

## Concurrent Lassa Fever Outbreaks in Kaduna and Kano States, Nigeria: Lessons in Health Worker Safety and Emergency Response

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### Background

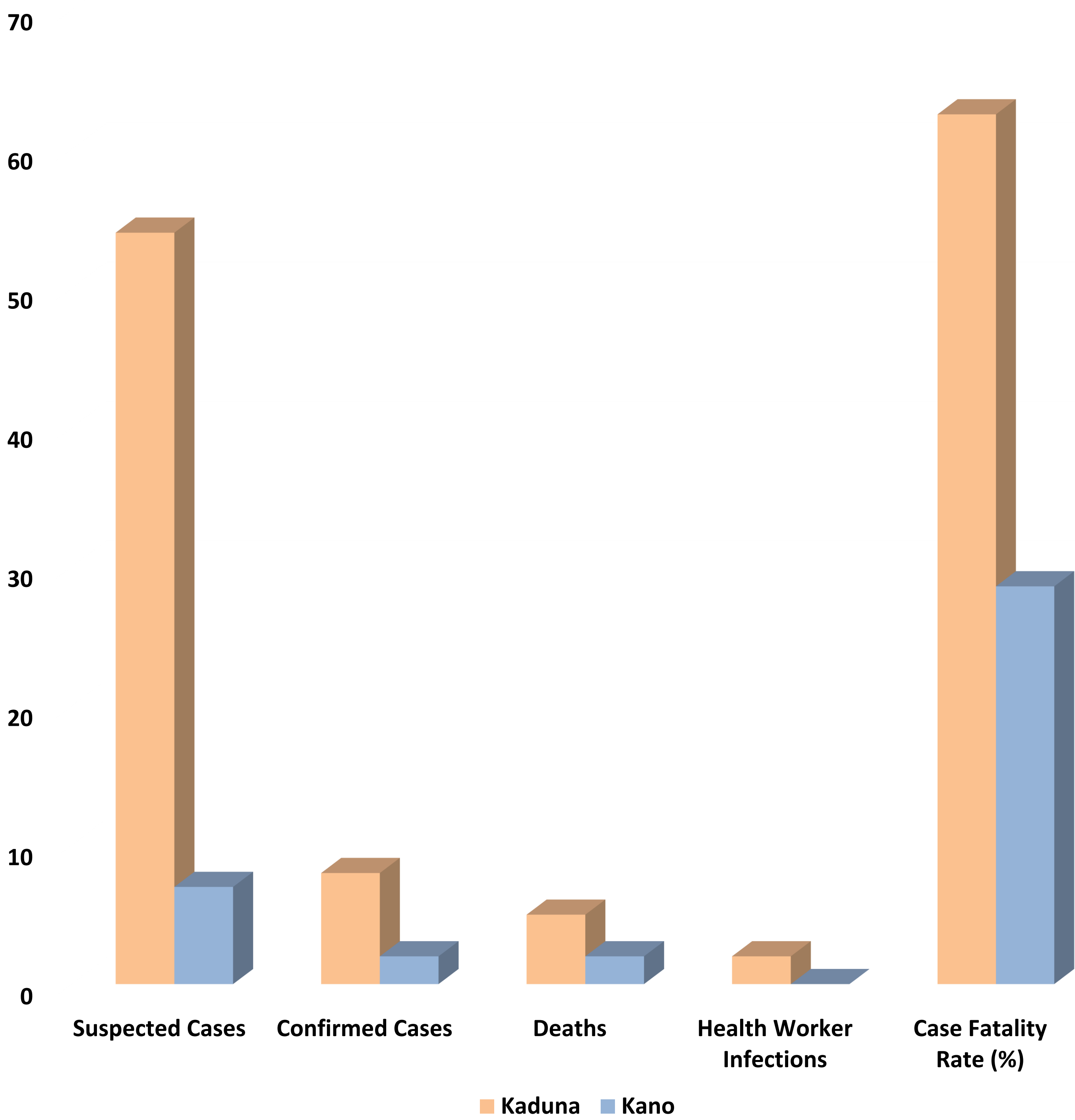
Lassa fever remains a significant public health threat in Nigeria, particularly during the dry season (WHO, 2024). In 2025, Kaduna and Kano States experienced sequential outbreaks, with Kaduna reporting cases from January to July (Epi Weeks 1–28) and Kano in April (Epi Week 15). These outbreaks required coordinated surveillance, rapid detection, and emergency response efforts to control spread and protect healthcare workers. This poster presents an overview of the outbreaks, key epidemiological findings, and lessons learned to strengthen health worker safety and enhance outbreak response coordination.

