MIS shows progress toward universal coverage, national decrease in prevalence

Zambia's sixth National Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) represents significant progress across nearly all key indicators including reductions in burden of malaria among households throughout the country and increased coverage of malaria interventions, like insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS).

The national malaria parasite prevalence dropped to 9 percent among children under age five years in 2018 compared with 17 percent in 2015, continuing the decline seen since 2010 (Fig. 1).

Among children under five, severe anaemia prevalence generally declined with increasing age and declined nationally overall.

These trends are underpinned by an increase in ITN use and ownership (Fig. 2, 3) and improved case management and social behaviour change.

Sustaining the progress and momentum of the elimination effort requires a number of changes and improvements for malaria service delivery and strategic prioritization.

Figure 1. Malaria prevalence among children by microscopy by province (Zambia 2018)

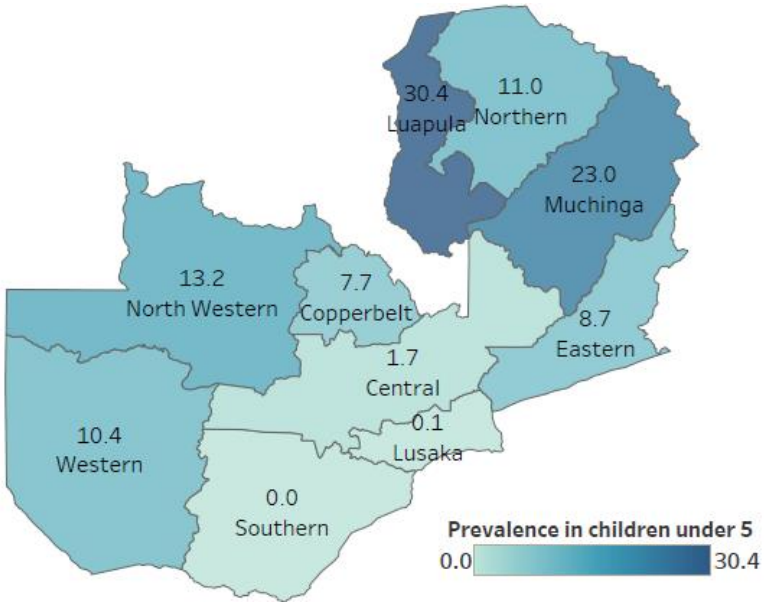
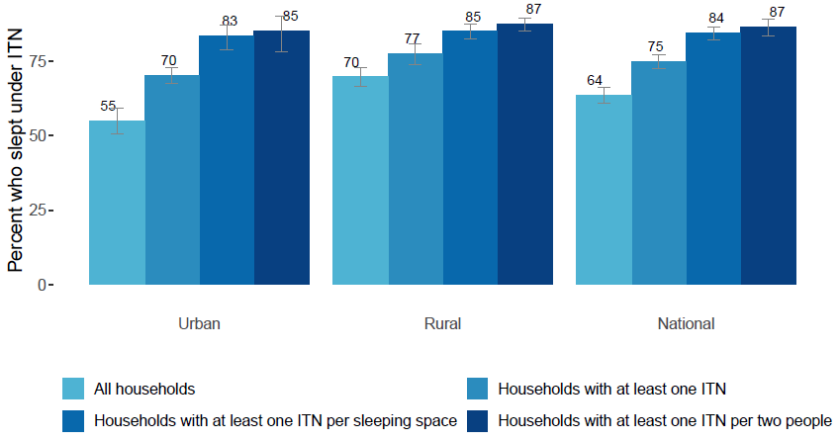


Figure 2. Percentage of household members using an ITN the night before the survey by level of household ownership of ITNs (Zambia 2018)

