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## Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 35 (2007) , No. 4 p.343

### The status of malaria before and after distribution of ITN to 2006 in two districts of Khammouanne Province,

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(Accepted December 12, 2007)

**Abstract:** In 1999, an insecticide-treated net (ITN) distribution project was implemented in several malaria-endemic villages in Lao P.D.R., namely Vientiane, Khammouanne Provinces. After the completion of the project, it was

were effective for malaria control based on the analysis of the slide positive parasites between 1999 and 2000 [6]. We conducted malariometric KAP surveys in 2005-06 to confirm the status of malaria and to determine the use of ITNs in three different socioepidemiological areas (*near city*, *remote*, and *rural* areas, represented by the Xebangfay and Boualapha districts, Khammouane Province). A marked decrease in the annual malaria incidence and slide positivity was observed from 1999 to 2006 in the two districts. The malaria prevalence was significantly lower in the *near city* areas (5.6%-10.7% in 1999 to 0% in 2005-06) and *rural* areas (10.7%-15.6% in 1999 to 0%-1% in 2005-06). Twelve positive cases were recorded in the *remote* area (7.7% in 2006).

The illiteracy rate was significantly higher among the respondents in the *remote* area (54%) than among those in the *near city* (32.7%) and *rural* (54%) areas. In the *remote* area, 50% of the villagers indicated that they were not aware of malaria. In the *near city* and *rural* areas, 80% of the respondents were found to have incorrect knowledge concerning malaria transmission. In the *remote* area, 40.9% of the respondents were aware of the methods to prevent malaria infection and 49.5% used mosquito nets throughout the year, rates significantly lower than the corresponding rates in *near city* and *rural*. The density of persons per net (3.1-5.9) was considerably higher than that in *near city* (1.8-2.1) and *rural* (2.1-3.1) areas. Malaria vector mosquitoes, such as *An. minimus* and *An. nivipes*, were identified in human-baited adult collection, and cow-baited and CDC light traps. The analysis suggested that the lower the number of persons per net the greater the reduction of malaria morbidity in these areas. It is imperative that ITN use and malaria education regarding malaria be strengthened, especially in *remote*, *rural*, and *near city* areas.

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Boualam Khamlome, Hideaki Eto, Toshihiro Mita, Miki Sakurai, Toshihiro Tsuzuki, Jun Kobayashi, Samlane Phompida and Takatoshi Kobayashi. "Malaria before and after distribution of ITNs from 1999 to 2006 in Khammouanne Province, Lao P.D.R". *Tropical Medicine and Health* (2007) .