### Methods

We conducted a retrospective review of 2025 outbreak surveillance, laboratory, and case management data from NCDC, Kaduna State CDC/SORMAS, Kano State Ministry of Health, Kano State CDC, and WHO Kano State Field Office. Data covered suspected and confirmed cases, contact tracing, and response interventions. We analysed outbreak trends, health worker infections, and follow-up outcomes.

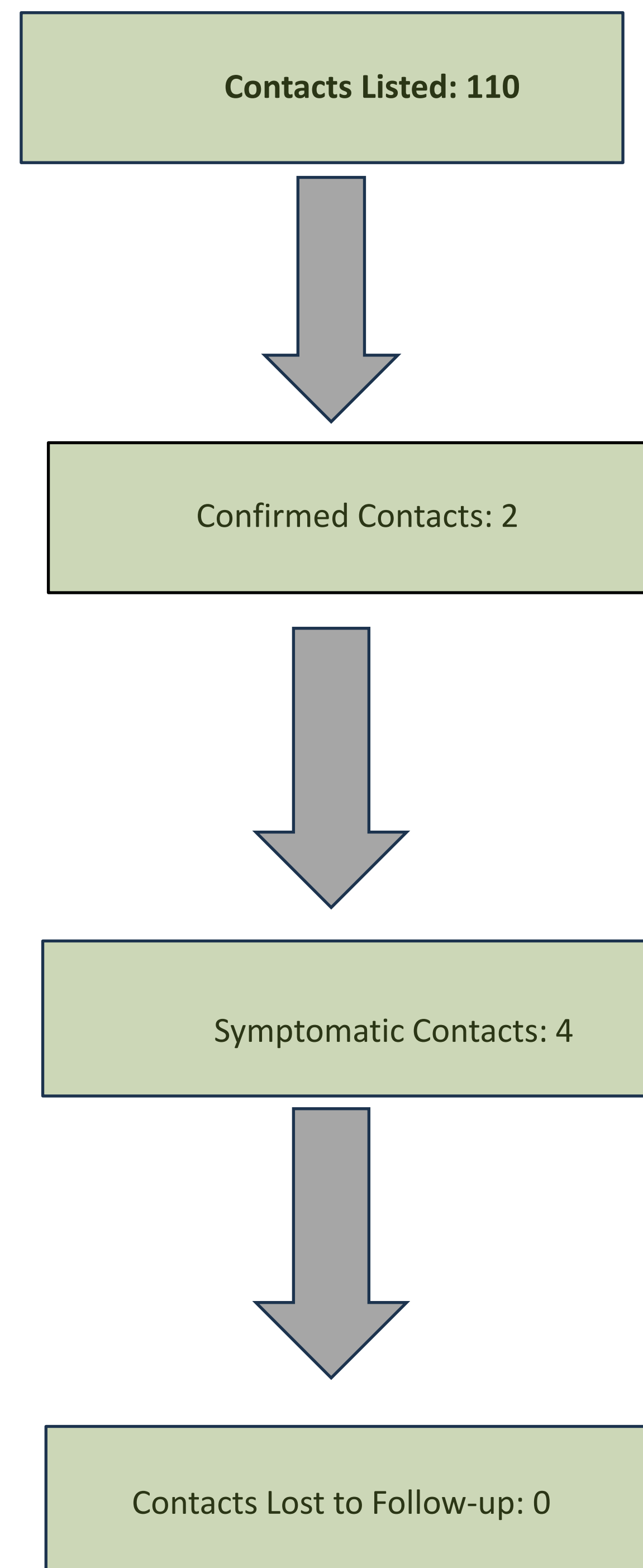
### Results

Comparison of Lassa Fever Outbreak Indicators in Kaduna and Kano States, 2025

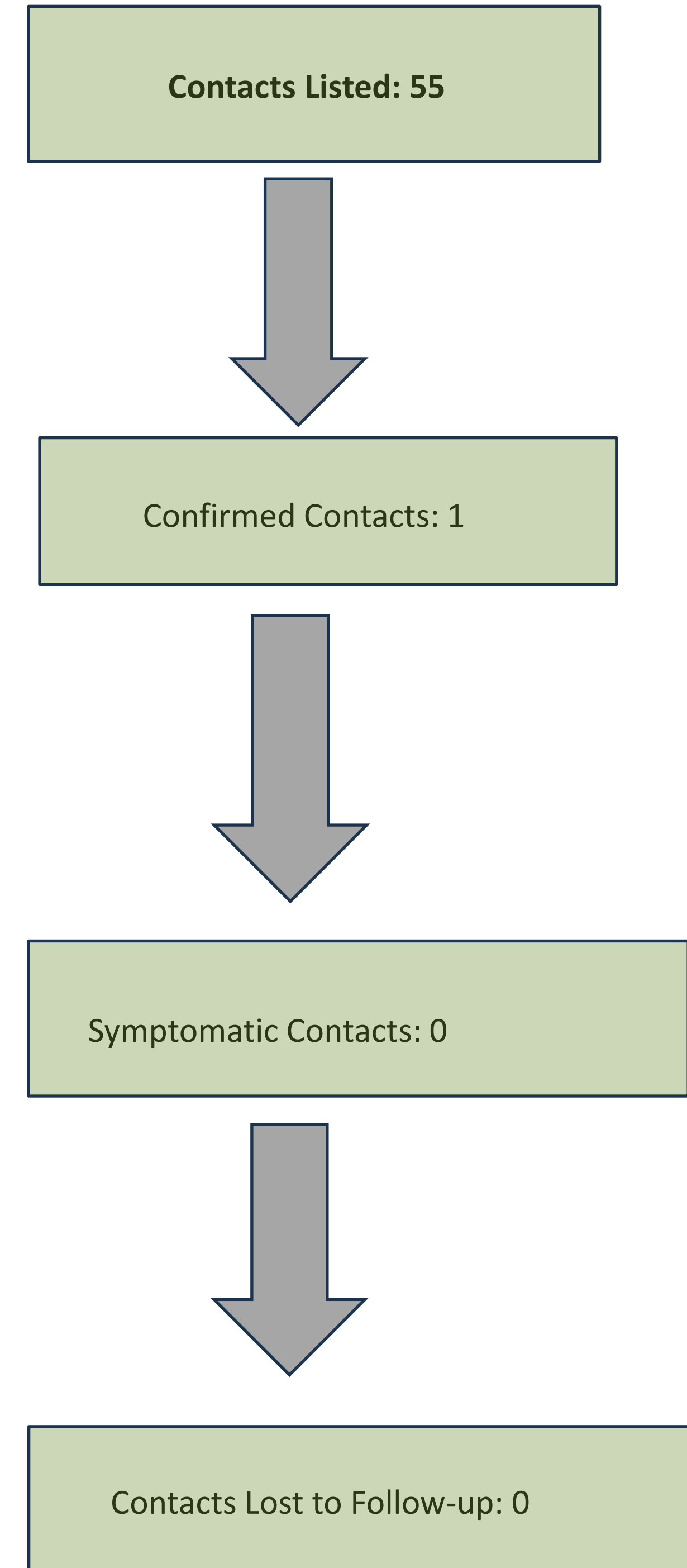


During the 2025 outbreaks, Kaduna State reported 54 suspected cases, 8 confirmed cases, and 5 deaths (CFR: 62.5%), including 2 health worker infections. Kano State reported 7 suspected cases, 2 confirmed, and 2 deaths (CFR: 28.6%). Both states maintained strong surveillance and response activities.

Kaduna State



Kano State



Contact tracing efforts identified 110 contacts in Kaduna and 55 in Kano. Kaduna had 2 confirmed positive contacts and 4 symptomatic, while Kano reported 1 confirmed positive contact. Both states achieved zero lost to follow-up, indicating effective monitoring.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The outbreaks in Kaduna and Kano States highlight the critical role of rapid detection, robust contact tracing, and effective communication in controlling Lassa fever. Kaduna’s higher case burden and health worker infections reveal gaps in infection prevention and control (IPC), while Kano’s successful outcomes demonstrate timely coordination and preventive measures. These findings underscore the urgent need for sustained investment in surveillance systems, emergency logistics, and strengthened inter-state collaboration. Enhancing IPC training, maintaining rapid response capabilities, and fostering multi-agency cooperation are essential to improve outbreak preparedness and protect health workers.

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