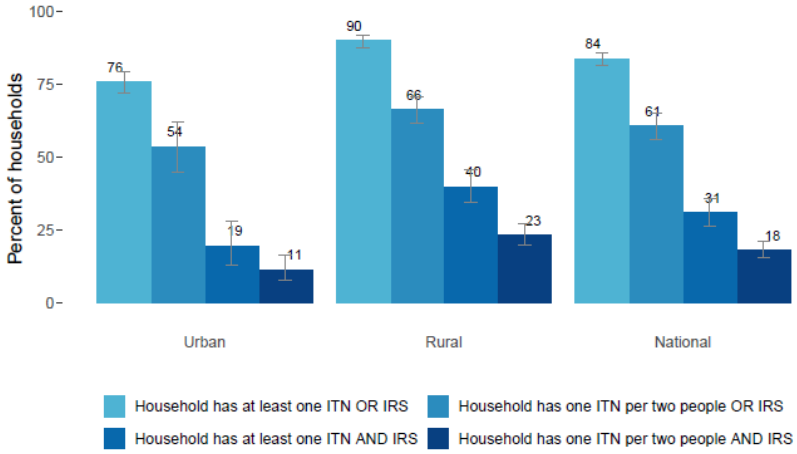


64

Percentage of household members using an ITN the night before the survey

In 2017 and 2018, the National Malaria Elimination Program organized the country's largest-ever insecticide treated nets (ITN) distribution campaign, with the aim of universal coverage. 79 percent of households reported owning at least one ITN. In 45 percent of households, all members reported sleeping under an ITN.

Figure 3. Households reporting either at least one insecticide-treated net (ITN) or IRS or both and households with at least one ITN per two people or IRS or both (Zambia 2018)



61

Percent of households reporting adequate ITNs or IRS

IRS coverage has been steadily shifting from less malarious urban areas to more malarious rural areas, increasing its potential impact at the community level.

Figure 4. Select malaria indicators over time (Zambia 2006-2018)

Indicator	MIS 2006	DHS 2007	MIS 2008	MIS 2010	MIS 2012	DHS 2013/ 2014	MIS 2015	MIS 2018
% of households with at least one insecticide-treated net (ITN)	38	53	62	64	68	68	74	80
% of children ages 0–59 months who slept under an ITN the previous night	24	29	41	50	57	41	56	69
% pregnant women who slept under an ITN the previous night	24	33	43	46	58	41	NA	71
% of household members who slept under an ITN the previous night	19	N/A	34	42	49	35	53	64
% of households with at least one ITN per sleeping space	N/A	N/A	33	34	55	N/A	62	47
% of households receiving indoor residual spraying (IRS) in the previous 12 months	10	16	15	23	29	28	28	35
% of households covered by at least one ITN or recent IRS	43	N/A	68	73	74	75	78	84
% of women ages 15-49 years who received two doses of IPTp during most recent pregnancy	59	66	66	70	72	73	79	81
% of children ages 0-59 months who reported fever in the previous two weeks	33	18	28	34	24	21	16	19
% of children ages 0-59 months with fever taking antimalarial drugs which were ACTs	39	NA	30	76	85	91	92	96
% of children ages 0-59 months with fever reporting a finger/heel stick	N/A	N/A	11	17	32	49	36	55
% of women ages 15–49 years who recognize fever as a symptom of malaria	65	N/A	71	75	78	N/A	77	71
% of women ages 15–49 years who reported knowledge of mosquito bites as a cause of malaria	80	N/A	85	85	89	N/A	85	82
% of women ages 15–49 years who reported knowledge of mosquito nets/ITNs as a prevention method	78	N/A	81	82	86	N/A	91	86
% of children ages 0–59 months with malaria parasitaemia by microscopy	22	N/A	10	16	15	NA	17	9
% of children ages 0–59 months with severe anaemia (Hb<8 g/dl)	14	N/A	4	9	7	NA	6	5

About the MIS

The MIS is a nationally representative household survey assessing coverage of key malaria interventions and malaria-related burden among children under five years of age, and is a key tool for tracking process in fighting the disease and improving targeting of resources.

The 2018 MIS was based on a nationally representative two-stage cluster sample of 4,177 households surveyed from 179 standard enumeration areas randomly selected from all ten provinces to provide representative national, urban, and rural estimates. Field work was conducted during April and May 2018 by 16 field teams using standardized questionnaires preprogrammed onto mobile phones. The 2018 MIS also compares results from previous surveys conducted in 2006-2015.