



Awareness and Acceptability of Lassa Fever Preventive Measures Among Residents of Endemic Communities in Nigeria: A Cross-sectional Assessment

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Background

Despite severe health implications associated with Lassa fever, public awareness of its prevention strategies is limited, especially in underserved communities. Hence, this study aims to evaluate the

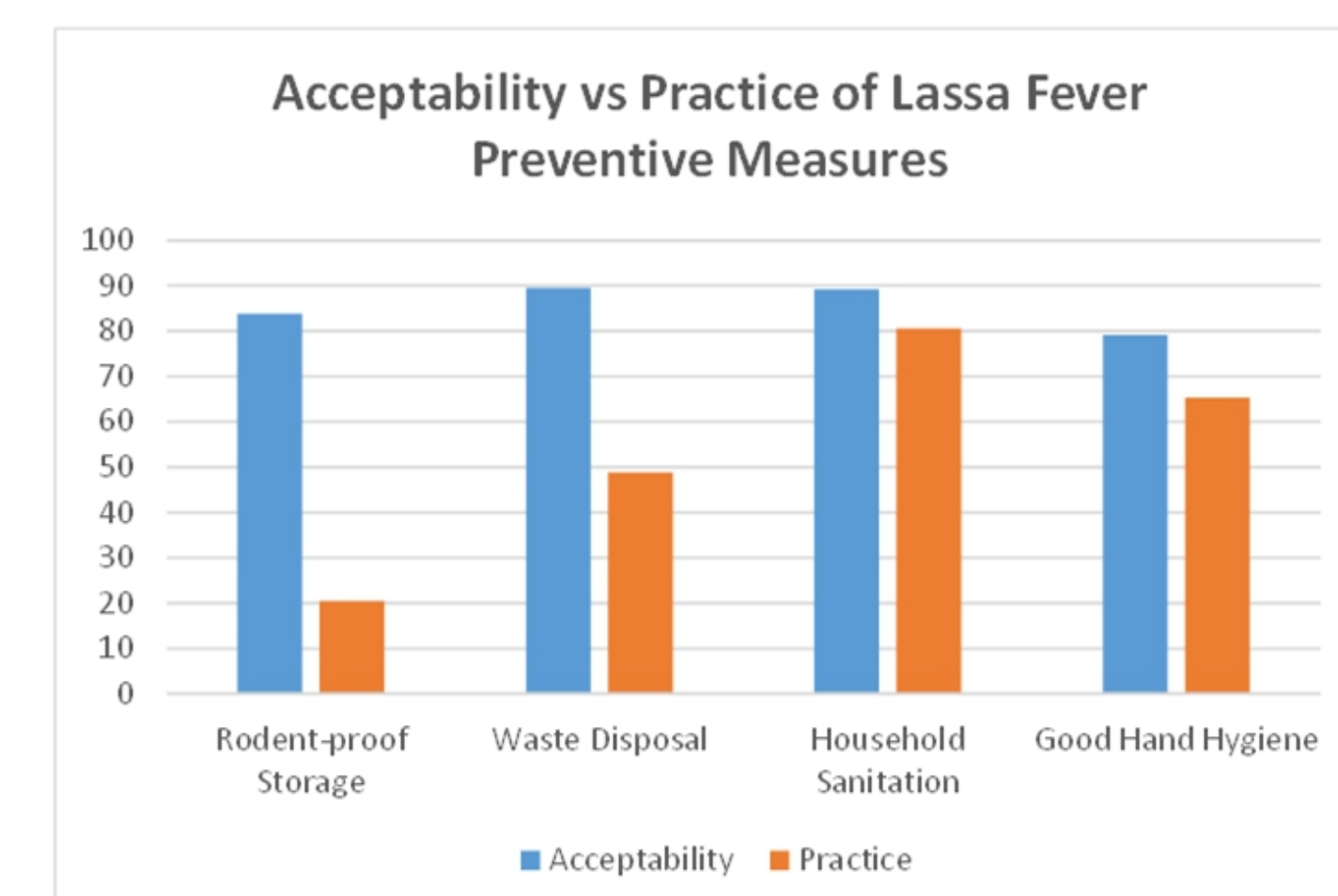
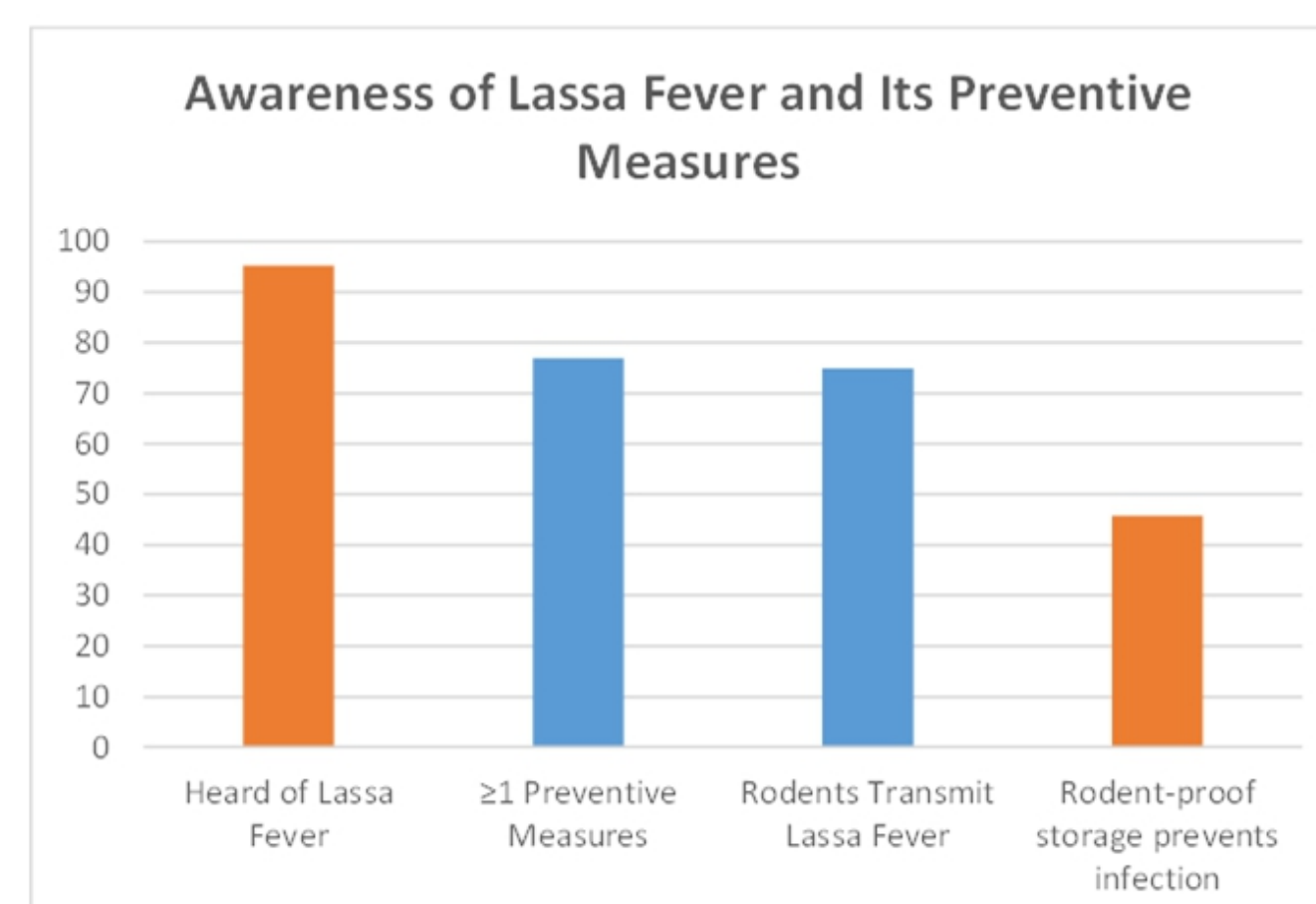
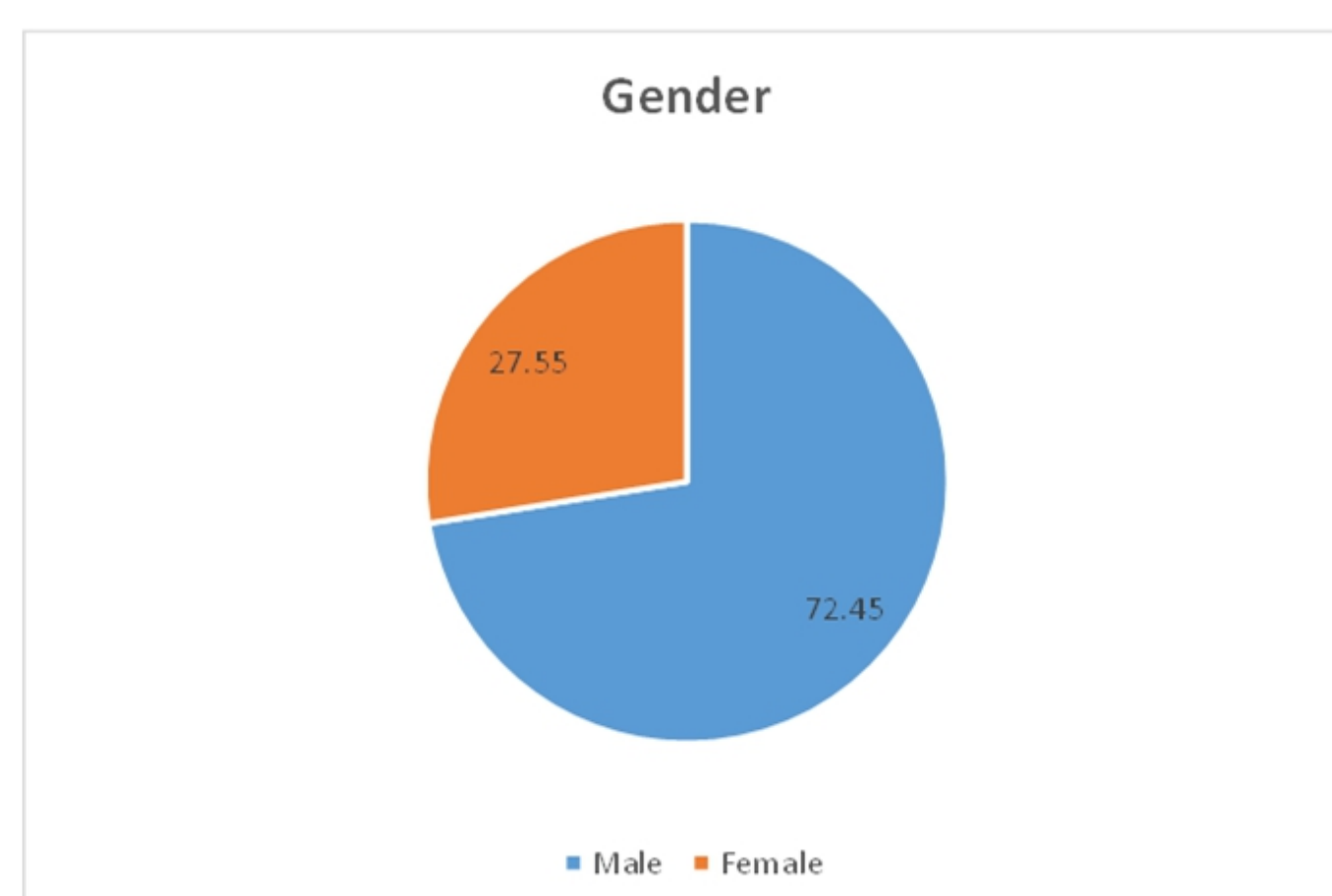
level of awareness of the preventive measures for Lassa fever among residents of selected endemic communities as well as their willingness to adopt such measures.

Methods

Employing a cross-sectional design, we used an 18-item structured and self-administered questionnaire to collect data from two Lassa fever-endemic communities in Nigeria: Amachara, Ebonyi State, and Ugbe, Ondo State. Data was collected from 334 participants (182 from

Amachara and 152 from Ugbe) from March to April, 2024. Inferential and descriptive analyses were done using IBM SPSS 27.0, where significance was set as $p < 0.05$.

Results



Having a higher educational qualification ($p = 0.001$) and having a prior contact with a health education campaign ($p = 0.003$) were associated with increased willingness to adopt Lassa fever preventive measures.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The level of awareness of Lassa fever was high in the two communities, whereas the practice of its preventive measures is low. Acceptability of these preventive measures was also high. Targeted educational intervention and improved community sanitation infrastructure are needed to enhance the practice of preventive measures.

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