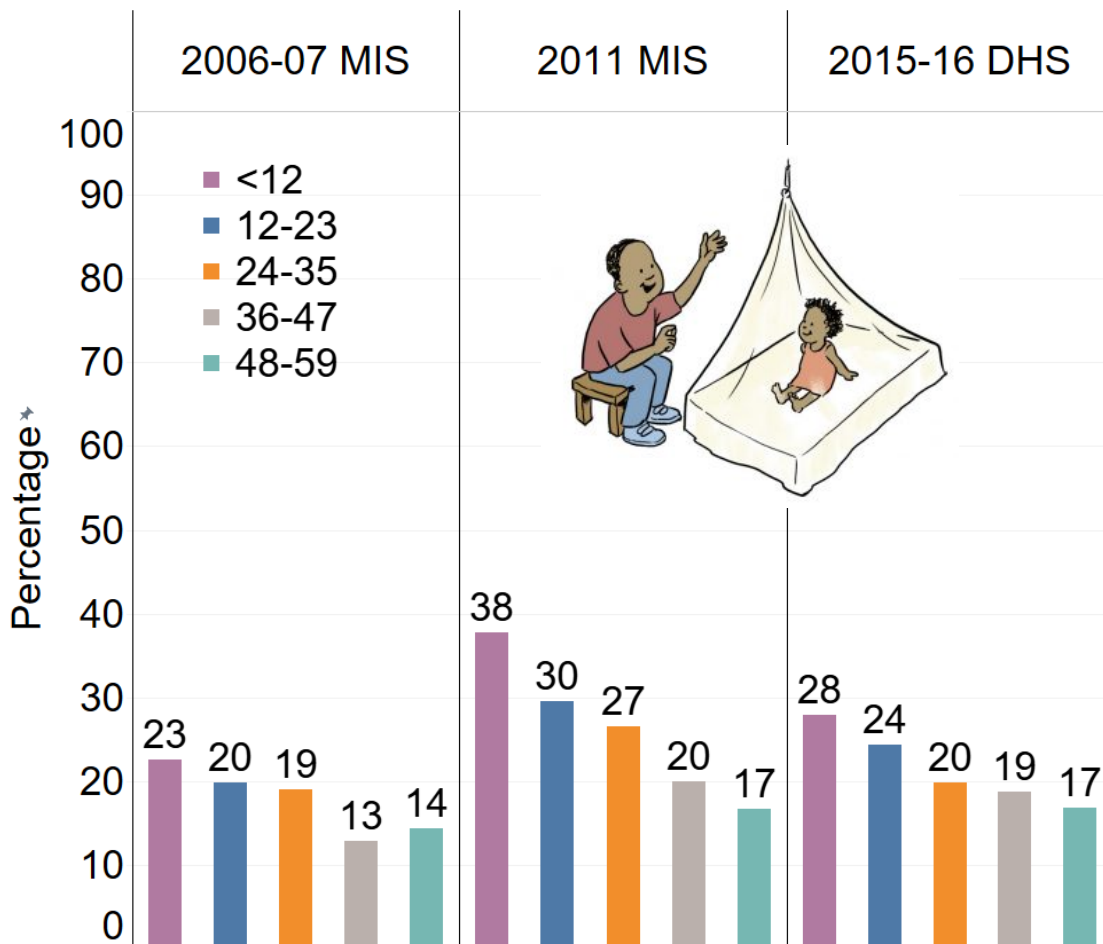




Graph 1: ITN coverage by children by age in months, National survey data, 2020



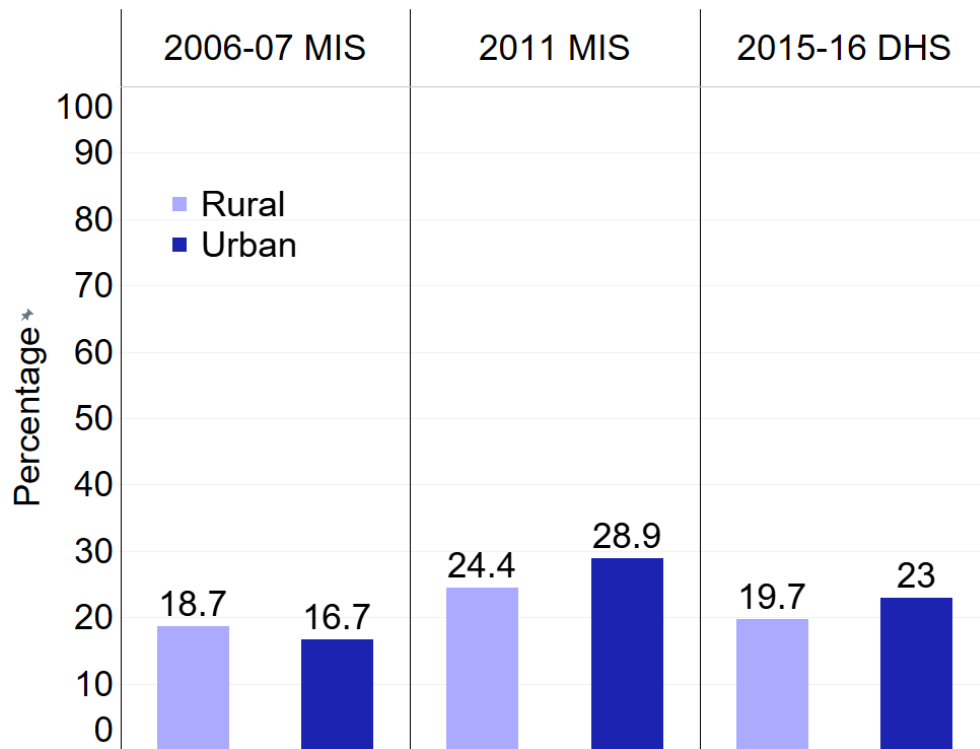
DHS: Demographic Health Survey.
MIS: Multiple Indicator survey data were used to assess inequities in access and use of ITN by under-five children

According to WHO, Africa is the world region that is most affected by malaria. And although the African continent has achieved most progress by reducing deaths from malaria from 764,000 in 2000 to 305,000 in 2015, as a result of increased distribution and use of insecticide-treated bed nets. Bed nets

According to WHO, in 2019, children under 5 years are the most vulnerable group accounting for 67% of all malaria deaths globally while the WHO African Region carries disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden estimated to be 94% of malaria cases and deaths. There were **257,950** deaths of children under 5 years of