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## Chagas disease: Can a threshold for bug infestation rate exist?

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### Background & Objectives

## Background

- Chagas disease is one of 14 NTDs, which causes USD 1.2 billion of productivity loss, per year.
- Vectoral transmission accounts for 80% of Chagas disease transmissions. *Triatoma dimidiata* is one of major vectors in Central America.
- Without scientific justification, 5% has been used as the *T. dimidiata* infestation rate threshold, to determine whether universal insecticide spraying must be done.

## Background & Objectives

### Research Question

- Does a justifiable threshold of infestation rate exist?

### Objectives

- Assess the existence of a threshold for *T. dimidiata* infestation rate, below which Chagas disease transmission becomes unlikely.
- If it exists, crudely estimate increase/reduction in spray-related costs, through applying the threshold.

## Methods-1/2

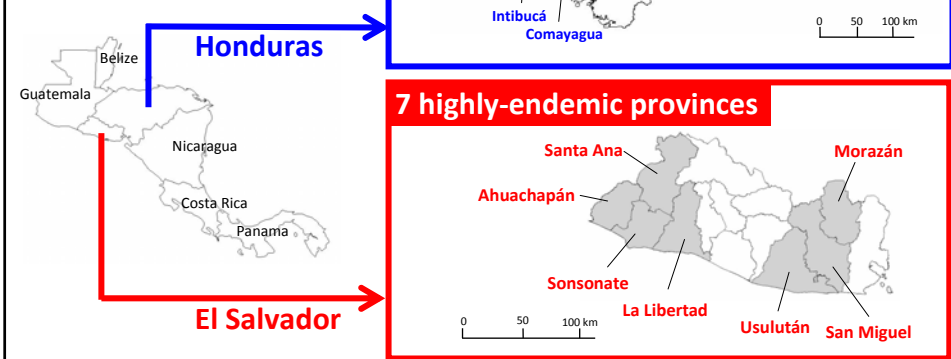
### Study areas

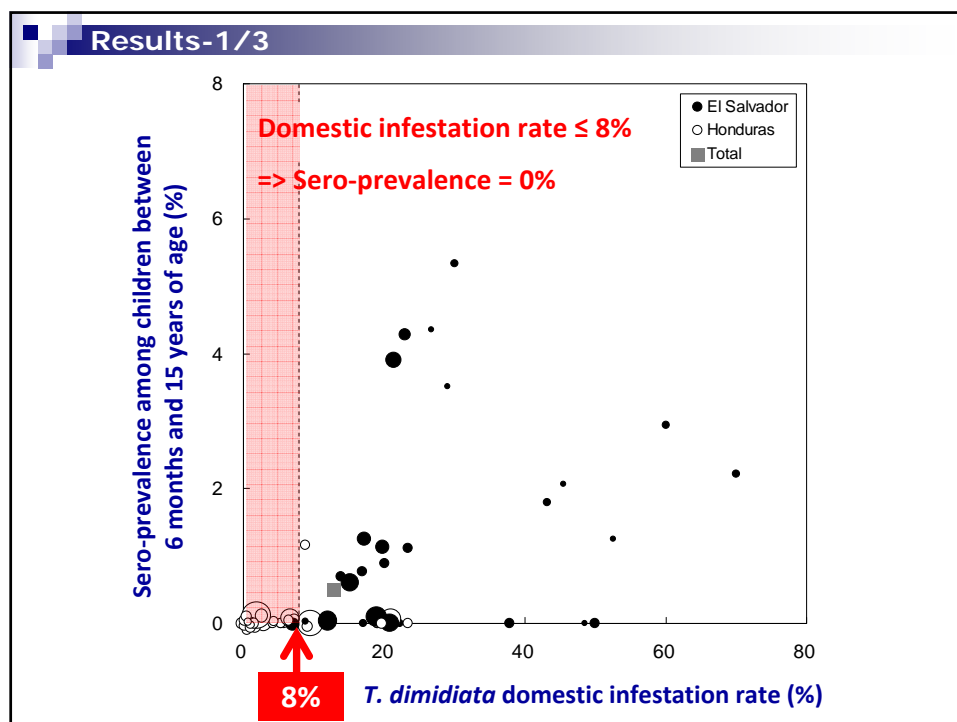
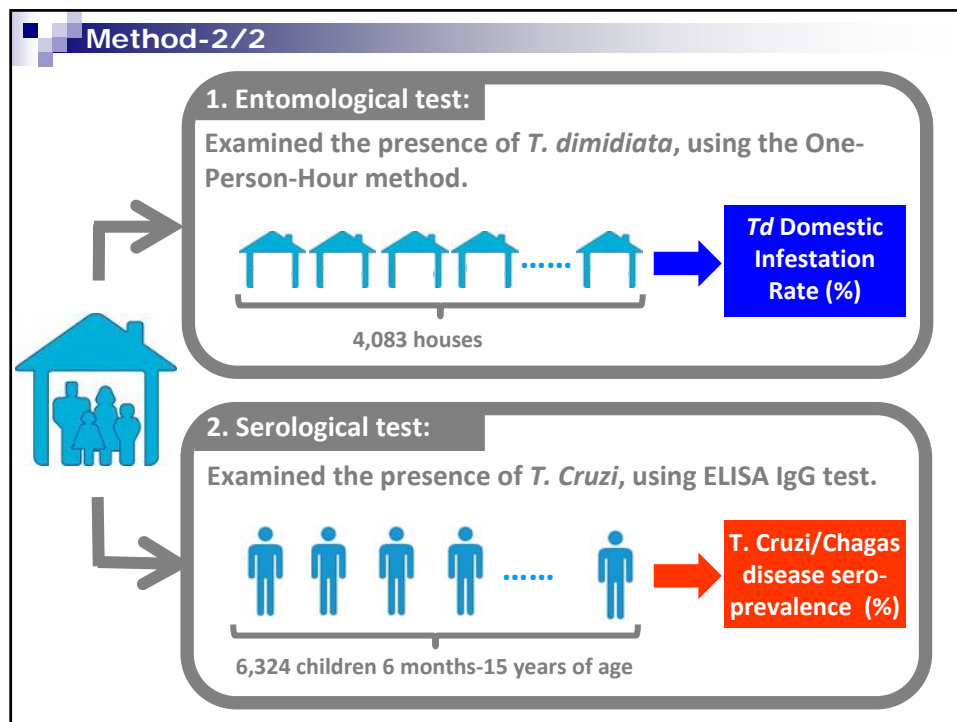
#### [Targets]

