria and anemia testing were carried out on all children age 6-59 months living in selected households. Malaria testing was done through both First Response rapid diagnostic blood testing, as well as blood smear microscopy. Anemia testing was carried out on a blood drop using the HemoCue system. Of the 3,229 eligible children, 98% provided blood for anemia and rapid diagnostic testing, while 94% provided blood for malaria microscopy testing. For more information on the results of the 2011 Liberia Malaria Indicator Survey, please contact:

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# **Key Findings**