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**Prevalence of Malaria infection among the under fives attending Busia County Referral Hospital Laboratory between January-December 2017**

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### **Background**

According to the World Malaria report 2016, there were 212 Million cases of malaria and approximately 438,000 deaths due to Malaria infection.90% of these deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa and 70% are of children aged below 5 years old. It is the leading cause of Morbidity in children with 10% of all deaths among the under fives which is equivalent to one child in Sub-Saharan Africa dying of Malaria every 2 Minutes.

In Kenya, More than 4 Million cases of Malaria are reported annually and P.falciparum species being the most frequently associated with severe Malaria accounting to 80-90% of all the cases in the country.

### **Objective:**

Determine the Prevalence of Malaria among the under fives Between Jan-Dec 2017 at Busia County Referral Hospital Laboratory.

### **Methodology:**

A retrospective data record review was done using Parasitology register to determine the Prevalence of Malaria among the under fives, determine the Positivity rates throughout the year and finally, find out the Malaria infection by Gender. Finally, data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel 2010.

### **Results**

Prevalence of Malaria was at 24.0% for under fives during the year 2017, Highest Positivity rates were as follows 16.4%(418), 18.0%(460), 12.3%(312) for the Months of April, May and June respectively. The Month of May registering highest Positivity of 18.0% (460). Female children were more affected by Malaria 58.7% (6224) compared to 41.3%(4379) for the Males.

### **Conclusion**

The prevalence of Malaria among the under fives is significant and this could be Probably due their immune status therefore the Public Health Department has a major role in Prevention and Control of the Parasite causing Malaria infection