

Online Appendix for:
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN CENTRAL AFRICA

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Appendix A. Appendix

Data Sources and Variable Definitions

The historical data for the colonial medical campaigns for sleeping sickness are from digitized archival records from the *Service Historique de la Defense* archives in Toulon, France. For a complete list of the archival records consulted and their call numbers, refer to [Lowes and Montero \(2018\)](#).

The modern data are from the Demographic and Health Surveys for Cameroon (2004 and 2011), Gabon (2012), Congo (2009 and 2011), Central African Republic (1994) and Chad (1996, 2004, 2014). Standard errors are clustered at the ethnic group-district level for Cameroon, at the colonial sub-district level for Gabon, Central African Republic, and Chad (2014), and at the district level for Congo and Chad (1996, 2004).

We construct the following indexes for the use of traditional medicine and the proxy for belief in the supernatural from the DHS:

- *Traditional Medicine for Birth Control Index* is a standardized index combining the following indicator variables (equal to 1 if answer is yes, 0 if no, missing otherwise): (1) uses traditional methods for current birth control, (2) has knowledge of at least one traditional method for current birth control, and (3) uses traditional methods to delay pregnancy, where traditional methods according to the DHS are: Periodic Abstinence (Rhythm), Withdrawal, and Abstinence. Modern methods are Pill, IUD, Injections, Diaphragm, Condom, Female Sterilization, Male Sterilization, Implants, female condom, Foam/Jelly and lactational amenorrhea. Traditional methods are Periodic Abstinence (Rhythm), Withdrawal, and Abstinence. Folkloric methods are the category "other". If a respondent knows both a traditional method and a modern method then the modern method takes priority and she is coded as knowing a modern method. Similarly, if a respondent knows a traditional method and a folkloric method, the traditional method takes priority.
- *Traditional Medicine for Pregnancy Index* is a standardized index combining the following indicator variables: (1) used traditional birth attendant prior to birth for at least one child, (2) used traditional birth attendant during birth for at least one child, (3) used a traditional birth attendant for a health check for herself for at least one birth, and (4) used a traditional birth attendant for a health check for her child for at least one birth.
- *Traditional Medicine for Advice Index* is a standardized index combining the following indicator variables: (1) used a traditional practitioner for advice during last diarrhea occurrence, (2) used a traditional practitioner for advice during last fever or cough occurrence, and (3) used a traditional practitioner for advice during last fever or convulsion occurrence.
- *Traditional Medicine Combined Index* is the average of the three previous indexes and is standardized to have mean zero and standard deviation one.
- *Witchcraft Cause for HIV* is an indicator variable equal to 1 if the respondent answers affirmatively that HIV can be caused by witchcraft.

Below, we describe the sets of controls included in the regressions (refer to table notes):

- *Baseline Controls*: All regressions control for age, age squared, gender, urban-rural status and include survey round fixed effects.

- *Geography and Climate Controls* includes mean temperature, mean precipitation, mean land suitability, the mean surface area, centroid latitude, centroid longitude and mean altitude of each region.
- *Disease Suitability Controls* includes mean malaria ecology index and tse tse fly suitability.
- *Colonial Controls* includes total number of slaves taken from each main ethnic group in a region during the Atlantic slave trade and the distance to the closest mission in each main ethnic group in a region.
- *Colonial Medicine* includes Share of Years Visited, which measures the share of years the mobile medical teams visited a region for sleeping sickness treatment between 1921 and 1956 described in [Lowe and Montero \(2018\)](#).
- *Pre-Colonial Controls* includes level of centralization, use of plow, whether indigenous slavery was practiced, and whether agriculture was practiced for each main ethnic group in a region from the Ethnographic Atlas. These variables are only available for a sub-sample of observations since the Ethnographic Atlas does not contain this information for all ethnic groups in the countries in the sample.
- *Contemporary Controls* includes educational attainment fixed effects, religion fixed effects, and wealth index fixed effects.

References

Lowe, Sara, and Eduardo Montero. 2018. "The Legacy of Colonial Medicine in Central Africa." Unpublished.