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Malaria prevalence in children declines by a third in the past decade but the prevalence in rural areas is about three times as high compared to urban

Statistical Service releases preliminary findings on malaria in children from the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

Findings from the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) indicate that **malaria prevalence in children aged 6 to 59 months is 8.6 percent according to microscopy results. The malaria prevalence in rural areas (12.8%) is about three times that of urban (4.3%).**

Greater Accra (2.0%) has the lowest prevalence followed by Western North (4.4%) and Volta (6.4%). **The regions with the highest prevalence of malaria according to microscopy results are Oti (15.0%), Upper West (13.4%), and the Upper East (12.2%) regions.** In all, half of the 16 regions record malaria prevalence above 10 percent.

The survey results also indicate that **the prevalence of malaria in children has declined over the past eight years, falling by more than a third** from 26.7 percent in 2014 to 8.6 percent in 2022.

Administrative data provided by the Ghana Health Service from District Health Information Management System (DHIMS) indicates that **the malaria prevalence rate among pregnant women has also declined from 3.3 percent in 2019 to 2.4 percent in 2022.** The malaria prevalence in 2022 is highest in the Oti Region (7.0%) followed by the Savannah Region (5.4%), which are the only two regions to record prevalence more than double the national average. The lowest prevalence in pregnant women is recorded in the Greater Accra Region (0.2%).

Overall, the total number of Outpatient Department (OPD) malaria cases recorded in DHIMS declined from 6.1 million in 2019 to 5.2 million in 2022. **The East Mamprusi district in the North East Region (73,782) records the highest number of OPD malaria cases** followed by Jaman North (63,776) and Jaman South (55,672) both in the

Bono Region. Eight in every 10 districts (211 of 261 districts) districts have more than 10,000 OPD malaria cases in 2022.

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) released these statistics on World Malaria Day 2023. The theme for the year is “Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement”.

The 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey Key Findings Report will be released in May 2023.

About the Ghana Statistical Service

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) provides comprehensive, reliable, quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information to guide national development as stipulated in Section 3 of the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). The organisation’s vision is to be a trusted provider of official statistics for good governance and its mission being the efficient collection, production, management, and dissemination of quality Official Statistics based on international standards, using competent and motivated staff for evidence-based decision making, in support of national development.

The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as Consumer Inflation, Producer Inflation and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GSS also regularly generates periodic population, housing, demographic and economic data at the locality, district, and national levels from routine surveys and censuses. The statistics generated by GSS is utilised by a wide cross-section of users including the public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. For more information on the statistics generated by GSS visit www.statsghana.gov.gh.