age. This translates into a daily death toll of nearly **30** children under age 5 [World malaria report 2020]. Malaria is one of the leading causes of child mortality and an urgent public health priority.

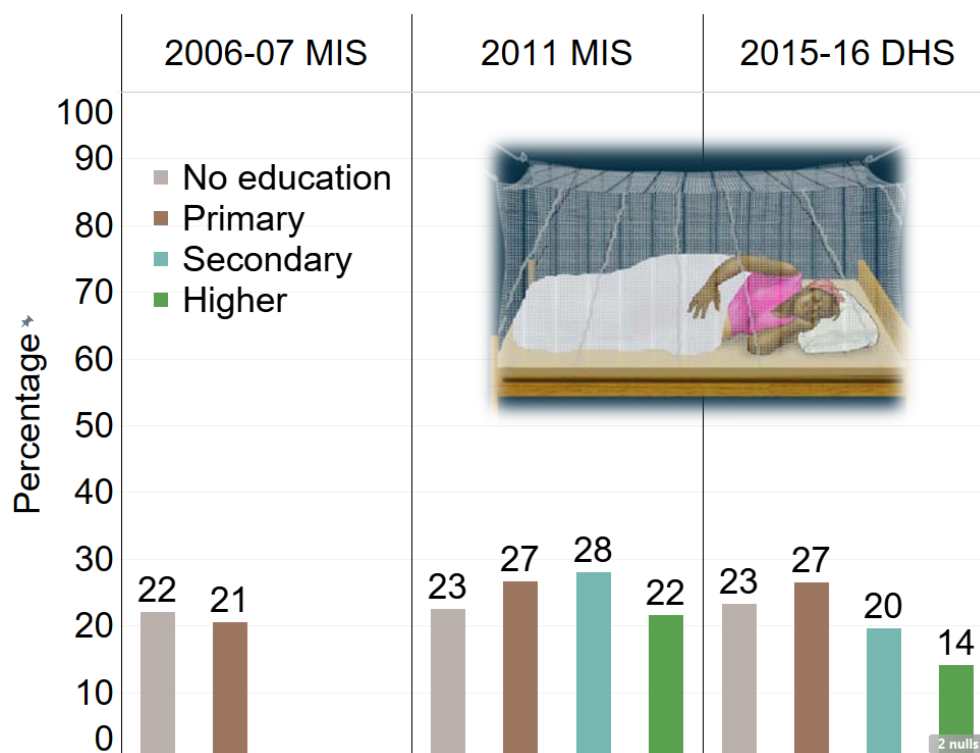
In Angola, the percentage of children under age five who slept under an insecticide treated net (ITN) the night before the survey was highest among children under 23 months old since 2006 to 2016 as shown by Graph 1. **The percentage use of ITN by children tends to decline with age**; with the percentage of children over 24 months utilizing ITNs less across all the survey years in Angola. Sleeping under an insecticide-treated net especially for the children under-five years old can reduce the burden of high mortality associated with malaria. In Angola, the ITN coverage has been declining or at a standstill since 2011 for some population groups highlighting avoidable inequities in both access and use.

