MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES IN THAILAND:

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DENGUE, MALARIA, CHIKUNGUNYA, AND ZIKA VIRUS IN THAILAND

Mosquito-borne disease are infectious diseases that are spread by the bite of infected mosquito species such as Aedes and Anopheles that carries the pathogens. In Thailand, the common mosquito-borne diseases include dengue fever, malaria, chikungunya, and zika virus. The country has successfully managed to eliminate lymphatic filariasis, while the prevalence of yellow fever and West Nile fever is extremely low.

OCCURANCE OF MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES IN THAILAND



- In Thailand, prevalent mosquito-borne diseases are dengue fever, malaria, chikungunya, and zika virus. The primary vectors responsible for transmission include Aedes, Anopheles, Culex, and Mansonia mosquitoes.
- Thailand has previously experienced outbreaks, leading to concerted efforts to control and minimize their impact on public health.
- Notably, the government has implemented proactive measures to address the threat of these diseases, such as mandatory yellow fever vaccinations for tourists, greatly contributing to the reported cases in the country.

BURDEN OF DENGUE FEVER

Dengue fever in Thailand typically tends to surge in the rainy season between June and August. Dengue cases in Thailand have cyclical patterns, with outbreaks happening every few years.



BURDEN OF MALARIA

Malaria morbidity and mortality in Thailand have declined in the last decades due to the strengthen malaria control program headed by the Division of Vector Borne Diseases.



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BURDEN OF CHIKUNGUNYA FEVER



BURDEN OF ZIKA VIRUS

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- Chikungunya in Thailand has been mostly controlled, apart from the slight rise in 2022 due to travelers.
- Thailand has experienced *three chikungunya outbreaks*, with the first one in 1958. The strains that caused the outbreak during 2018–20 were from India and Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA). The morbidity rates of chikungunya in 2019 was 19.73 per 100,000 population but dropped to 1.17 in 2023.
- Since 2022, Thailand experienced a 300% rise in zika virus cases, mainly affecting the central and north areas of Thailand. Until 2022, an endemic stage was maintained, with occasional increases during rainy periods.
- The disease pattern indicates that zika virus has circulated at a consistently low level for at least 16 years, demonstrating its ability to adapt to persistent endemic transmission. Zika's resurgence coincides with a global dengue outbreak.

Despite a substantial reduction in malaria and chikungunya cases, Thailand still faces a prolonged challenge in completely eradicating dengue and zika. The country's proximity to high-risk nations and the continuous influx of tourists emphasize the need to combat these mosquito-borne diseases.

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