



# Methodological Evaluation of Public Health Surveillance Systems in Uganda: A Randomized Field Trial on System Reliability

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**Published:** 12 October 2008 | **Received:** 08 June 2008 | **Accepted:** 22 August 2008

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18864819](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18864819)

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## Abstract

Public health surveillance systems in Uganda are crucial for monitoring infectious diseases such as cholera and malaria. However, their reliability under real-world conditions needs to be rigorously assessed. A mixed-method approach combining quantitative data analysis with qualitative interviews was employed. The study used a stratified random sampling method to select sentinel sites representing diverse regions across Uganda. The findings indicate that the surveillance systems in some areas underperform, particularly in rural settings where response times were significantly longer (mean delay of 3 days) compared to urban centers (mean delay of 1 day). While overall system performance was satisfactory, there is a notable disparity in service delivery quality across different geographic regions. Investment should be prioritised in improving infrastructure and training for healthcare workers in rural areas to reduce delays in reporting and response times. Public health surveillance systems, Uganda, Randomized field trial, System reliability, Cholera, Malaria Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{logit}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** Sub-Saharan, surveillance, reliability, methodology, data, quality, validity

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