



NATIONAL MALARIA UPDATE

May, June, July 2003

Welcome to the 12th National Malaria Update.

This update serves to present the current trends in the national malaria cases and deaths for South Africa. The reported data is collected mainly from the malaria affected provinces in South Africa. It provides feedback to a range of persons involved in malaria control programmes. The figures presented are subject to modification as provinces conduct follow-ups and verify the data.

Annual malaria notifications for South Africa

The annual notified malaria cases for South Africa for past 5 years, 1999-2003, are presented below. In 2000, South Africa experienced a malaria epidemic with 64 622 malaria cases having been reported. Following the epidemic from 2001, the number of reported malaria cases has steadily been decreasing. For the period, January 2003 – July 2003, 7709 malaria cases were reported (Table 1). This represents a 37% decrease in the number of reported cases in comparison to the same period in 2002 (Figure 1).

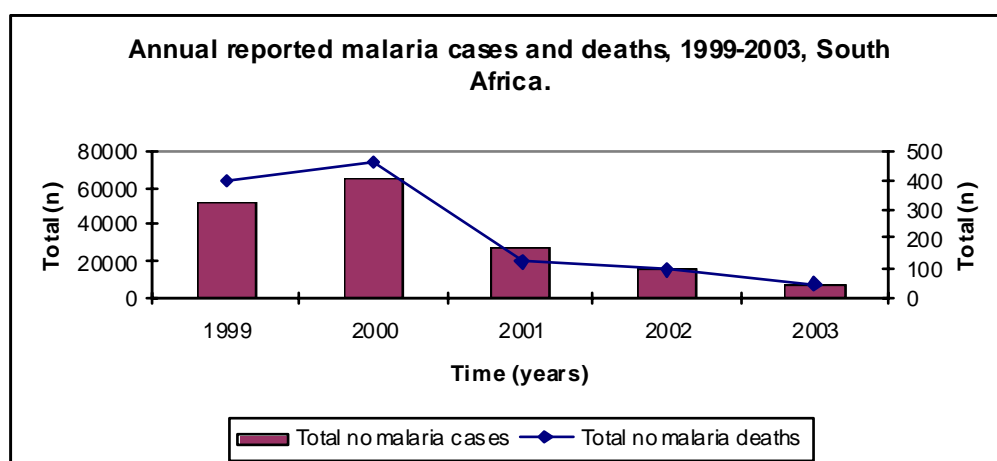


Figure 1: Annual reported malaria cases and deaths

Seasonal malaria notifications for South Africa

Malaria transmission in South Africa is seasonal and is therefore best presented graphically using seasonal data. The seasonal data (July – June) is outlined below. The malaria season starts in October and ends in May with malaria cases peaking between January and March. This trend is demonstrated in the figure 2 below. These peaks correlate with the rainy summer season resulting in a distinct pattern of transmission. The 2002/2003 incidence pattern closely follows that of the two previous seasons. For the past three seasons, an annual decrease in the incidence of malaria cases has occurred. For the 2002/2003 season, 11 040 malaria cases were reported. This represents a 42% decrease in comparison to the 2001/2002 season. Several factors have contributed towards this decrease. They include: use of combination drug therapy in two of the three malaria affected areas which reduces gametocyte carriage within the population, use of effective insecticides for indoor residual house spraying, collaborative malaria control efforts with neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Swaziland and a below average annual rainfall.

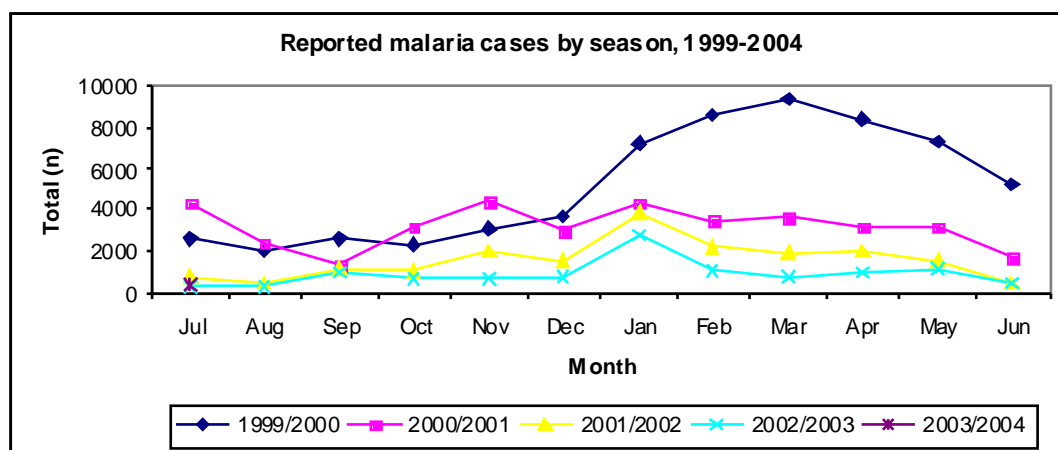
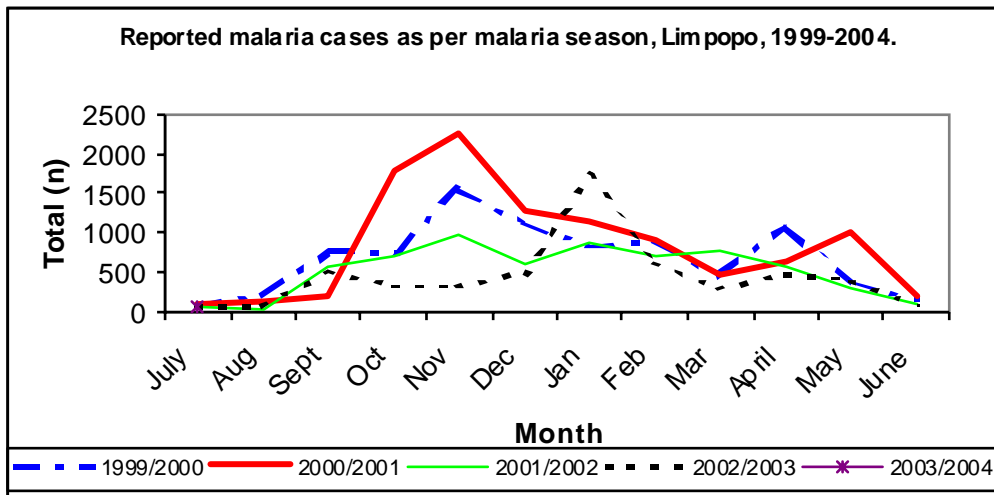


