



Factors influencing the Use of Malaria Prevention Methods Among Women of Reproductive Age in Peri-urban Communities of Port Harcourt City, Nigeria

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Introduction

Malaria remains a major national concern in Nigeria, with severe implications for maternal and child health. The use of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) and Intermittent Preventive Treatment in pregnancy (IPTp) against malaria by women of reproductive age is a key factor to the actualisation of malaria control in Nigeria

Objective

- To assess ownership of ITN and use of ITN and IPTp
- To investigate factors that influence use of ITN and IPTp among women of reproductive age

Methods

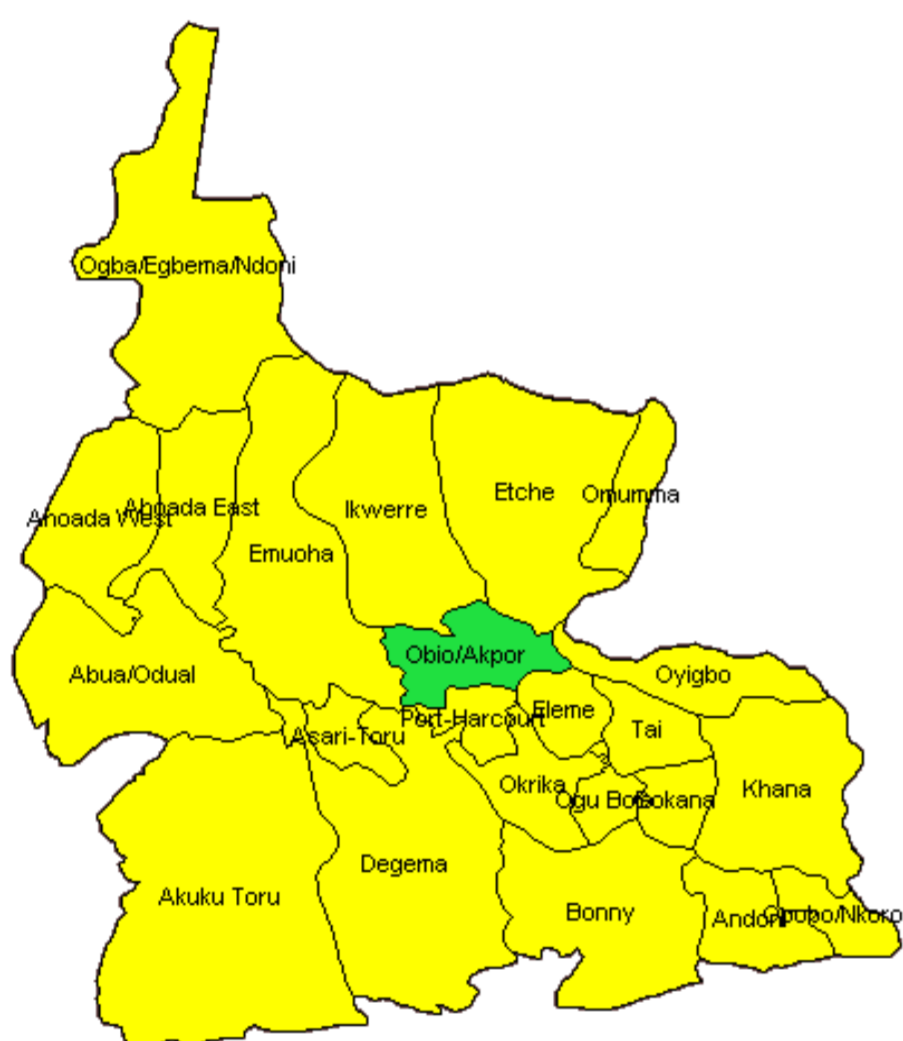


Figure 1: Map of Rivers State showing Obio-akpor Local Government Area (LGA)

Study Sites: Alakhahia, Ozuoba, Rumuekini and Rumuosi LGA

Study Design: Cross-sectional study

Study Population: Women of reproductive age (15-49 years) residing in randomly selected communities

Sample Size: 798 respondents

Data Collection: Structured interviewer-administered questionnaire used to collect data on socio-demographics, obstetric history, knowledge on cause and symptoms of malaria, ITN use, IPTp in pregnancy

Data Analysis: Frequencies, proportions, bivariate analysis

Results

- A total of 797 women were interviewed
- 646 (83.5%) were aged between 15 and 34 years
- Respondents were mainly single 413 (51.8%)
- 432 (54.2%) were nulliparous
- 709 (89%) had good knowledge of malaria

Table 1 : Use of Malaria Preventive Measures by Women in Peri-urban Communities of Obio-Akpor LGA, Rivers State, 2012

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Ownership of Net (n=797)		
Yes	327	41.0
No	470	59.0
Use of ITN (n=327)		
Use	59	18.0
Do not Use	268	82.0
Use of IPT by Pregnant Women (n=62)		
Use	31	50
Do not Use	31	50

