



# Caregiver knowledge of and confidence in seasonal malaria chemoprevention effectiveness in Nigeria

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The more knowledgeable caregivers are about seasonal malaria chemoprevention, the more confidence they will have in its effectiveness.

## Introduction

Since its adoption in 2014, seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) has been scaled up to 20 Nigerian states and the Federal Capital Territory, with a combined target to reach 27,082,072 million children in 2022.<sup>[1]</sup> Caregiver knowledge and confidence are essential to effective SMC implementation and ensuring that children receive a full course of SMC medicine. The aim of this study was to assess the relationship between caregiver SMC knowledge and confidence in its effectiveness.

## Methods

- Data from the end-of-round coverage survey conducted in 2022, which covered eight Nigerian states and the Federal Capital Territory and involved 13,200 caregivers, were analysed using STATA.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Caregivers' knowledge of various aspects of SMC and their confidence in its effectiveness were assessed. 'Complete knowledge' was defined as providing correct responses to all knowledge questions.
- Mixed-effects multivariable logistic regression models were used to explore the association between caregiver knowledge of, and confidence in, SMC.
- Results were presented as relative frequencies, proportions and odds ratios (OR) with 95 percent confidence intervals (95% CI).

## Results

- Complete knowledge and caregiver confidence in SMC effectiveness were 56.2 percent and 75.9 percent, respectively.
- Higher odds of SMC confidence were observed among caregivers with knowledge of the purpose of SMC (OR: 1.65, 95% CI: 1.22–2.23, p=0.001) and the importance of a full course of SMC medicines (OR: 4.69, 95% CI: 3.47–6.33, p<0.001).
- Knowledge of age eligibility (OR: 1.36, 95% CI: 1.01–1.83, p<0.041) and of caregiver response to an adverse reaction (OR: 1.77, 95% CI: 1.35–2.33, p<0.001) were also associated with SMC confidence among caregivers.

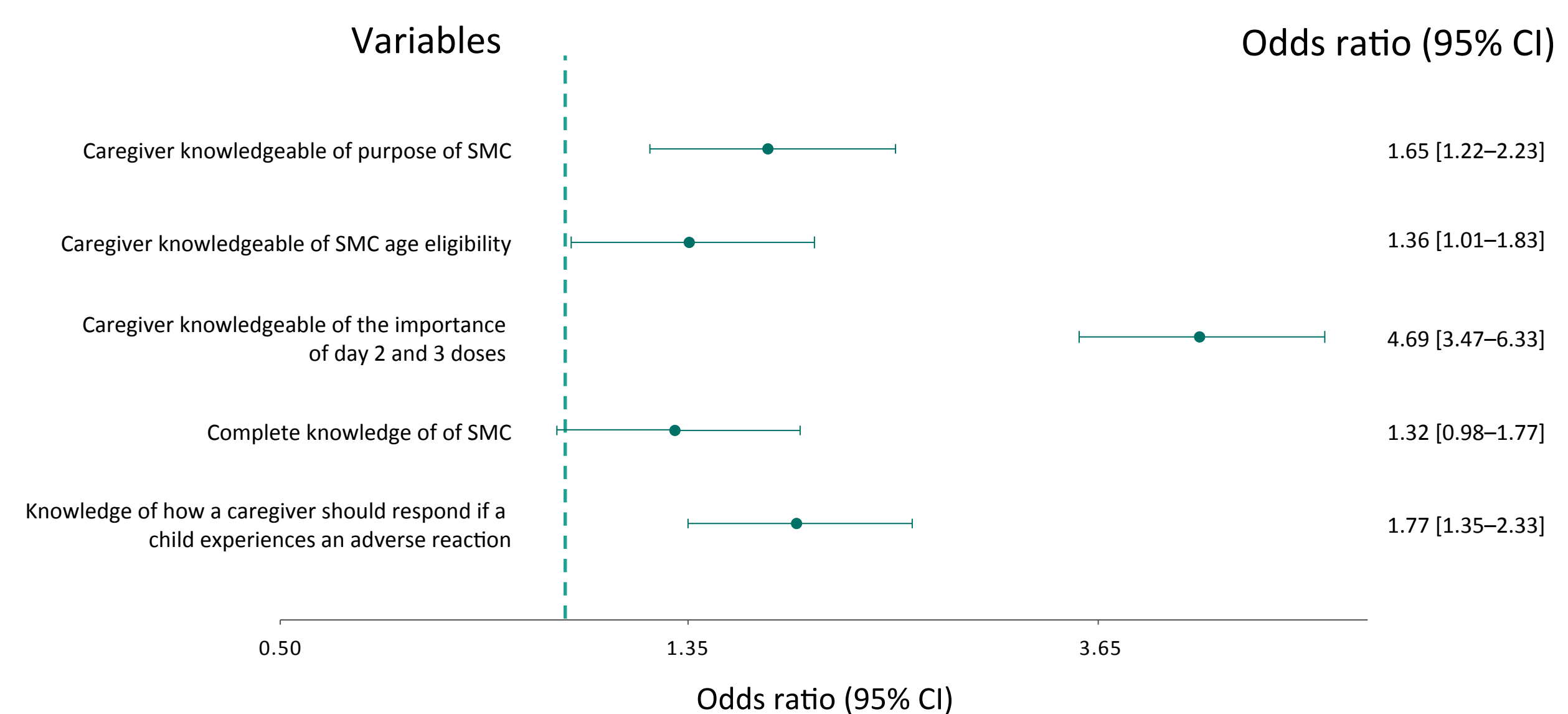
## Conclusion

The study highlights significant gaps in caregivers' knowledge of SMC, while demonstrating a positive correlation between SMC knowledge and confidence. To improve SMC delivery in Nigeria, it is essential to intensify social and behaviour change activities so that information and knowledge reach affected communities and positively influence caregiver and community perceptions of SMC. Bridging the SMC knowledge gap will foster local participation and sustainability of the intervention.



## Results

Figure 1: Caregiver knowledge of SMC



## Acknowledgements

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## References

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