

Prevalence of malaria in children under five and associated knowledge, attitude, and practices of prevention among caregivers in Amolatar district.

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Background: Despite improvement in prevention and control programs over time, malaria remains a significant public health burden in Uganda, contributing considerably to hospitalization and fatalities. This study determined the prevalence of malaria among children under five and the associated knowledge, attitudes, and practices of prevention among caregivers in Amolatar.

Methods: A community -based cross-sectional study with mixed methods of data collection was conducted from 16th to 30th August 2023. Questionnaires were administered to 418 households to determine their KAP on malaria and estimate the prevalence of malaria among children under five. 14 participants were interviewed to determine their KAP about malaria.

Results: The prevalence of malaria among children under five was found to be 38.76% (n=162). High income level, female gender, and having secondary and tertiary education were associated with lower risk of malaria. Meanwhile those who neglected to check windows to prevent mosquito and not willing to have their house sprayed for mosquito control showed higher odds of malaria prevalence (Aor =2.73, 95% CI: 1.29-5.76, p=0.008 and (Aor =2.62, 95% CI: 1.37-5.00, P =0.004) respectively.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Malaria prevalence was considerably impacted by aged, gender, income, and education levels. Malaria prevalence was lower in women and people aged 41 to 50. Amolatar district health department and partners should embark on massive “test and treat “initiatives for malaria in the community. Allocate resources for mass drug administrations during integrated community case management (ICCM)

Keywords: *Prevalence, malaria, children, knowledge, attitude, practices, prevention, and caregivers.*