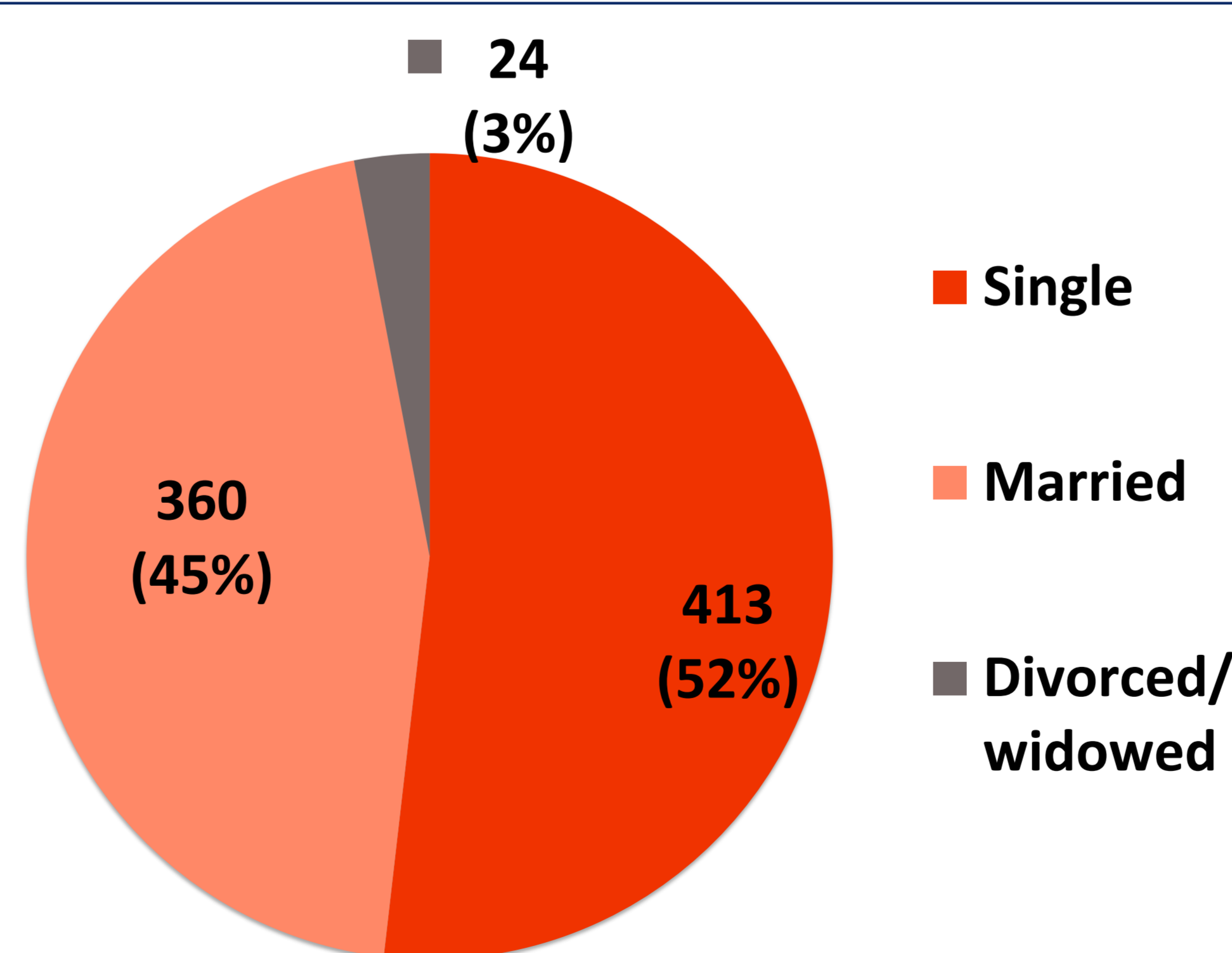


Figure 1: Marital Status of Respondents

Results (2)

Table 2: Factors Associated with use of ITN by Women in Rural Communities in Obio-akpor LGA, Rivers State

Variables	Use ITN	Do not Use ITN	OR	95% CI
Good knowledge of Malaria	60(94)	649(88)	1.9	0.7-5.5
Higher Education	57(89)	652(89)	1.0	0.4-2.3
Married	43(67)	317(43)	2.7	1.6-4-6
Ever Delivered	42(65)	323(44)	2.4	1.4-4.1

Conclusion

- Ownership of ITN among women of reproductive age is below the national target of at least 60% usage
- Use of ITN and IPTp among women of reproductive age is still sub-optimal compared to the national target, that at least 60% of pregnant women at risk of malaria, will have full access to IPT
- Marriage and parity positively influence the use of ITN among women
- There is need for intensified action to promote adoption of malaria preventive measures among women of reproductive age

Recommendations

- We advocate intensified community health education for women using culturally sensitive approaches
- Net campaigns for universal access to ITNs should be augmented with one on one education on the benefits of sleeping under the nets