Papua and West Papua Provinces have the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Indonesia. In 2009, 94.4% HIV/AIDS cases in Papua Province were transmitted through heterosexual intercourse and HIV/AIDS cases among 15–19 years of age were in the fourth rank. A study in 2007 revealed 46.9% Junior High School students in the province had misconception on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention. Previous studies also found high-risk sexual behaviours in some Papuan cultures, including multiple sex partners and early initiation of sexual activity. These features motivated the first author to carry out the 2009. Reducing the Risk of HIV/AIDS: Intervention Trial for Young Papuans Study. 16 Senior High Schools were randomly selected and agreed to participate to either receive the HIV/AIDS and reproductive health program or act as a control group. Students of Year 11 from the selected schools (N = 1082) took a pre test and 2 months later, a post-assessment test. The aim of this study was to analyse the association between knowledge of 25 HIV/AIDS and reproductive health questions on the pre test and the self-reported sexual behaviours before the intervention. We also used qualitative method to explore perspectives and experiences on sexuality. Results showed more than 50% students had limited knowledge on HIV testing, safe sex and STDS prevention. Although female students had better knowledge test and demonstrated less sexual intercourse experiences (28.5% compared to 46.5% of males), they carried a more unfavourable condition related to the impact of premarital sex, including pregnancy and unsafe abortion.

The first highland malaria outbreak and associated deaths was reported in May 2010 from several villages in Homeyo District, Papua Province. Homeyo is 1900 M above sea level with 15–25 C air temperature, an uncommon condition for mosquitoes to breed. The epidemiological and parasitological survey in June 2010 conducted by the Papua Health Department found Plasmodium Falciparum cases were 44.23%, 6.73%, 20.27% and 7.40%, respectively. Based on verbal autopsy, the team found 36 death cases due to malaria suspect. The entomological survey was intended to identify the species and breeding habitat of suspected mosquito vectors, and the distribution of the highland malaria cases related to the village location and breeding habitat within a highland area. The malaria outbreak affecting mostly young adult-males. Drinking water from contaminated River-A was the major risk-factor. Boiling or chlorination of water was initiated based on our recommendations and this controlled the outbreak.

Background Cholera is an acute infectious illness with profuse watery diarrhoea caused by toxigenic Vibrio cholerae serogroup O1 or O139. In Ghana, over 9000 cholera-cases with 250 deaths were recorded in 1999. On 29 October 2010, the East-Akim Municipality (EAM) received a report of suspected cholera outbreak. We investigated to characterise the outbreak, and implement control and preventive measures.

Methods We interviewed health workers, reviewed medical records, conducted environmental assessment and obtained water and stool samples for laboratory test. A descriptive study followed by unmatched case-control study was conducted. A suspected cholera-case was a person with acute watery diarrhoea, with or without vomiting in EAM from 1 October to 20 November 2010. We analysed data descriptively and risk factors were identified using χ² test at 95% confidence level.

Results Of 136 case-patients, 77 (56.6%) were males. Index-case occurred on October 13th, and case-patients peaked (13.4%) 2 November. Attack rate was 2/1000 population; no death. Ages ranged from 1 to 84 years; mean of 54±18. Age-group 20–29 (30.1%) was mostly affected with Tafo Sub-Municipality having most case-patients (19.9%). V cholerae serotype Ogawa was isolated from stool samples. We observed pollution of River-A with sand-washings by small-scale miners. Compared to controls, case-patients were more likely to have drunk from River-A. [OR 5.80, 95% CI 2.45 to 13.74].

Conclusion V cholerae serotype Ogawa caused the EAM cholera-outbreak affecting mostly young adult-males. Drinking water from contaminated River-A was the major risk-factor. Boiling or chlorination of water was initiated based on our recommendations and this controlled the outbreak.

Background Income, education, work and access to prevention measures have been identified as socioeconomic aspects related to malaria. For groups at risk such as pregnant women these aspects are little known, particularly outside Africa. The objective of this study was to determine socioeconomic aspects of pregnant women associated to malaria in a Latinamerican region.

Methods A case-control study was conducted from April 2005 to December 2006 in unstable transmission malaria region. Case was pregnant who had positive thick blood smear for Plasmodium during antenatal care or delivery. Data were collected by physician using a structured questionnaire that enquired about education,