

# Malaria Facts



**Fact:** Malaria is caused by the plasmodium parasite, spread by the bites of infected mosquitoes. If not treated promptly with effective medicines, malaria often is fatal.

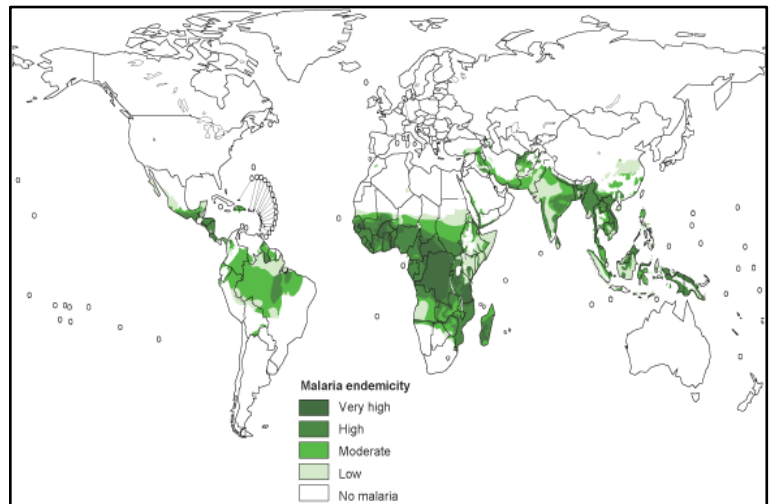
**Fact:** Every 30 seconds a child in Africa dies of malaria; that's 3,000 young lives every day.

**Fact:** Malaria kills more than one million people each year. Ninety percent of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Fact:** Malaria's symptoms include fever, chills, vomiting, severe pain, convulsions and death.

**Fact:** Malaria is a completely preventable and treatable disease.

**Fact:** Prior to 1951, Malaria was a serious public health problem in the United States. An comprehensive effort from 1947-1951 virtually eradicated malaria in this country.



**Fact:** Malaria is a disease of poverty.

It severely impacts those who cannot afford treatment or have limited access to healthcare, leading to a detrimental effect on attendance at workplaces and schools.

**Fact:** Malaria rates in parts of Africa are on the decline: after increasing net coverage and access to medication, the under-five mortality rate in Rwanda dropped by 66% in two years. In Eritrea, the overall morbidity rate decreased by 80% in just four years using similar methods.

**Fact:** Aggressive efforts in the African nations of Eritrea and Rwanda have helped cut malaria deaths in half. The country of South Africa is expected to be declared "malaria free" in advance of the 2010 World Cup.