

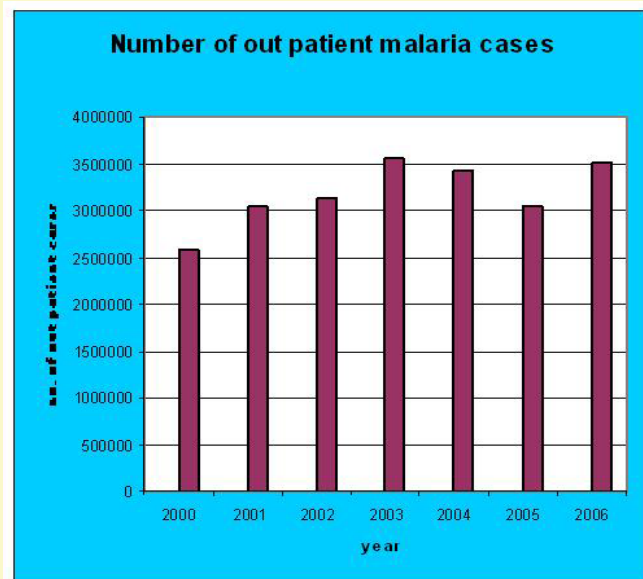
Introduction

Malaria is Ghana's main cause of mortality and morbidity. In 2006 19% of deaths, 34% of under 5 deaths and 9% of maternal deaths were a consequence of the disease

In 2006 there was 30,448,596 reported cases of adult malaria and 7,286,356 reported cases of child malaria - although it is thought that there are many more cases that go unreported and untreated.

Burden on the health sector

The burden on the sector in terms of out-patient malaria cases remains fairly constant as a proportion of overall cases. However in absolute terms an upward trend has been witnessed since 2000, and the number of out-patient cases has risen by around 1,000,000 (which can be seen in the chart below)..



The Total Economic Cost of Malaria

The total economic cost of malaria, in Ghana, is estimated to be around GH¢ 664.6 million or \$772.4 million or , i.e. GH¢ 30.04 or \$32.65 per

The estimation includes the direct costs to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and households, in terms of treatment and prevention, and indirect costs, in terms of the loss of output suffered due to the disease. The calculation is based on the number of reported cases of malaria - which is thought to be an underestimation.

The total economic cost is equivalent to:

- over twice the MoH annual budget
- the cost of 30,000 4X4 pickups
- the cost of 215,680 metric tonnes of cocoa
- the cost of around 5,546,000 barrels of oil
- approximately 10% of Ghana's GDP growth for 2006



The Economic Cost of Malaria

When calculating the economic cost of malaria for 2006, two types of cost must be accounted for direct and indirect costs. .

a) Institutional costs are estimated to be around GH¢ 87.0 million or \$94.5 million . This is equivalent to

The costs include government's expenditure on malaria treatment and prevention, through the malaria control program and a proportion of the overall health sector expenditure.

For clinical and community care this proportion is 29.35%. This is based on an estimate of the time spent by health care professionals on treating malaria calculated using a weighted average of outpatient and inpatient cases of malaria.

For policy, planning and administration a figure of 8% is used. This is calculated using a the proportion of the global fund which is spent on these malaria related activities

b) Other government costs are 0. These include any subsidies on the import of malaria related products. There are no subsidies or taxes on these products in Ghana

