







Fig. 1. Map of Texas showing the location of the study area (star symbol) in the south-central region. The map is divided into five regions: north (red), northwest (yellow), central (green), southwest (blue) and southeast (purple). The scale bar represents 100 miles.

into those with <90 eligible residents and those with  $\geq 90$  eligible residents. In the small communities (<90 residents), all eligible individuals ( $N \sim 266$ ) were invited to participate. In the larger

communities ( $\geq 90$  residents), a PDA-based algorithm was applied in the field to randomly select 12% of the households and their members for inclusion in the evaluation ( $N \sim 223$ ).

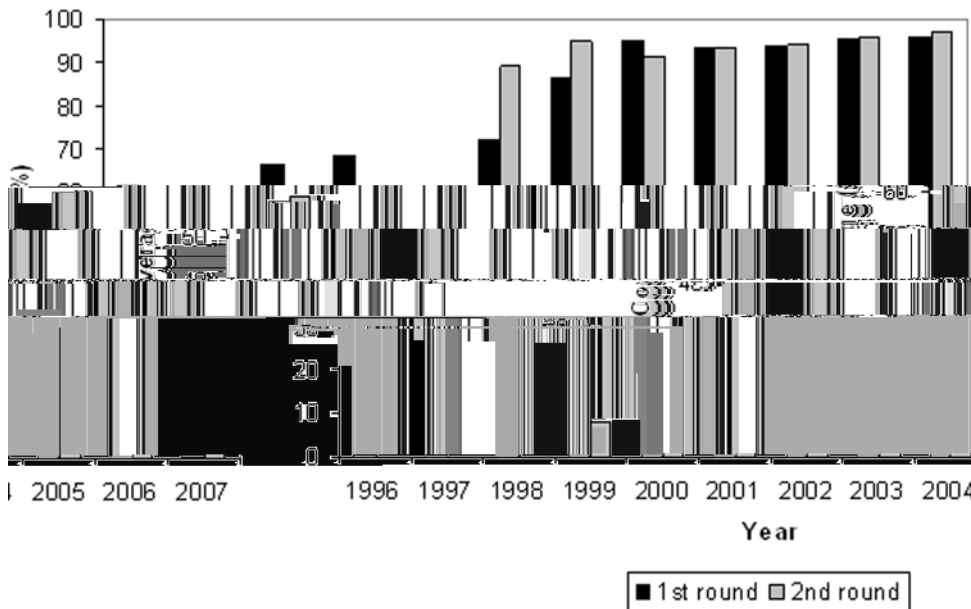


Fig. 2. Percentage of participants in the 1st and 2nd rounds of the study from 1996 to 2004. The Y-axis represents the percentage of participants (0 to 100). The X-axis represents the Year. The legend indicates that black bars represent the 1st round and grey bars represent the 2nd round.



blood directly after the finger prick. Children who didn't attend school on the appointed day were traced to their homes and asked to participate. Blood samples were processed within two months of collection using a standard ELISA [12].

*O. volvulus* transmission in the Escuintla-Guatemala focus was extensively documented from 1979 to 1984 by the Guatemala-Japan Cooperative Project on Onchocerciasis Research and Control, which conducted a large-scale larval elimination program in the area around the town of San Vicente Pacaya in the Department of Escuintla [21]. Several communities in that area

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