

2 SEASONAL DISEASES

a Updated malaria treatment guidelines for South Africa, 2016

The National Department of Health and the South African Malaria Elimination Committee (SAMEC) have completed the updating and revision of the South African Malaria Treatment Guidelines. These are available on the NICD website at www.nicd.ac.za under the 'Diseases A-Z' tab. These guidelines are based on the 2015 World Health Organization's Guidelines for the treatment of malaria. Additional literature surveys have been undertaken. Factors that were considered in the choice of therapeutic options included effectiveness, safety, and impact on malaria transmission and on the emergence and spread of antimalarial drug resistance.

While malaria is endemic to three of South Africa's nine provinces, local transmission is restricted to the low-altitude border regions of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. Presently the majority of malaria cases are imported. Figure 1 shows the reported cases and deaths from July 2015 to November 2016.

South Africa committed itself to halt local malaria transmission within its borders by 2018. Elimination

strategy objectives are to strengthen passive and active surveillance, improve capacity to coordinate and implement malaria interventions, appropriately educate the population about malaria, and reduce the human malaria parasite reservoir. The mainstay of malaria control continues to be indoor residual insecticide spraying to substantially reduce the density of mosquito vectors in transmission areas, while limited larviciding is done in selected places. In the current malaria season there will be increased scrutiny of identified foci of transmission in endemic provinces, characterised by active case finding using sensitive molecular methods to detect submicroscopic parasite carriers, and intensified vector surveillance and control.

Source: Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical and Hospital Infections, NICD-NHLS; (johnf@nicd.ac.za); Malaria Directorate, National Department of Health (basilb@nicd.ac.za)

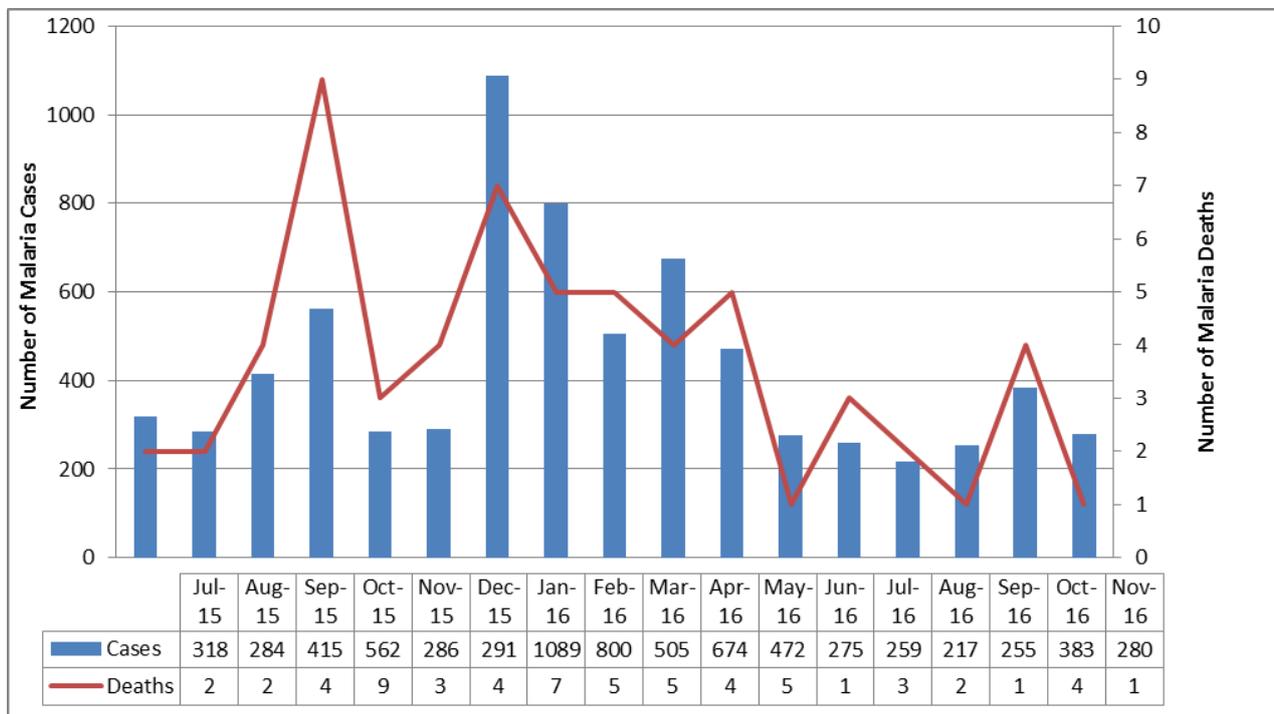


Figure 1. Malaria cases and deaths, all provinces, South Africa, July 2015-November 2016