Graph 2: Under-five children ITN coverage by area of residence



Graph 2 illustrates the use of ITN by children under five based on area of residence comparing the **urban and rural population groups**. And although both **urban and rural rates were low**, the ITN use was slightly higher for rural population at 18.7% compared to urban with 16.7% in 2006/07. However, this trend changed to favor those children residing in urban areas since 2011 to 2016. The decline in use from 24.4% to 19.7% for rural population group and 28.9% to 23% for urban residents for the period 2011 and 2015/16 respectively highlights inequities when comparing area of residence. **This shows that the rural areas are at a disadvantage for ITN coverage for most years surveyed** and the government of Angola needs to reduce these avoidable inequities between the different population groups to ensure health for all, at all ages everywhere by 2030.

Graph 3: Pregnant women ITN coverage by education level



Graph 3 summarizes trends, focusing on the most recent changes in ITN use among pregnant women based on their level of education between 2006 and 2016 in Angola. The inequities related to ITN use amongst pregnant women associated with educational achievements were more evident comparing 2011 and 2016 trends. Pregnant women with primary and secondary level of education were likely to own and utilize an ITN. For example, in 2011, 28% and 27% (2016) pregnant women with secondary education used ITN compared to 23% in both 2011 and 2016 with no education.

Angola: Inequities in insecticide-treated net (ITN) use

use

July
2021



Inequities in ITN use is less pronounced in 2007 comparing pregnant women with primary education and no formal education but worth noticing is the decrease in ITN use between pregnant women with secondary and higher educational achievements in 2011 and 2016, implying loss of gains made in ensuring more pregnant women utilize ITNs highlighting the need for policy change to address the inequities by enhancing access to the cost-effective and lifesaving intervention in Angola.

Map 1: Pregnant women ITN coverage by region



Map 1 illustrates inequities associated with geographical regions in Angola (2015-2016 DHS). For example, pregnant women residing in Lunda Sul, Lunda Norte, Uíge, Malanje, Bié, Huambo, Cuanza Sul and Cuanza Norte regions had more than 31% chances of owning and utilizing ITNs than those residing in **Cunene, Huíla and Bengo** regions with less than 10%. These are pronounced geographical based inequities across different regions of Angola which also reflects the level of social and economic status of the regions.

In conclusion, insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) have been shown to be an effective and cost-effective means for the control of malaria and reduction of malaria related deaths especially among children under 5 years and pregnant women [World malaria report 2020].

The 2001 Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria by African Heads of State, committed to the goal of increasing coverage with ITNs to 60% of target [WHO, 2000] and similarly, the Sustainable Development Goal - SDG 3, targets 3.2 calls for all countries to end all preventable deaths among under 5 years of age and target 3.3 emphasizes the need to fight communicable diseases by 2030. These commitments can only be achieved by ensuring no population group is left behind due to lack of access to essential lifesaving interventions.