

Abstract title:

Diarrheal episodes and health practices of families in an urban slum in Mumbai
[Abstract #PS19.5]

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Introduction:

The causative association of poor water, hygiene, and sanitation with water-borne illness is well established. Populations in urban slums such as the Mumbai slum, Kaula Bandar, have less access to sufficient quantities of safe drinking water and thus a higher burden of water-borne illness. This burden of disease carries real monetary costs in the form of lost days of employment as well as health care access and medicine costs from increased episodes of illness, and ultimately robs the marginalized slum populations of the few resources they possess.

Objectives:

This project aims to: 1) determine the costs for residents of Kaula Bandar to obtain water of appropriate quantity, quality, and reliability by either their own existing water supply or government supplied water; and 2) determine the monetary costs of the waterborne illness in Kaula Bandar attributable to water sanitation, hygiene, water quantity and quality.

Methods:

The study takes place in the Mumbai slum, Kaula Bandar (KB) in partnership with the NGO Partners for Urban Knowledge Action and Research (PUKAR) and entails: 1) a one time survey for baseline data about water access, hygiene, and sanitation and household expenditures of all households in the KB slum; and 2) weekly surveys of each slum household in the community with active cases of diarrhea to estimate the costs incurred.

Results and Conclusions:

The data collection for this study will be completed by the end of July 2011. We anticipate that the economic analysis of waterborne illness in the Mumbai slum, Kaula Bandar, will enable PUKAR to show the community stakeholders and policy-makers that investment in clean water leads to lower overall costs to each household and is financially sustainable.

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