Figure 2: Reported malaria cases by season

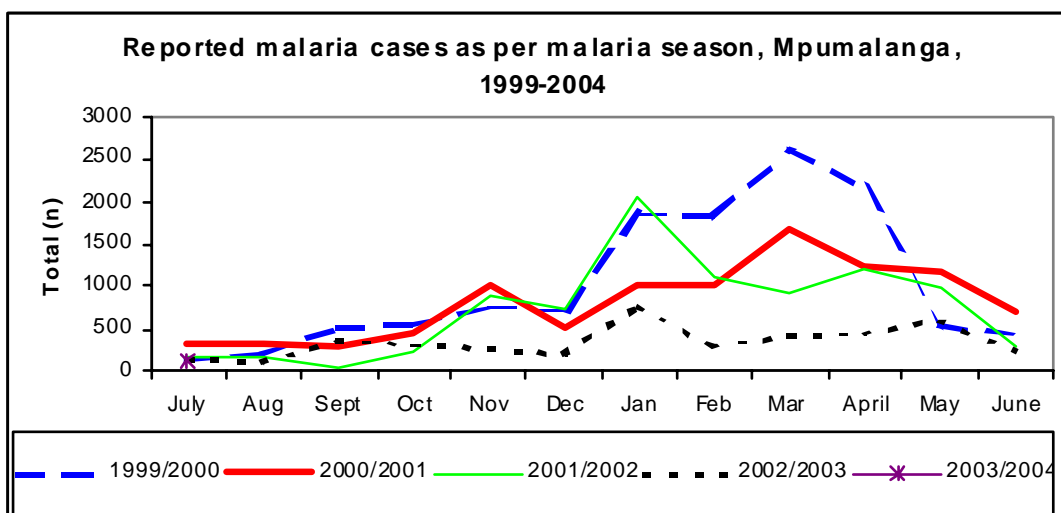
Limpopo

For the period May to July 2003, 481 malaria cases and 2 malaria deaths were reported. An unexplained increase in the number of reported malaria cases occurred in May in comparison to the same period in 2002 (Table 1). This increase in May 2003 was followed by an 80% decrease in the number of reported cases in June.



