

Introduction

Although ITNs and even untreated bed nets are demonstrated to reduce morbidity and mortality due to malaria among children under five, their utilization remains very low in many malaria endemic areas. Few studies have examined the role of the constructs of the Andersen behavioral model (enabling, need and predisposing factors) in influencing utilization of ITNs.

Objective

To test Andersen behavioral model on utilization of ITNs among children under the age of five years so as to generate information that can be used as tool to guide stake holders in designing appropriate measures to increase utilization of ITNs in Makindye - Ssabagabo sub county, Wakiso district.

Methodology

This was a cross sectional study conducted in Makindye - SsabagaboSub County, Wakiso district, employing both qualitative and quantitative data collection tools. A total of 417 respondents were randomly selected to participate in the study. Five key informant interviews were held. Data was entered and analyzed using EPI DATA and SPSS version 19.0 respectively. Descriptive statistics were obtained; Bi variable and Multi variable analysis was done, to assess factors associated with ITN use among children under age of five years, and test the hypothesis.

Results

The study revealed that, Majority (75.1%) of the households had at least an ITN, 67.9% of the children slept under an ITN the previous night before the study. Monthly income of 50,000 and below (AOR 0.37, 95% CI: 0.23-0.78, P=0.03), being a casual laborer (AOR 0.50, 95% CI: 0.27-0.95, P=0.00), being sensitized about use of ITNs (AOR 1.90, 95% CI: 1.12-3.22, P=0.02) and source of information were the predisposing factors that were associated with ITN use among children under age of five years. Partners effort in ensuring ITN use (AOR 4.53, 95% CI: 2.72-7.56, P=0.000) and ease of accessibility of ITNs (AOR 3.01, 95% CI: 1.78-5.10, P=0.000), showed a significant association with ITN use. While for the need factors, perceived threat that a child was at risk of suffering from malaria was increased the likelihood (AOR 2.61, 95% CI: 1.14-5.97, P=0.02) of a child sleeping under an ITN.

Conclusion

Andersen behavioral model influences utilization of ITNs among children under five years in Makindye - Ssabagabo Sub County, Wakiso district.