59 communities infested only with *Td* bugs in 15 highly-endemic provinces

#### [Survey type]

Census = all houses + all children 6mo-15yr of age





### Results-2/3

#### Relationship between *T. dimidiata* domestic infestation rate threshold 8% and sero-prevalence

		Sero-prevalence among children 6 mo-15 yr of age		Total
		= 0%	> 0%	
<i>T. dimidiata</i> domestic infestation rate	0-8%	29 (49.2%)	0 (0%)	29 (49.2%)
	> 8%	13 (22.0%)	17 (28.8%)	30 (50.8%)
Total		42 (71.2%)	17 (28.8%)	59 (100%)

<sup>a</sup> Number of communities

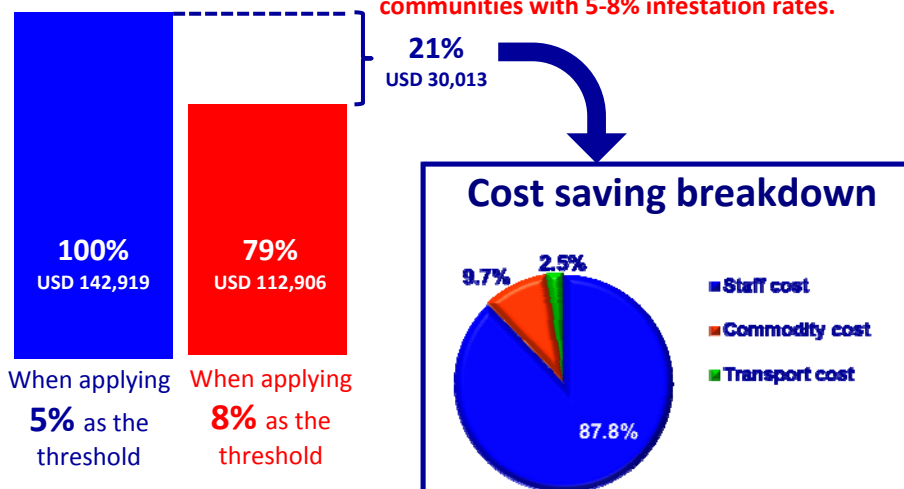
<sup>b</sup> Chi-square test:  $P < 0.001$

Universal spraying should be done, only when infestation rate is **found to be greater than 8%** in routine surveillance.

### Results-3/3

#### Crude estimates of cost saving

By avoiding unnecessary spraying in communities with 5-8% infestation rates.



## Conclusion and Recommendations

- An infestation rate of **8% could serve as the threshold** below which transmission would become unlikely.
- Application of an 8% threshold could **reduce 21% of spraying-related costs**, by avoiding unnecessary spraying in communities with 5-8% infestation rate.
- Though there is need for further studies to increase precision of 8%, 8% could be **applied in resource-constraint situations**.



**Many thanks for  
your attention!**

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