



## International Malaria Colloquium: Meeting Abstracts

# Applying Molecular Techniques to Interventions in Malaria

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### Ownership and usage of insecticide treated nets among under-five children in Yenagoa L G A, Bayelsa State

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#### Introduction

Malaria is a great health and economic burden to families living in malaria endemic areas with treatment costs, prevention, missed work among others resulting in a loss of about N132 billion annually. It is estimated that about 300,000 children under 5 die from malaria every year. The use of insecticide

treated nets (ITNs) is one of the global strategies to reduce this burden.

**Objectives:** This study was carried out to determine the level of ITN ownership and use in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

**Methodology:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out in Yenagoa LGA in





August 2015 among female caregivers of households. The households were selected by a multistage sampling technique: first stage, the selection of Wards; second stage, the selection of Communities from the Wards and final stage, the selection of households. Data was collected using a semi structured questionnaire and analyzed with the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 22 software. Chi-square test was conducted at 95% confidence level. The University of Port Harcourt Ethical Committee clearance was obtained.

**Results:** A total of 422 female household caregivers aged 18 years and above were interviewed. Of these, 44.1% owned ITNs and adherence to use of nets was 91.5%. Major barrier to non-ownership was cost, 69%.

**Conclusion:** There is the need to increase community sensitization on the health

importance of ITN ownership in Yenagoa LGA, Bayelsa State

**Key words:** Malaria, ITN use and ownership

### References

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