

Vector Control Program for Toledo District Belize

- Toledo District has an active surveillance program for vector borne diseases, especially for malaria control.
- Any person seen in the Toledo district that has a temperature greater than 99.7 degrees automatically has a malaria slide done from a finger stick and is given a dose of chloroquine based on patient age.
- The slide is taken in to the vector control office in Punta Gorda where it is examined for evidence of malaria by a trained technician.
- If a case of malaria is identified vector control personnel go out to the village to provide malaria treatment for the index case and to evaluate household contacts for signs of malaria.
- Vector control personnel also look for potential sources of mosquito vectors near the index case's home and work. Any sources of mosquito vectors are dealt with and eliminated if possible. This may include eliminating sources of standing water, spraying larvicides, giving families bed nets, etc.
- This active surveillance and vector control program has led to a significant decrease in the number of cases of malaria in the Toledo district, from approximately 300 to 400 cases a year in 2006 to fewer than 30 cases in 2011. Toledo's total population is approximately 30,000 people.