



Advocacy for Public Health Insecticides

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Vector Control

- Public health professionals have limited options with few effective, safe public health insecticides



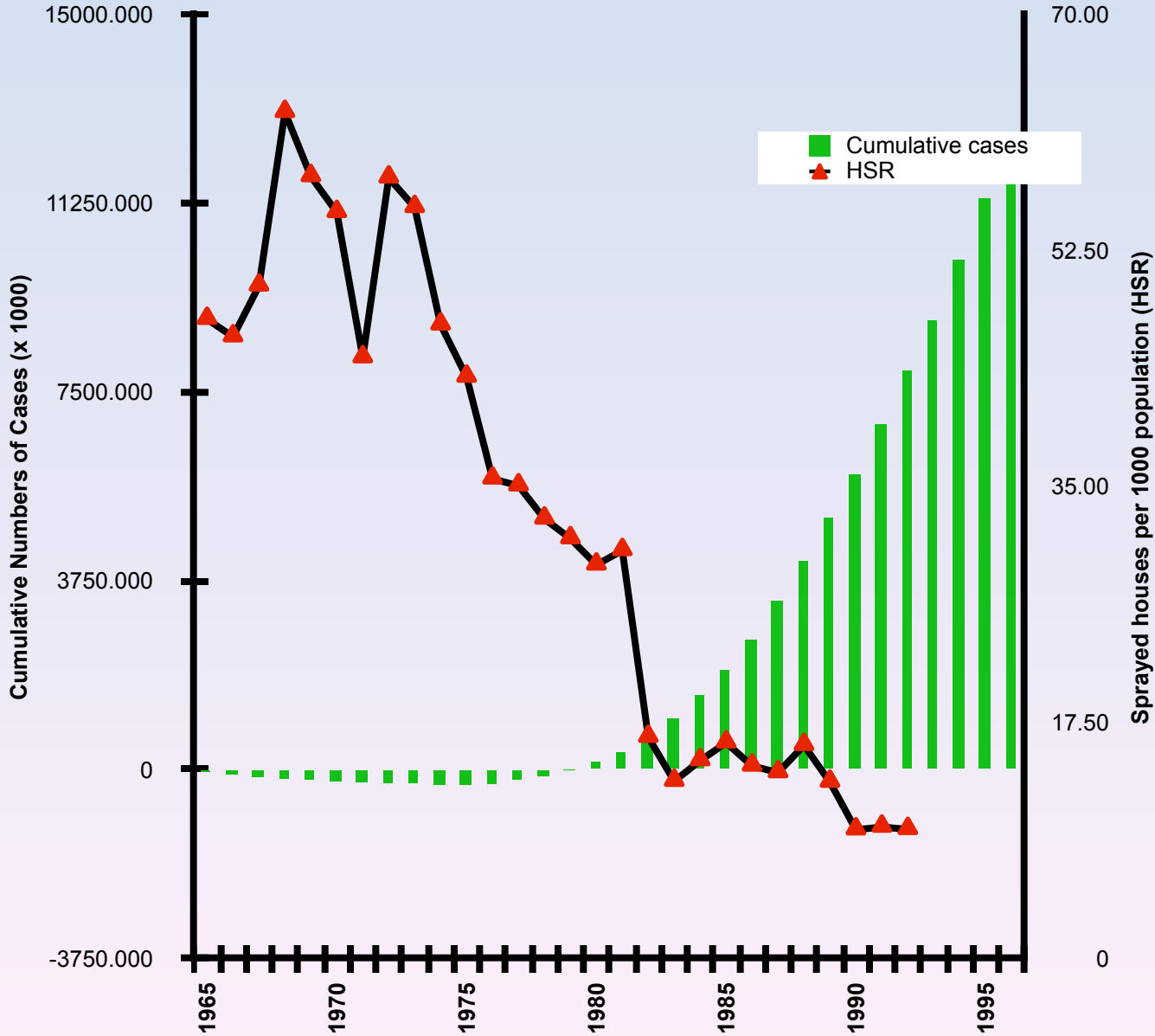
Insecticides

- Control of vector borne diseases require safe and effective insecticides;
- Even where a safe and effective vaccine exists – e.g. Yellow Fever, robust vector control is needed for disease prevention and to control epidemics;
- Despite growing awareness of malaria & other vector borne diseases, there is little advocacy for insecticide spraying & new insecticides.

Pressure against insecticide use

- Anti-insecticides pressure rises in 1970s;
- DDT banned in Sweden, US & many other countries by 1972;
- World Health Assembly 1975, several countries complain of DDT price rises & lack of availability;
- Pleas to WHO to assist in procuring DDT, which is still permitted for use in malaria control.
- 1993, PAHO prohibits use of PAN 'Dirty Dozen'
- 1997 World Health Assembly Resolution (50.13) calls on countries to reduce reliance on insecticides for disease control.

House Spray Rates, 1965-92, and Cumulative Malaria Cases, pre- vs. post-1979 (Brazil, Colombia, Ecu



Advocacy against insecticides ...

- Carson & Environmentalists, Ehrlich & Population Control Movement.
- PAN – seek to replace insecticides with “ecologically sound, socially just alternatives” even where alternatives don’t exist.
- WHO Executive Board meeting prior to 1997
WHA – Consumers International lobby against DDT. WHO records no malaria scientists defending DDT.

Advocacy for Insecticides

- Advocacy groups have successfully increased funding & research for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria & vaccines, neglected diseases;
- Most malaria advocacy focuses only on LLINs, drugs – very little outspoken advocacy for new insecticides;
- WHO documents need for new insecticides, but provides little leadership or action for new chemicals.
- Little recognition of the range of actions –

EU anti insecticides advocacy

- 2001, Pesticide Action Network call for adoption of Precautionary Principle under Directive 91/414;
- **“genuine public participation, such as citizens’ juries”**
- **“Ultimately politicians and the wider society should decide what is safe ... not scientists”**
- **“Pesticides ... which are found possibly to cause irreversible effects or disrupt endocrine function should be banned or should never be approved, even for use by trained users.”**

Way forward

- Urgent need for strong, science-based public advocacy for insecticides;
- Challenge and push back against campaigns to limit man-made chemicals in disease control;
- Question wholesale adoption of Precautionary Principle ... how can we evaluate the risks of NOT having pesticides available?
- Push for pro-active regulations that encourage R&D for new public health insecticides;
- Embrace the full range of actions of insecticides – based on evidence since 1940s.
- Would HIV/AIDS activists ever permit activists to campaign against use of ARVs?