

Health Seeking Behavior and Child Health Outcome: Malaria Treatment and Preventive Behavior in Kenya and Zimbabwe

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Abstract

Studies have shown that there are differentials in preventive and curative strategies for child health outcomes. In sub-Saharan Africa children under five are more vulnerable to malaria caused by *plasmodium falciparum*, which has also been one of the leading causes of death among this group. Prior preventive strategies done by governments and nongovernmental organization were mostly environmentally unfriendly, unsustainable and beyond the reach of most households. Of late, household prevention mechanisms and treatment have been promoted. However, there are scant studies that focus on household preventative and curative strategies and the risk of contracting malaria more so in developing countries. Using the Kenyan and Zimbabwean 2003 DHS we seek to examine: first, preventative behavior: Is there a relationship between use of mosquito nets and risk of developing a fever among under-five? Second, curative health seeking behavior: what are the differentials of health seeking behavior for women with children that developed a malaria/fever?