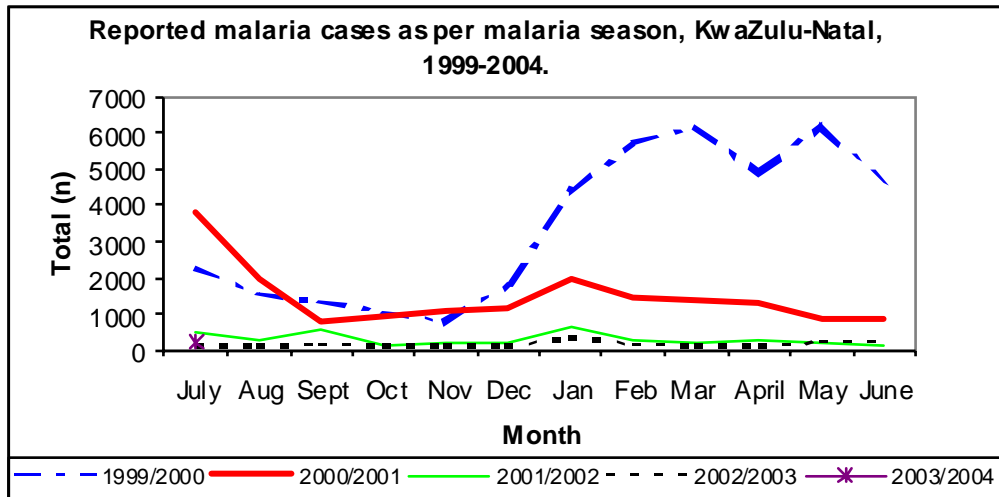
Mpumalanga

For the period May to July 2003, 921 malaria cases and 2 malaria deaths were reported. A 34% decrease in the number of reported cases occurred in comparison to the same period in 2002. For July 2003, 4 active cases were reported and 102 passive cases. Tonga and Shongwe notification municipality together accounted for 72% of the malaria cases reported for July. The remaining cases were reported from the Barbeton (7), Kabokweni (14), and Nelspruit (9) municipalities.



KwaZulu-Natal

For the period May to July 2003, 658 malaria cases and no deaths were reported. There has been a 33% increase in the number of reported cases in comparison to the same period 2002. This increase in cases has occurred in the Ubombo region. The causes of the increase are currently being investigated.



“Taxi malaria” in Rustenburg

On 5 May 2003, 3 cases of malaria were reported to the Rustenburg District Environmental Health Unit. Upon follow-up investigation, no history of travel was obtained. All three cases are resident in townhouses in the Central Business District of Rustenburg. An entomological investigation revealed no malaria vectors in the area.

Compiled by the National Malaria Control Programme, National Department of Health, with the assistance of the Provincial Malaria Control Programme Managers. Please contact Ms Johnson for any enquiries at tel no: (012) 312-0046 or e-mail: johnsc@health.gov.za

MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2000																											
MONTH	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Total	CF(%)*
PROVINCE	C*	D*	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	818	2	888	3	455	12	1085	4	386	1	147	0	96	0	120	1	207	4	1786	13	2241	13	1258	15	9487	68	0.7
Mpumalanga	1855	15	1825	13	2640	14	2184	2	537	1	452	0	327	0	322	0	278	0	444	1	998	0	528	0	12390	45	0.4
KwaZulu-Natal	4350	30	5759	42	6161	58	4926	64	6225	41	4553	21	3824	14	1987	19	763	12	937	15	1127	18	1174	6	41786	340	0.8
Rest of SA	142	2	103	2	86	0	176	1	153	0	63	0	32	0	22	0	58	0	30	0	51	0	43	0	959	5	0.5
TOTAL	7165	49	8575	60	9342	84	8371	71	7301	43	5215	21	4279	14	2451	20	1306	16	3197	29	4417	31	3003	21	64622	458	0.7
MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2001																											
MONTH	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Total	
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	1144	8	888	6	455	2	622	5	1019	9	168	3	59	1	33	0	549	5	706	5	948	13	606	4	7197	61	0.8
Mpumalanga	1039	2	1017	1	1688	0	1251	3	1151	0	704	0	164	0	143	0	40	0	235	0	907	0	722	0	9061	6	0.1
KwaZulu-Natal	1962	7	1411	4	1380	4	1245	7	864	9	820	7	508	4	271	0	536	0	106	2	163	0	207	3	9473	47	0.5
Rest of SA	209	1	126	0	101	0	54	0	128	1	35	3	19	0	24	0	29	0	14	0	16	0	20	0	775	5	0.6
TOTAL	4354	18	3442	11	3624	6	3172	15	3162	19	1727	10	750	4	471	0	1154	5	1061	7	2034	13	1555	7	26506	119	0.4
MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2002																											
MONTH	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Total	CF
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	852	6	676	3	745	8	546	2	273	3	75	0	41	1	46	0	495	13	310	1	299	6	478	1	4836	44	0.9
Mpumalanga	2078	9	1109	4	922	4	1222	2	989	4	289	1	126	0	102	1	359	0	313	1	258	1	198	2	7965	29	0.4
KwaZulu-Natal	638	5	273	6	187	0	253	1	244	2	107	1	93	0	105	0	138	0	96	0	107	1	104	0	2345	16	0.7
Rest of SA	235	5	136	0	36	2	36	0	12	0	4	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	473	7	1.5
TOTAL	3803	25	2194	13	1890	14	2057	5	1518	9	475	2	268	1	255	1	994	13	719	2	665	8	781	3	15619	96	0.6
MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2003																											
MONTH	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Total	CF
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	1685	23	607	8	275	2	465	1	372	2	70	0	39	0											3513	36	1
Mpumalanga	778	3	292	0	417	2	437	3	596	2	219	0	106	0											2845	10	0.4
KwaZulu-Natal	322	0	153	0	94	1	95	0	229	0	204	0	225	0											1322	1	0.08
Rest of SA	10	0	13	0	2		4																		29	0	N/A
TOTAL	2795	26	1065	8	788	5	1001	4	1197	4	493	0	370	0											7709	47	0.6
* CASES **DEATHS ***CASE FATALITY																											
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH																											

Table 1: Malaria cases in South Africa, 2000-2003

