Chagas is recognized by the W.H.O. as one of the world’s neglected tropical diseases. *Trypanosoma cruzii*, the causative parasite of Chagas, is transmitted to humans living in tropical and subtropical climates by members of the Reduviid bug family. Although Chagas is endemic in 21 central and south American countries, Belize was chosen as the focus of this study given the intercountry differences in climate, housing, and vector prevalence.

**INTRODUCTION**

The knowledge of Chagas Disease would be greater in the southern regions of Belize due to higher vector presence.

**METHODS**

A 69 question, cross-sectional study was conducted June – August 2017 to compare the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) between villages in northern and southern Belize. Knowledge of Chagas disease was assessed based on:

- ability to identify the vector
- recognition of disease symptoms
- understanding of transmission dynamics

Surveys were digitally administered using ONA’s survey platform. Data analysis was conducted in ONA and excel. Review and approval of this research was provided by the Belize Ministry of Health and the Eck Institute for Global Health at Notre Dame University.

**RESULTS**

- **Gender of Respondents**:
  - Male: 41
  - Female: 100

- **Age of Respondents**:
  - 20-30: 6
  - 31-40: 29
  - 41-50: 12
  - 51-60: 6
  - 61+: 7

- **Education Level of Respondents**:
  - No Formal Schooling: 5
  - Incomplete Primary School: 14
  - Complete Primary School: 56
  - Incomplete Secondary School: 38
  - Complete Secondary School: 25
  - Postsecondary and above: 5

- **Chagas Symptoms: Northern Villages**
  - Yes: 17
  - No: 36
  - % Correct: 44%

- **Chagas Symptoms: Southern Villages**
  - Yes: 12
  - No: 37
  - % Correct: 36%

- **Identification of Vector: Northern Villages**
  - Correct ID: 40%

- **Identification of Vector: Southern Villages**
  - Correct ID: 53%

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Dr. Elaine Kohler Summer Academy of Global Health Research for funding this project. The Belize Ministry of Health for their support of this project and in-country guidance. The Vector Control Officers of Belize, with special thanks to Orlando Chen and Serena Cal for welcoming us into the southern villages. HECOPAB for their partnership, dedication to the project, and continued friendship.

**CONCLUSION**

We conclude that while the knowledge of Chagas Disease and the disease vector is higher in southern Belize, less is known of the illness and associated symptoms.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Continued data analysis
- Expansion of KAP administration into additional villages in northern, southern and central Belize