

Abstract

How exactly is it

Tie in some sort of lesson

The most common Bolivian diseases are malaria, dengue, yellow fever and Chagas. All of these diseases are vector-borne illnesses. Chagas is a parasitic disease caused by *Trypanosoma cruzi* and is spread by its vector, the kissing bug. It is estimated that 25% of Bolivians have Chagas disease which can result in death. Rural areas of Bolivia are where Chagas is most prevalent. We wish to understand the socioeconomic and cultural factors that effect the prevalence of Chagas disease in rural Bolivia. In rural areas, commuting to hospitals requires driving or traversing through the mountainous Bolivian terrain. Also, the socioeconomic status is much lower meaning there is a lack of resources and medical knowledge to prevent the spread of Chagas. Finally, a need to continually work in order to survive supersedes the time investment to be tested or treated for disease. During my trip to Bolivia, I was able to see that Chagas disease is deeply ingrained into the culture. Despite doing rotations in the heart of city of Tarija where the disease is less prevalent, it is standard within hospitals to ask whether the patient is affected by Chagas as part of the initial information gathered by providers. This highlights the significant impacts of Chagas on the daily lives of Bolivians.

I was originally planning to do, but For future people in the program, if I could repeat the whole process, this is what I think you should focus on privacy issues.