

SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT *Aedes aegypti* AND ARBOVIRUSES OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE SANTOS DUMONT NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY OF CÁCERES/ MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL.

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Abstract

Arboviruses such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika cause major outbreaks every year in many countries. The main control for these diseases is the fight against the *Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti* (L.) mosquito. For this to happen, it is important that the population is informed and participative. The aim of this study was to survey the socioeconomic profile of residents of the Santos Dumont neighborhood in Cáceres/MT and their knowledge of *Aedes aegypti* and arboviruses. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the State University of Mato Grosso (opinion no. 6.717.917), in which the residents answered a structured questionnaire. Of all those interviewed, 52% were female and 48% male, and 76.2% had incomplete primary education and an income of up to one minimum wage. The majority (90%) were over 60 years old. With regard to knowledge of *Ae. aegypti*, 85.7% of the residents said they had heard of the mosquito, and around 52.7% had already contracted a disease transmitted by *Ae. aegypti*. However, 66.7% don't take part in community activities on arbovirus vectors and 75% think that the community, including the government and the population, are primarily responsible for combating the mosquito. Furthermore, 76.2% reported that awareness campaigns about *Aedes aegypti* could be more efficient and 31.6% said that endemic disease agents had never been to their neighborhood. Furthermore, 80% believe that *Aedes aegypti* has a significant impact on public health. The data reveals that, even with knowledge about the mosquito, there is a lack of preventive measures that contribute to the spread of arboviruses, showing that there are gaps in community participation and in the effectiveness of awareness campaigns. The data also reinforces the importance of integrated actions between the population and public authorities, prioritizing initiatives that increase community awareness.

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